

# **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# **conférence**

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

# **conferencia**

C

**C 91/PV**

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

Rome, 9-27 November 1991

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



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(9 November 1991)

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## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/PV/1

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(9 November 1991)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Maiid, Presidente de la Conferencia

OPENING OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH CONFERENCE SESSION BY THE  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

OUVERTURE DE LA VINGT-SIXIEME SESSION DE LA CONFERENCE  
PAR LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

INAUGURACION DEL 26º PERIODO DE SESIONES DE LA  
CONFERENCIA POR EL DIRECTOR GENERAL

Opening Statement by the Director-General

Discours d'ouverture du Directeur général

Discurso de apertura del Director General

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués et observateurs, Mesdames, Messieurs, c'est pour moi un grand honneur, en ma qualité de Directeur général de cette Organisation, de déclarer ouverte la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence et de souhaiter la bienvenue aux distingués délégués et observateurs. Ainsi assemblés en cette auguste aréopage, vous êtes la FAO, vous formez une sorte de sommet mondial de l'agriculture. Vous êtes l'expression de la volonté collective de la communauté internationale tout entière de relever le défi de la faim et de la malnutrition. Vous êtes le lieu où peuvent se concilier les intérêts parfois divers sinon divergents du monde rural à travers un dialogue franc et la recherche de l'intérêt commun par la voie du consensus.

Avant tout, je voudrais vous souhaiter un excellent séjour dans la ville éternelle où nous allons célébrer avec reconnaissance 40 ans de présence et d'un appui jamais démenti à la FAO de la part de notre pays hôte. Lorsque vous monterez pour cela au Capitole, lundi, songez un instant que vous serez au centre névralgique d'une puissance qui, il y a plus de 2000 ans, avait déjà su réguler les flux agricoles dans tout le bassin méditerranéen.

J'exprime à vous tous et toutes, participant à cette Conférence, les vœux les plus sincères pour le succès de vos délibérations et le souhait que les travaux se déroulent dans un climat d'harmonie, d'entente et que ses conclusions puissent être arrêtées par consensus dans le souci d'imprimer à la FAO l'impulsion dont elle a besoin pour accomplir sa lourde tâche.

Cet esprit de concorde est plus nécessaire que jamais. Regardons autour de nous: la situation économique et sociale de nombreux pays est plus critique aujourd'hui qu'il y a dix ou vingt ans; les situations d'urgence et d'extrême misère continuent à nous interpeller. Mais la conscience de l'interdépendance entre nations est aussi plus vivace que jamais. Le défi à relever n'est pas perdu d'avance. La recherche de la démocratie et de la pluralité d'expression dans de nombreux pays, la mise en place de modèles plus participatifs d'organisation des sociétés ne peuvent ouvrir en un jour les jardins de l'Eden. Ce sont cependant des pistes prometteuses dont on ne saurait surestimer l'importance.

L'abandon progressif de formes extrêmes de l'intervention étatique au profit d'une plus grande ouverture sur les forces du marché - à pondérer cependant par des mécanismes correcteurs de rééquilibrage au profit des plus vulnérables - peut revitaliser des pans entiers de l'économie mondiale. Dans tous les cas, et il n'y a point là miracle, la réussite présuppose que l'homme soit avant tout le sujet central de toute politique. Un philosophe grec, Protagoras, notait déjà, cinq cents ans avant notre ère, que l'homme est la mesure de toute chose. L'homme est aussi la mesure du développement. C'est dire l'importance de la tâche qui est devant nous. Il nous faut, en particulier, assurer qu'au-delà des moyens techniques mis

en oeuvre, le programme de travail que vous arrêterez pour la FAO restera centré sur l'homme, acteur de son propre développement. Pour ce qui me concerne, je souhaite que tous nos travaux soient imprégnés de cet esprit où la technologie n'est pas une fin en soi, mais au service de l'homme.

## INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION

### INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

### INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

#### 1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference

#### 1. Election du Président et des Vice-Présidents de la Conférence

#### 1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** The first item on your Agenda is the election of the Chairman. In conformity with Article XXIV of the General Rules of the Organization the Council has proposed the candidature of His Excellency Malik Abdul Majid, Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Pakistan. The report of the Council on this subject is submitted to the Conference in document C 91/LIM/1. Will the Conference endorse this nomination?

I declare His Excellency Malik Abdul Majid elected Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference. I wish to extend to him my sincere congratulations. I am happy to greet him as a distinguished authority of that great agricultural country which is Pakistan, a country with an impressive record of achievement in agricultural development due to its laborious people and wise leaders. Excellency, we are very proud to have you in our midst and I am sure the deliberations of this Conference will benefit greatly from your knowledge of the issues before it. Your experience and leadership qualities are well known. May I also assure you that both my colleagues in the Secretariat and myself will be at your disposal to assist in carrying out the task now entrusted to you.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Malik Abdul Majid took the chair

M. Malik Abdul Majid assume la Présidence

Ocupa la presidencia el Sr. Abdul Majid

Address by the Chairman of the Conference

Discours du Président de la Conférence

Discurso del. Presidente de la Conferencia

**CHAIRMAN:** Excellencies, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a matter of great honour and pleasure for me to be amongst you this morning in the opening session of the Twenty sixth FAO Conference. On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, and on my behalf I would like to extend to all of you warm greetings and good wishes on this auspicious occasion. I feel highly privileged on my

election as Chairman of the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference and I am extremely grateful for the honour that you have collectively bestowed upon me and my country for conducting the proceedings. I am confident that with your cooperation, wisdom, experience and advice, we will together be able to steer the proceedings of this Conference to a successful conclusion.

Let me also at the outset commend the FAO Secretariat for the excellent job done by it in preparing comprehensive and informative documentation on the various Agenda Items. This will facilitate meaningful deliberations on a wide spectrum of significant issues before the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Four decades ago the nations of the world pledged to free mankind from the scourges of poverty, hunger and malnutrition through the auspices of the FAO. Ever since its establishment, this Organization has worked assiduously in coordinating global, regional and national efforts to accomplish the cherished goal of food security for mankind. The task before the FAO has become more difficult considering the need to cater to a population explosion which shows no signs of abating. Added to the population time bomb are the serious problems of malnutrition, depletion of the resource base and environmental degradation. The FAO can take both pride and satisfaction that it has continued to play a constructive and pioneering role in devising methods to alleviate these problems afflicting a major portion of the world community.

Our world has witnessed rapid changes in the past fifty years. The problems confronting it now are not those that were faced by our predecessors. In the race between population growth and food production, human ingenuity has so far had an upper hand. Although this aspect should encourage us to plan for the future with hope and optimism, we need to appreciate the fragility of this balance. Consequently, there is an urgency to evolve individually, and collectively, comprehensive measures to effectively solve the twin problems of rapid population increase and erosion of the natural resource base. In its endeavour, I feel that FAO has a fine record of accomplishment. It has achieved this by coordinating efforts for increasing production at the international level and in spearheading sustainable developmental programmes. We indeed are grateful to this Organization and should further strengthen it particularly at this crucial juncture by extending our unstinted cooperation, and by removing various constraints hindering its effective operations. Indeed we can do no less because we have pledged ourselves to FAO's goals to: raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living of our peoples; improve the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; and improve the condition of our rural masses.

Distinguished Delegates: The world in which we live today is not the world of isolation. We all are closely linked in this era of information technology and of mutual inter-dependence. We have to share our successes and failures and have to be active partners in our quest for the decent survival of the human race. We know that the world food situation is extremely precarious. Drought has damaged crops in some countries; production prospects in others have worsened; the world cereal output is expected to be three percent lower than last year. We know that the food supplies in Africa have deteriorated and agricultural production has declined.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, agricultural production growth has also slipped from an already modest level. The overall picture in the developing countries continues to be gloomy.

I would also like to refer at this juncture to the ominous phenomenon of environmental degradation which unfortunately is finding threatening manifestations in the form of global warming, deforestation, desertification, atmospheric pollution, water and soil contamination and natural resources base erosion. If we do not tackle this phenomenon, I am afraid the situation by the end of this century might well become irremediable. We have, therefore, to utilize our resources in a prudent and rational manner, and not hamper the regeneration capacity. Generational equity considerations and self-discipline would enable us to leave a good heritage of natural resources for posterity. The developed countries in this regard have to take a lead in enabling the developing countries to incorporate environmental considerations in their developmental programmes. FAO should also play a pivotal role in coordinating action at national, regional and international levels for fuller integration of the environment in the development plans.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will know more about the state of food and agriculture when we come to deliberate in detail on this subject during the Commission Sessions. What I want to say now is that we have seriously to consider some things more than merely arranging supplies to the deficit parts of the world. With the passage of time the problems are bound to increase in multiple proportions. The Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, in his address to the Ninety-ninth Session of the FAO Council rightly observed that There are times when the course of history moves so fast that mankind cannot keep up and would like to mark the time to draw breath. In this situation, the programmes of FAO assume greater importance. Similarly, the programmes of other international agencies concerned with population, health, nutrition levels, marketing and the environment become more relevant. We have to develop such policies, plans and international cooperation which will ensure a square meal a day everywhere in the world without regard to colour, creed or nationality.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a heavy agenda before us. I will not therefore take more of your time. Before concluding, however, I would like to stress that as fellow human beings we ought to try to be more humane in our plans and programmes aimed at bettering the lot of human kind. It is only through collective and mutually complementary efforts that we can free this world from the ravages of hunger and malnutrition. FAO provides us with a viable forum for estimating our preferences and needs, identifying problems and developing implementable action plans. Let us focus our energies constructively through this august body and extend it all possible moral and monetary support.

Let me once again thank you for reposing your confidence and trust in me. I assure you that by the grace of Allah, and with your cooperation, we will be able to carry out meaningful deliberations and jointly make the Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO a great success.

Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos



2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

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

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, we move to the work of the morning. First of all, there are the elections of the Vice-Chairmen and other members of the various Committees. As you well know, Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provide that the Nominations Committee shall propose to the Conference firstly the candidates for three posts of Vice-Chairmen of the Conference; secondly the seven Member Nations of the General Committee of the Conference required under Paragraph 1 of Rule X of the same General Rules; and, thirdly, the nine members of the Credentials Committee as laid down in Paragraph 3 of Rule III of the General Rules.

The Nominations Committee, which is making these proposals, was elected by the FAO Council at its Hundredth Session held from 5-7 November in accordance with the provisions of the relevant paragraphs of the General Rules of the Organization. This Committee met on Friday, 8 November, and drew up its recommendations for the posts just mentioned.

I shall now ask the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Mr Amor Ben Romdhane of Tunisia, to place before the Conference the nominations agreed by this Committee, starting with the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Président, Commission des candidatures) (Langue originale arabe):**

M. le Président, je voudrais, avant de vous faire rapport sur les activités de la Commission des candidatures, dire quelques mots à la Conférence générale.

Je suis très heureux de prendre la parole pour exprimer, au nom de mon pays la Tunisie et au nom du Groupe des 77, nos félicitations les plus sincères, M. le Président, pour votre élection à la direction de la vingt-sixième Conférence générale.

M. Malik Abdul Majid est un homme connu pour sa vaste expérience et ses grandes connaissances. L'expérience de M. Abdul Majid couvre différents domaines, puisqu'il connaît parfaitement le secteur agricole, c'est également un homme de terrain, et il est membre du Parlement pakistanais, ce grand pays agricole qui a de vastes ressources à la fois humaines et naturelles. Je ne manquerai pas de dire que M. Malik Abdul Majid a une très longue expérience dans le corps diplomatique, puisqu'il a été pendant très longtemps l'Ambassadeur de son pays auprès du Royaume du Maroc.

Son élection à la présidence de la vingt-sixième session est de bon augure pour les activités de cette session et nous donne l'espoir que les résultats de cette session seront positifs et marqueront une nouvelle étape dans la vie de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais déclarer ici, M. le Président; notre entière disponibilité pour vous aider dans vos activités et nous sommes persuadés que votre grande expérience aboutira à la concorde entre tous les pays membres dans une Organisation forte et solide.

Je vais passer maintenant au point pour lequel vous m'avez demandé de venir à cette tribune, à savoir les candidatures pour les trois Vice-Présidences.

Conformément à l'Article VII-1 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, la Commission des candidatures soumet à la Conférence les candidatures ciaprès, tout en faisant ressortir qu'elles sont énumérées dans un ordre indifférent eu égard à la compétence des personnes concernées.

M. Gérard Khojane, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent du Lesotho auprès de la FAO; M. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la Colombie auprès de la FAO; M. Arpád Szabó, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la Tchécoslovaquie auprès de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Romdhane, for your announcements. Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just heard the proposal from the Nominations Committee in respect of the three Vice-Chairmen of this Conference. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

From your applause I take it that there are no objections and that the Conference approves these names. Therefore, I will consider these proposals adopted.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

We now move to the appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I would once again request our worthy Chairman, Mr Romdhane, to announce the nominations of membership of the General Committee which will be followed by the Credentials Committee.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Président, Commission des candidatures) (Langue originale arabe):** Conformément à l'Article X du Règlement général de l'Organisation, la Commission soumet à la Conférence les candidatures suivantes: Allemagne, Chine, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, France, Liban, Maroc, Panama.

**CHAIRMAN:** You have just heard the names of the General Committee. Are there any objections? If not, I would request all members of the Conference to applaud to confirm that they agree with these nominations. If there are no objections, then I will consider these Member Nations to be duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is now my privilege once again to request the Chairman of the Nominations Committee to go to the next point and announce the names of the Credentials Committee.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Président, Commission des candidatures) (Langue originale arabe):** Les neuf pays membres de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, conformément à l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation, sont les suivants: Algérie, Autriche, Canada, Chypre, Ethiopie, Grèce, Honduras, et Hongrie et Thaïlande.

**CHAIRMAN:** The nine members of the Credentials Committee, in accordance with Rule III, are as follows: Algeria, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, and Thailand. Are there any objections to the names which have just been announced? If there are no objections I shall consider those nine Member Nations duly appointed to constitute the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ladies and Gentlemen, this completes the Report of the Nominations Committee, and I would like to thank Mr Ismael Diaz Yubero and his Committee for all their good work on their behalf and my own. Thank you very much.

Before we continue with the business of the day, the Minister for Agriculture for Bangladesh has asked for the floor.

**Major General Majid-Ul-HAQ (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to extend my warmest felicitations to Your Excellency, Mr Malid Abdul Majid, Minister for Food and Agriculture of the Government of Pakistan, on behalf of Bangladesh and of the members of the Asia Group attending this Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference of FAO. You, as soldier, politician, turned diplomat, are well known to us as a regular participant in the Inter-Parliamentary Union Meetings, as a member of the Pakistani Parliament. You have made great contributions in promoting the effective role of IPU. You, a distinguished agriculturalist, have made significant and important contributions to the field of agriculture in your own country. Your

election to the Chairmanship of the Twenty-sixth Session of this Conference, we feel, is a fitting tribute to your qualities, your erudition, and your devotion to your cause. I am sure that through your leadership this Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference will successfully conclude its deliberations.

I also congratulate the elected Vice-Chairman and the members of the various Committees of this Conference.

Once again, your Excellency, Chairman, Mr Malik Abdul Majid, you have our support, and we assure you of our cooperation throughout the Conference and thereafter. We wish you Godspeed.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. Several other Heads of Delegation have requested to speak. First, I shall give the floor to the Head of Delegation of Cameroon.

**John NIBA NGU (Cameroon):** Thank you very much for giving me the floor, Mr Chairman, at this very exceptional meeting which marks the Fortieth Anniversary of the transfer of FAO to Rome.

On behalf of the African Group of FAO we present our very warm congratulations to His Excellency Malik Abdul Majid on his unanimous election to the highest office of this Conference - namely, Chairman, or M. le Président de la Conférence. We are very comfortable in the certainty that he will lead and guide our deliberations with all the necessary personality and charm. May God guide every word that you pronounce on our behalf.

Our congratulations also go to your team.

**Sra. Rita MISHAAN ROSSELL (Guatemala):** En nombre de mi país, y del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, permítame expresarle nuestra más sincera felicitación por su elección, así como augurar a Ud., y a quienes le acompañan en la Mesa, los mayores éxitos en la conducción de las labores de este 26.º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia. Estamos seguros que con su sabiduría y conocimiento esta Conferencia alcanzará una meta exitosa para una unidad constructiva. Señor Presidente, puede estar seguro que el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe está dispuesto a colaborar y cooperar para así facilitarle a Ud., y a todos los aquí presentes, el trabajo que hoy iniciamos.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: On behalf of the European Member Countries of FAO, I have the honour to join my colleagues from the other Regions in welcoming and congratulating His Excellency Malik Abdul Majid, the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Pakistan. We know that under his Chairmanship we shall have a successful and fruitful Conference.

On behalf of the European countries, I should like to assure you of the cooperation and constructive participation of the European Region in this General Conference in Rome. Again, our congratulations.

**Abdullah AL-MUSAED (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates: On behalf of the Near East Region, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to chair at the moment, we would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election as Chairman and as a representative of our sister Islamic Republic of Pakistan. We are fully confident of your ability to lead the deliberations of the Conference, with all the wisdom and experience which we know so well from you both in diplomacy and in the agricultural sector.

I would also like to congratulate your Vice-Chairmen and we wish you all success in steering the deliberations of this Conference.

**Geoffrey Lee MILLER (Australia):** On behalf of the nine countries of the Southwest Pacific Group, Australia adds its congratulations to you on your election as Chairman. We are very pleased to see you elected to that important post as successor to the then Australian Minister, John Kerin. It is a great honour to you personally, and to your country, with the important place that you hold in world food and agriculture. We are confident that you will discharge your duties with distinction, and effectively promote the work of this very important Organization.

We also extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen and the Chairmen of the Commissions.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank all of you, on behalf of the Vice-Chairmen and Members of the Committees for providing support and encouragement to us with your professions of confidence and promised cooperation, which I shall surely need. I am very grateful. With your cooperation, I am sure we shall get this Conference running smoothly and reach good conclusions.

I have to make a slight departure from the normal procedure, because some other delegations have requested the floor. The first is one which I can hardly refuse. I give the floor to the Distinguished Delegate for India.

**Balram JAKHAR (India):** Mr Chairman, let me take this opportunity of congratulating you as both a neighbour and a personal friend. I know that you have the heart of a farmer, and hold strong beliefs in brotherhood and the well-being of all. I wish you all success.

**Duane ACKER (United States of America):** On behalf of the North American Region we extend to you and the elected Vice-Chairmen our sincere congratulations. You, Mr Chairman, represent a country which I have had the privilege of visiting, with many excellent scientists and leaders with whom I have had the privilege of working. We know that we will have outstanding leadership from you in this Conference. We believe that under your Chairmanship this Conference will be a very constructive benchmark for the future success of FAO.

**CHAIRMAN:** Once again I express my gratitude to all the leaders who have spoken congratulating me, the Vice-Chairmen and the members of the various Committees. On both my own behalf and theirs I offer you my thanks.

Some of my friends have mentioned the agricultural activities and problems of Pakistan. We have activities, but we also have some problems as do all developing countries. Therefore, if nothing else I certainly appreciate what are the problems in the state of agriculture, the prices, the imports and so on in my country. All this applies to many countries, I am sure, especially to the developing countries. We hope that by the end of this Conference we will be able to make some recommendations, take some decisions which will ameliorate the plight of at least those farmers and farming communities which are deprived and which have a very low income.

This first session of the Conference is now adjourned until 15.00 hours.

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours.

Le séance est levée à 11 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11 horas.



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

SECOND PLENARY MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA  
(9 November 1991)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Maiid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Maiid, Presidente de la Conferencia



INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to call the Second Meeting of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference to order.

As you know, at the end of this morning's initial Session, the General Committee held its first meeting. The General Committee considered all the items on its Agenda, and its report will be submitted to you shortly. However, as a result of advice from the General Committee, I am going to place before you a small change in today's Agenda of Conference which notes that before listening to the McDougall Memorial Lecture, three items - that is, Items 3, 4 and 5 - should be considered by the Conference. It was agreed at the General Committee Meeting this morning to put before you a small change, that is to say that before Items 3, 4 and 5 we take the McDougall Lecture, because it was felt that it would be easier for us to carry on with the rest of the business of Conference afterwards.

I therefore suggest and place before you for your agreement, despite the programme which is tabled on the Conference Agenda, that you allow us first to take the McDougall Memorial Lecture and follow it up with the rest of the business.

If there are no objections to this, I will consider that Conference has approved my suggestion. Is that now adopted?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Seventeenth McDougall Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Mr Jacques Attali, President, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Dix-septième Conférence McDougall, qui sera prononcée par M. Jacques Attali, Président de la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement

Disertación en memoria de McDougall a cargo del Sr. Jacques Attali. Presidente del Banco Europeo de Reconstrucción y Fomento

**CHAIRMAN:** As far as this Lecture is concerned, which is now our first item, this is the Seventeenth McDougall Memorial Lecture. The first lecture was delivered by Prof. Toynbee at the 1955 Conference. These lectures commemorate the late Frank Lidgett McDougall who played a leading role in the foundation of the FAO and the initiation of its activities.

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

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** M. Le Président de la Conférence, M. le Président de la Banque européenne, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Comme nous le savons tous, la Conférence McDougall fut instituée pour honorer et perpétuer le souvenir de l'un des pères fondateurs de l'Organisation, un grand pionnier de l'oeuvre que nous poursuivons encore aujourd'hui.

Les faits les plus marquants de sa longue carrière nous sont connus. Avec John Boyd Orr, Stanley Bruce et André Mayer, Frank Ligget McDougall fut l'un des premiers à comprendre le drame de la sous-alimentation et de la malnutrition au milieu d'une surabondance qui conduisait à la mévente et à la destruction des excédents; il fut aussi l'un des premiers à susciter dans le cadre de la Société des Nations, une réaction internationale à la mesure de cette crise gigantesque. C'est lui qui fit comprendre au Président Roosevelt la nécessité de créer en vue de l'après-guerre un mécanisme international pour traiter des problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et le convainquit d'organiser, en 1943, la Conférence de Hot Springs qui devait aboutir à la création de la FAO à Québec en 1945.

Quand l'histoire nous rapporte des faits et gestes relevant à l'évidence d'une vocation prophétique, nous nous interrogeons toujours sur celui qui vécut une telle expérience, sur l'homme dont la lucidité et l'énergie le conduisirent à jouer un tel rôle.

C'est pourquoi je voudrais m'arrêter un instant sur quelques-unes des caractéristiques les plus marquantes de la personnalité de Frank McDougall.

Le premier ressort de son action était une sensibilité aiguë aux souffrances et aux difficultés des groupes de population pauvres et vulnérables, jointe à une ardente passion d'agir efficacement pour y porter remède. Cette action s'appuyait sur la connaissance approfondie des situations réelles et des dossiers qu'une puissance de travail exceptionnelle lui permettait d'acquérir comme en se jouant. Elle mettait en oeuvre l'intelligence hardie, rapide, apte à saisir au vol toutes les possibilités de traduire ses idées en actes concrets. Il possédait une extraordinaire capacité d'exercer, tout en demeurant modestement à l'arrière-plan, une influence parfois décisive sur les options et les décisions majeures des hommes d'Etat les plus éminents de son époque.

Tel fut ce fils de l'Australie, qui joua un rôle incomparable dans la prise de conscience des grands problèmes humains, liés à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture ainsi que dans la genèse de notre Organisation elle-même. Aussi en hommage à sa mémoire, à l'ouverture de chacune des sessions de notre Conférence générale qui se sont tenues depuis 1959, une personnalité de réputation mondiale vient nous entretenir d'un sujet se rapportant directement ou indirectement aux problèmes mondiaux qui se posent dans ce domaine. Je le sais d'expérience, la Conférence McDougall joue le rôle d'un discours d'orientation qui ne manque jamais d'exercer une répercussion sur les délibérations et même les décisions de notre organe directeur suprême.

En trente ans, nous avons entendu ici les personnalités les plus diverses d'Arnold Toynbee, à Indira Gandhi, de Gunnar Myrdal ou de Norman Borlaug à Bruno Kreisky. Aujourd'hui nous avons le privilège d'accueillir un

français, un Européen et un citoyen du monde éminent, en la personne de M. Jacques Attali, Président de la Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement (BERD). Essayer de présenter M. Jacques Attali est une tâche qui relève du défi, tant sa rapidité intellectuelle et la multiplicité de ses aptitudes et de ses intérêts le rendent difficile à saisir. A la fois mathématicien et littérateur fécond, professeur, économiste et financier, grand commis de l'Etat et homme d'une culture encyclopédique, ami de philosophes et d'hommes politiques aussi bien que de comédiens et de chanteurs célèbres, pendant dix ans Conseiller spécial du Président de la République française, aujourd'hui à la tête d'un grand organisme de financement, Jacques Attali semble mener plusieurs vies à la fois.

Par la diversité de ses talents, par le jaillissement d'idées qu'il ne cesse de lancer dans toutes les directions, il fait penser à ces touche-à-tout de génie qui ont si fortement marqué dans son pays le siècle des lumières: on songe à Voltaire, à Diderot. A première vue, on ne saurait imaginer un tempérament et une personnalité plus éloignés de l'image que nous avons de McDougall: Jacques Attali est aussi français et méditerranéen que McDougall était anglo-saxon et il s'intéresse aux domaines les plus variés alors que McDougall n'a cessé de creuser le même sillon. Et pourtant, chacun des traits que j'ai évoqués en vous traçant tout à l'heure le portrait du grand ancêtre s'applique étonnamment à l'homme d'aujourd'hui et de demain qu'est Jacques Attali: profonde sensibilité à tous les problèmes humains et passion d'agir, savoir immense, intelligence rapide et fertile, talent extraordinaire pour inspirer et cristalliser les initiatives des grands décideurs. Je vois dans cette similitude un titre de plus à mobiliser l'attention et l'intérêt de la Conférence aux paroles que nous allons entendre.

Mais je voudrais encore signaler un trait du caractère de M. Jacques Attali qui me semble particulièrement intéressant de notre point de vue. Cet homme de la vitesse et de l'ubiquité est habité par un sens aigu du temps et de l'espace. Il a du reste consacré aux histoires du temps l'un de ses plus beaux livres et son dernier ouvrage nous invite à considérer les nouvelles dimensions de l'espace-temps de demain. Or, nous le savons, l'agriculture constitue pour l'homme une façon d'inscrire dans le temps, dans la durée, l'utilisation qu'il fait de l'espace.

Cultiver la terre, élever des animaux, planter des arbres c'est reculer l'horizon de l'avenir bien au-delà de la satisfaction des besoins immédiats à laquelle se limitaient les civilisations de la chasse et de la cueillette. Ce que nous appelons développement durable n'est pas autre chose qu'un immense effort pour couvrir les besoins de l'humanité tout en préservant la base de ressources pour les générations futures, autrement dit pour assurer dans le temps la sauvegarde de notre espace.

Sur ce problème qui est au centre de nos préoccupations, sur l'interdépendance fondamentale qui unifie aujourd'hui toutes les parties du monde et sur les conséquences que nous devons en tirer, sur bien d'autres sujets encore, je suis persuadé que notre assemblée trouvera dans les aperçus stimulants dont fourmille toujours la pensée de M. Attali un enrichissement précieux pour le cours de ses travaux.

**CHAIRMAN:** I will now call on Mr Jacques Attali to deliver his lecture.

**Jacques ATTALI:** Après ce que vous venez de dire, il vaudrait mieux pour ma part ne pas prononcer de conférence, car je ne peux que décevoir après les propos si excessifs que vous avez eu la gentillesse de tenir à mon endroit.

C'est pour moi un plaisir, et évidemment un grand honneur, que de m'adresser à une aussi éminente assemblée, dans un lieu qui symbolise comme peu d'autres dans le monde les efforts des hommes pour se rencontrer, se comprendre et tenter de créer ensemble un monde de paix, de justice, d'équilibre et de fraternité. Permettez au responsable d'une très jeune institution internationale - très jeune car elle n'a que six mois d'existence - de saluer ici, avec à la fois envie et reconnaissance, une institution majeure qui joue un rôle gigantesque dans la restructuration de la conscience planétaire, et aussi de saluer son Directeur général sans lequel rien de tout cela n'aurait de sens aujourd'hui. Vous avez en effet réussi, malgré des difficultés financières et politiques considérables, à développer et à renforcer une institution internationale incontournable, qui sait - je le constate chaque jour dans mon domaine d'action - catalyser le développement, penser l'avenir et constituer un lieu d'expertise absolument fondamental. Certes l'Europe dont j'ai à m'occuper, parmi d'autres, n'est ni l'Afrique, ni l'Amérique latine, ni l'Asie, et ses problèmes sont d'une nature spécifique. Mais dans cette région de l'est de l'Europe dévastée par 5 siècles (et non pas 50 ans, comme on le dit trop souvent) de régimes autoritaires, je me rends bien compte que nourrir les hommes est plus que jamais la priorité du développement, que d'immenses erreurs ont été commises parce que l'on a mis l'industrie avant l'agriculture, parce que l'on a cru pouvoir développer un système social fondé sur la dictature et, que l'on a cru que l'histoire était un progrès qui suffisait à justifier l'oubli de l'homme. Aujourd'hui tout est à remettre sur pied. C'est sans doute ici, à Rome, qu'il nous faudra, pour l'Europe de l'Est (et pour l'Europe comme continent dans son ensemble) trouver une expertise utile. J'entends bien que la jeune Banque européenne utilise l'expertise de la FAO autant qu'il sera possible. Mais naturellement, c'est ici à titre personnel que je parle et que je voudrais évoquer quelques-uns des enjeux essentiels; si les institutions internationales ne sont pas, dans les quelques années qui nous séparent de la fin du millénaire, considérablement renforcées, nous courrons, malgré l'euphorie qui domine aujourd'hui, à des catastrophes planétaires irréversibles. Jamais, je crois, auparavant, une génération d'hommes de pouvoir ne s'est trouvée en face de tant de décisions fondamentales, tant de décisions qui engagent non pas seulement son avenir à elle mais l'avenir de la planète dans son ensemble. Jamais nous n'avons été si près de gigantesques catastrophes dans une ambiance aussi euphorique et aussi illusoire. Jamais le succès ou l'échec n'a dépendu si étroitement de la capacité de quelques hommes et de tous les peuples à accepter une solidarité, à penser la planète comme un tout, à valoriser ses ressources sans les épuiser. On peut comprendre que l'euphorie domine en quelques points du monde: les grands conflits est-ouest semblent s'éloigner, la paix semble régner à l'échelle de la planète, on parle partout de désarmement; un grand nombre de pays ont réalisé des progrès impressionnants en matière de croissance; certains ont vu leurs revenus moyens doubler en dix ans. Les échanges mondiaux ont augmenté massivement au cours des 20 dernières années

(même, selon certaines statistiques, deux fois plus vite que la production), mais cela ne doit pas suffire à masquer les immenses difficultés.

Plus d'un milliard d'hommes, soit le cinquième de la population du monde, disposent pour vivre de moins d'un dollar par jour. La sécheresse gagne, le fossé se creuse entre le Nord et le Sud et les guerres ne sont pas oubliées. Depuis 1960, elles ont fait au moins 20 millions de morts, cachés derrière ce mot affreux de guerre civile. Qu'y a-t-il de civil derrière une guerre? Rien, sinon la violence et la barbarie. Ces guerres, qui sont la principale cause de la famine dans le monde, ne sont pas en train de se réduire, au contraire. La prolifération des armes, la prolifération de la violence n'est pas en voie de se réduire malgré la fin du conflit idéologique entre l'Est et l'Ouest. Et même dans ce Nord, si sûr de lui-même et si confiant dans ses valeurs, la croissance n'a pas réduit partout l'injustice et la misère, n'a pas vu se structurer les sociétés urbaines civilisées, n'a pas vu apparaître des valeurs porteuses d'espérance. Elle a vu au contraire surgir des formes de suicide et d'oubli qu'on appelle la drogue et qui aujourd'hui sont la principale marque de civilisation en danger. A l'échelle de la planète, cette croissance, cette force, se fait, chacun le sait, au détriment de la planète. Chacun ici mieux que personne sait que du renforcement ou de l'effet de serre découlent tout un ensemble de conséquences qui, si elles ne sont pas prises à temps, seront tragiques. Elles verront s'élever la température de la terre, certains disent de 3, ou de 7 degrés en un siècle. On verra le niveau des océans monter de plusieurs dizaines de centimètres, avec des conséquences dramatiques dans des deltas surpeuplés dans le Nil, le Rhin, le Gange et le Mékong. On verra des plaines fertiles en Amérique du Nord devenir sèches. On verra la rive sud de la Méditerranée devenir incultivable. Déjà on a vu le taux de gaz carbonique dans l'atmosphère passer de 275 unités en 1860 à 375 aujourd'hui, et peut-être à 700 dans 50 ans si rien n'est fait. On voit la couche d'ozone se réduire significativement tous les ans. On voit la diversité du patrimoine génétique humain se réduire. Trente espèces cultivées fournissent aujourd'hui 90 pour cent de l'alimentation humaine, ce qui réduit massivement la diversité dont nous sommes les héritiers et que nous avons à transmettre. Des cinq millions d'espèces végétales et animales qui, semble-t-il, sont abritées par la planète, certains disent que 30 à 50 000 disparaissent tous les ans, en particulier en milieu forestier tropical. A peu près 40 millions d'hectares, soit 5 pour cent de la couverture forestière tropicale de la planète disparaissent tous les ans. Voici qu'au nom de l'éphémère, c'est-à-dire de la croissance, on détruit l'irréversible, c'est-à-dire l'héritage. Certes, au cours des 40 dernières années, la réflexion sur le développement a beaucoup évolué et il y a eu des succès et il y a eu des échecs. Des connaissances sont venues s'ajouter à des compréhensions et à des problèmes et certaines questions sont assez bien maîtrisées, d'autres sont encore sans réponse. En tout cas, la plupart des grandes certitudes ont disparu. On a pensé, jusqu'à il n'y a pas longtemps et on pense encore dans certains pays ici rassemblés que le succès du développement passe par un régime fort, une hyperindustrialisation financée par des impôts sur l'agriculture et un protectionnisme industriel. En Europe de l'Est, comme dans la plupart des autres pays du monde, ces doctrines n'ont pas résisté à l'épreuve des faits: la dictature corrompt l'innovation. L'hyperindustrie étouffe l'agriculture, le protectionnisme réduit le développement.

Aujourd'hui, il me semble que sont en train d'apparaître deux nouvelles certitudes qui en elles-mêmes sont essentielles mais qui, je crois, ne suffiront pas à mettre en oeuvre un développement équilibré à long terme. Ces deux nouvelles certitudes fondamentales sont la nécessité de la démocratie et la nécessité de l'économie de marché. Dans la nouvelle institution dont j'ai la responsabilité, pour la première fois, il a été écrit dans un traité international que la démocratie est une valeur en soi qu'il convient de promouvoir, que cette institution a la vocation non seulement de soutenir financièrement leur intégration dans la Communauté économique européenne mais aussi de soutenir leur promotion démocratique en insistant sur le fait que l'un et l'autre sont inséparables non pas en posant comme condition à des sanctions l'existence de la démocratie, mais en posant comme condition à l'assistance le fait de pouvoir promouvoir dans ces pays le développement démocratique.

C'est pourquoi, l'institution que je représente a eu hier à prendre des décisions, comme la Communauté européenne, à l'égard d'un pays européen qui en matière de violence et de guerre civile donne au reste du monde un exemple tragique. Il est établi aujourd'hui que les libertés politiques et civiles sont la clé de la croissance économique. En cas de dictature, toute une panoplie d'intervention sont mises en place: tels octrois de licences qui fondent une corruption, un gaspillage et ralentissent le développement, suppriment toutes les libertés de création et d'innovation et poussent au vol des innovations. Certes, la démocratie en elle-même n'assure pas le développement, certes les réformes se font toujours au détriment des intérêts acquis et la démocratie entraîne toujours quelque résistance des hommes politiques à prendre des décisions difficiles. Certes, la stabilisation macro-économique nécessaire signifie toujours une augmentation au moins provisoire du chômage et les gouvernements démocratiques qui n'ont pas eu le courage d'entreprendre ces réformes sont évidemment toujours coupables. Certains dans le tiers monde s'inquiètent de voir les principes démocratiques, tels qu'ils ont été définis en Europe, comme les principes de l'économie de marché, qui ont été aussi définis en Europe, venir s'imposer comme des valeurs occidentales qui viendraient promouvoir les intérêts de l'Occident derrière ses valeurs fondatrices. Pour ma part, je peux comprendre ce réflexe. Je crois que s'il est vrai que démocratie et économie de marché ont été théorisées en Europe (en fait, plutôt à la frontière de l'Europe et de l'Asie), l'une et l'autre sont aujourd'hui des valeurs incontournables. Mais les grands pays du tiers monde ou les pays qui, dans le tiers monde, ont déjà réussi à assurer leur propre synthèse entre ces deux valeurs, ont su les inscrire dans quelque chose qui lui donne un sens, au-delà même de ce qu'en Europe on appellera un jour la démocratie communautaire. J'y reviendrai un peu plus loin. Je disais tout à l'heure qu'un second principe semble s'imposer comme fondement de la croissance et du développement, c'est le principe de concurrence qui suppose les trois conditions fondamentales suivantes: d'abord une fiscalité raisonnable, ensuite un régime libéral de propriété et enfin une concurrence acceptée à la fois interne et externe. En matière fiscale, je ne donnerai pas d'exemple, sinon qu'il est clair, en particulier dans l'est de l'Europe, au Mexique ou dans d'autres pays, que la réussite fondamentale de la remise en état d'une économie et de sa stabilisation passe par la mise en place des institutions fiscales et budgétaires capables d'assurer un développement équilibré.

Dans les pays où la taxation agricole a été très élevée, la croissance a été détruite. Au contraire, dans les pays que l'on peut citer, comme le Brésil, le Chili, la Corée, la Malaisie ou le Portugal, où la taxation a été astucieusement réduite en matière agricole, la production a augmenté massivement. Il y a dans l'équilibre fiscal, dans la simplicité fiscale, dans l'efficacité fiscale, la condition première d'un développement de la concurrence.

Le deuxième principe est celui de la propriété privée des moyens de production. Il ne peut y avoir de concurrence ni d'économie de compétition sans une propriété privée des moyens de production essentiels, sans la possibilité de créer de petites entreprises, sans la privatisation organisée des grandes entreprises productrices de biens concurrentiels. Ceci concerne aussi bien les services de l'agriculture que l'industrie mais, naturellement, ne peut se faire sans une institutionnalisation organisée de ces transformations. J'y reviendrai un peu plus loin.

La concurrence est elle-même fondamentale; la concurrence interne, bien évidemment, mais aussi et surtout la concurrence internationale. Or, je crois qu'il ne faut pas se faire d'illusion, la concurrence internationale est aujourd'hui gravement menacée. Alors que, pendant plusieurs décennies, les pays industrialisés ont su avec courage baisser leurs tarifs, dans les années 80, les barrières non tarifaires-contingents, subventions, limites volontaires aux importations et aux exportations, prélèvements compensatoires, mesures ant-dumping - ont été relevées subrepticement et progressivement partout. La part des importations touchées par l'ensemble des mesures non tarifaires a augmenté, selon les statistiques acceptées aux Etats-Unis, au Japon et dans la Communauté européenne, de façon massive. En 1986, dernières statistiques disponibles, 21 pour cent des importations des pays de l'OCDE en provenance des pays en voie de développement étaient soumises à des barrières non tarifaires stricto sensu. Il est clair que ce pourcentage a depuis augmenté.

Vous savez mieux que quiconque à quel point cette situation est inquiétante en ce qui concerne l'agriculture. De 1980 à 1985, les subventions à l'agriculture ont augmenté aux Etats-Unis, au Canada, au Japon et dans la Communauté européenne; et elles ont encore augmenté depuis, dans certains de ces pays. Le nombre des requêtes présentées par l'Australie, le Canada, la Communauté européenne et les Etats-Unis, au titre de droits compensatoires et de lois anti-dumping, a plus que doublé depuis. Au total, le manque à gagner des pays en développement à cause des politiques protectionnistes des pays du Nord a été estimé, il y a quelques années, à 75 milliards de dollars, ce qui est pratiquement l'équivalent de la valeur totale de l'aide publique au développement octroyée par les pays de l'OCDE.

Il m'arrive souvent de dire qu'il ne sert à rien d'aider les pays de l'Est de l'Europe à disposer d'une infrastructure et de moyens de financement de leur balance des paiements si, ultérieurement, leurs produits ne peuvent pas être exportés dans le reste de l'Europe. Il y aurait quelque hypocrisie à privatiser des économies pour leur rendre ensuite impossible l'accès au marché international. Ce qui vaut pour l'Est de l'Europe vaut naturellement pour le Sud, d'autant plus que le prix à payer par ce protectionnisme pour les consommateurs des pays industrialisés eux-mêmes est, à long terme, exorbitant: prix plus élevés, impôts inutiles, mauvaise orientation des

ressources, surplus inacceptables. Tout cela n'a pas de sens. Les pays industrialisés doivent donc avoir le courage de détruire leurs restrictions commerciales. En particulier, il n'est pas possible de laisser échouer aujourd'hui les Négociations d'Uruguay; leurs enjeux sont trop importants non seulement dans le domaine agricole mais aussi dans celui du commerce des produits manufacturés, dans celui des droits de la propriété intellectuelle, des investissements étrangers, des services, etc.

De ce point de vue, des accords régionaux sont essentiels et très positifs. Je vois d'un oeil très favorable ce qui se joue actuellement dans chacun des grands continents. En Amérique du Nord, l'accord qui commence à lier le Canada, les Etats-Unis et le Mexique constitue une piste formidable d'expansion et de croissance des pays qui se joignent ainsi et de ceux qui se joindront à eux ultérieurement. En Europe, le Marché commun des Douze a montré combien l'entité, le rapprochement et l'abaissement des frontières peuvent aider à la croissance. Je crois que tout cela n'aura de sens, en particulier en Europe, que si l'on va plus loin par la création de ce que j'appelle, pour ma part, un marché commun continental dont feront bientôt partie, je l'espère, les quelque 35 ou 40 pays qui forment aujourd'hui ce continent et qui, tous, ont le droit entier, égal et irréversible de faire partie de cette communauté démocratique qui forme ce continent. Tout cela va évidemment bouleverser les structures mondiales de la production. Il ne faut pas se leurrer non plus: l'ouverture des marchés et la concurrence ne règlent rien à elles seules. Elles favorisent la création de nouveaux compétiteurs agricoles sur le champ mondial; elles favorisent de nouvelles mutations dans la spécialisation internationale du travail; elles vont entraîner d'immenses mouvements de population que seuls des Etats organisés et des institutions internationales renforcées pourront gérer.

Des Etats renforcés d'abord: il est clair que seul un Etat fort, un Etat organisé pourra gérer cette mutation. L'Etat doit être influent pour accorder la priorité à l'agriculture qui s'impose aujourd'hui dans une large partie du monde et de l'Europe. Pour cela, l'Etat doit être capable d'influer dans certains cas sur les prix, comme l'exemple récent des succès de la Chine l'a montré, où la croissance de la production a doublé à partir du moment où les prix ont pu être augmentés.

L'Etat doit aussi être un facteur essentiel dans la création des institutions qui rendront possible le développement du secteur privé. Sans Etat fort, l'économie de marché n'est qu'une économie de marché noir. Sans Etat fort, l'économie de concurrence n'est qu'une économie de corruption et de violence. Sans Etat fort, l'économie n'est jamais que le règne des plus forts et de l'injustice sociale. Aussi appartient-il à un Etat d'organiser le financement de l'éducation, de l'infrastructure, de l'allègement de la pauvreté, du contrôle démographique et de la protection de l'environnement. Pour cela, il lui faut, je le disais tout à l'heure, des ressources fiscales et de l'épargne. Seul un Etat puissant et démocratiquement contrôlé est capable de définir des règles de droit de propriété, de créer des systèmes juridiques, judiciaires et réglementaires, de créer les conditions d'une économie de concurrence. A mon sens, dans tout cela, la priorité pour l'Etat doit être dans le développement de l'éducation. Rien, dans aucune culture, ne se développe ni se maintient sans l'éducation. A-t-on besoin de statistiques pour le prouver? Peut-être. En tout cas, toutes les statistiques montrent qu'un faible niveau d'éducation entraîne



une faible croissance. Toutes les statistiques montrent que, dans les pays où le niveau de l'éducation a augmenté, la croissance s'est trouvée plus forte. Je dirais, pour ma part, que tant dans le domaine agricole que dans les autres, l'éducation est la clé du développement. L'éducation elle-même est à la source de la recherche qui permet l'augmentation du rendement.

Troisième rôle de l'Etat: assurer la solidarité sociale, en particulier à l'égard des plus pauvres et de ceux qui sont contraints au chômage, solidarité sans laquelle l'économie de concurrence et la démocratie elle-même seraient remises en cause. C'est pourquoi je crois, pour ma part, qu'économie de marché comme démocratie n'ont de sens que dans la notion d'un concept de communauté que, en Afrique ou en Asie, on a su aujourd'hui protéger peut-être mieux que dans les pays industrialisés du nord et sur lequel la rencontre entre les concepts du Nord et du Sud permettra peut-être d'inventer un modèle plus durable.

De même, dernier rôle de l'Etat: l'intervention pour la protection de l'environnement, la fixation du prix des ressources, la définition d'un droit de propriété clair, un régime efficace de taxation et de contrôle de la population. L'investissement dans les nouvelles formes de production ne peut se faire de façon efficace que grâce à un Etat puissant. Au total, démocratie et économie de marché sont nécessaires mais je crois profondément que, seules, elles ne peuvent constituer les valeurs d'une société. Démocratie et économie de marché ne sont que des procédures, et non des valeurs. Ce sont des procédures permettant l'éclosion de valeurs telles que la liberté, la créativité, la justice sociale, la responsabilité. Mais ce sont aussi des procédures qui portent en elles-mêmes des dangers qui les touchent profondément. Démocratie comme économie de marché sont fondées sur l'apologie de la réversibilité. Qui dit économie de marché dit droit de renverser ses dirigeants. C'est-à-dire que l'une et l'autre font l'apologie de l'éphémère; l'une et l'autre favorisant le réversible, ne favorisent pas la durée. Si l'on veut protéger la démocratie et l'économie de marché, il est fondamental de l'inscrire dans des perspectives plus longues. D'autant plus que nous entrons, à mon sens, d'un point de vue culturel et technologique, dans une période planétairement marquée par la montée du mouvement de ce que j'appelle, pour ma part, le nomade.

A vous, responsables de l'agriculture, je fais cette remarque: pendant quelques millénaires, l'homme a été sédentaire. Auparavant, il était nomade. Je crois, pour ma part, qu'il est très largement en train de le redevenir; d'abord, parce que la démocratie est fondée sur la liberté de circulation; ensuite, parce que l'économie de concurrence est elle-même fondée sur le mouvement et la migration; enfin, parce que des masses immenses d'hommes, se fondant sur ces deux principes d'économie de marché et de démocratie, vont aller chercher la nourriture et la richesse là où il est le plus facile de les obtenir par son travail et aussi parce que toute la tendance de la production industrielle moderne est de créer des produits de type portatif, bref nomades, qui bouleversent tant l'agriculture que l'industrie.

Voilà pourquoi il me semble particulièrement important, aujourd'hui, de penser les problèmes globalement. Vous savez vous-mêmes, mieux que personne, que le premier objet nomade est la terre elle-même - nomade dans

l'univers - qu'il convient de protéger et de valoriser pour le transmettre. Seules, les institutions internationales sont aujourd'hui capables de le faire. Seules, elles sont capables de porter le durable comme une valeur. Seules, elles sont capables de protéger démocratie et économie de marché en les inscrivant dans une vision plus large des choses, capables de créer ce que j'appelle, pour ma part, un sanctuaire. Je rêve du jour où les institutions internationales, démocratiquement constituées comme elles le sont au sein des Nations Unies, auront de véritables pouvoirs de décision dans les domaines qui engagent la survie de l'espèce humaine - domaines pas très nombreux mais qui, si on ne s'en occupe pas, seront définitivement et irréversiblement détruits - par cette apologie de l'éphémère qui fonde notre société moderne. Il incombe aujourd'hui aux institutions internationales et d'abord à la FAO de réfléchir à ces quelques éléments fondateurs sans lesquels la vie disparaîtra ici. Certaines institutions s'y emploient, qui définissent le patrimoine de l'humanité. Je crois, pour ma part, qu'il convient d'y réfléchir au moins dans cinq domaines:

Celui de l'art, sur lequel l'Unesco a commencé de travailler et qui ne semble pas arrêter beaucoup de bombes qui détruisent aujourd'hui Dubrovnik ou d'autres endroits.

Le domaine des forêts, sur lequel on travaille déjà ici et dans d'autres instances, comme la Conférence de Paris l'a récemment montré et à laquelle il est important de lancer aujourd'hui un appel pour que des décisions coercitives s'imposent.

Celui de l'armement, qui menace l'homme dans sa vie quotidienne; seules les institutions internationales pourront un jour, rapidement j'espère, poser comme condition au développement et à l'assistance au développement le souci d'aider chacun des pays du Nord comme du Sud à se débarrasser de ce cancer qu'est la course aux armements; c'est là une forme fondatrice de la coopération internationale.

Celui où, je crois, les institutions internationales devraient avoir une véritable souveraineté planétaire, à savoir le domaine de la drogue. La drogue rassemble toutes les contradictions du développement moderne: au Sud, elle est une source de revenus agricoles sans commune mesure avec les autres productions. Au Nord, elle est une source de dérive compréhensible dans une société sans idéal, sans solidarité, où le sens de la communauté s'éloigne et où la jeunesse n'a plus de valeurs à servir. A l'échelle de la planète, elle véhicule des sommes et rassemble des forces supérieures aujourd'hui à celles de l'industrie du pétrole. La bataille est à mener partout et je me permets de suggérer à la FAO d'y réfléchir de façon qu'un jour, peut-être, la production de riz soit partout dans le monde plus rentable que celle du pavot.

Cinquième domaine où il importe que la communauté internationale ici rassemblée définisse une action: celui des manipulations génétiques. L'agriculture est à la source d'une mutation technologique apparemment innocente mais, en fait, fondamentale. Les progrès de la génétique, qui ont commencé dans l'agriculture, conduisent à façonner d'abord des plantes, puis des espèces animales et, demain, l'homme, comme des produits industriels, à breveter des espèces, à faire de la vie un artefact, un objet produit en série et lui-même producteur de produits en série. Où

s'arrêtera-t-on? Qui sera propriétaire de brevets? Quels seront les droits des espèces nouvelles? Jusqu'où aura-t-on le droit d'aller dans la transformation de l'animal, dans l'invention du végétal, dans la création de l'homme? Qui interdira ce qui est clone? C'est, je crois, le rôle des institutions internationales d'y penser aujourd'hui avant que le règne de l'économie de marché se soit emparé de ces choses pour en faire des objets irréversiblement morts parce que irréversiblement source de valeur marchande.

La fin de la guerre froide et du conflit idéologique ne crée pas pour autant un monde sans rivalité ou menace, au contraire. Sans rêve, sans modèle, sans utopie, chacun de nous est revenu à l'essentiel: se nourrir, se vêtir, se transporter. Les rivalités sont aujourd'hui beaucoup plus grandes que ce qu'elles n'étaient, parce que les désirs sont redevenus identiques, rivalité matérielle, hostilité technique et raciale. Chacun sent bien que l'homme, qui ne vit et ne s'enrichit que de ses différences, risque de se détruire.

Seulement voilà, il y a peut-être aujourd'hui 2 000 groupes humains qui peuvent se nommer peuples sur la planète, et il n'y a pas 200 Etats, il n'y a pas 200 territoires. Sans doute, faudra-t-il accepter là un compromis qui ne peut se résoudre que lorsque l'on aura compris que la diversité ne se nourrit que de la totalité.

A vous, responsables de l'agriculture, je me permets de dire qu'il vous incombe là-dessus de jouer un rôle particulier et, je crois, de faire comprendre aux autres hommes de pouvoir trois valeurs un peu oubliées dans nos sociétés de plus en plus urbaines, déracinées et individualistes.

Le paysan sédentaire sait qu'il n'y a pas de récoltes sans semences, pas de nourriture sans épargne. Le berger nomade sait qu'il n'y a pas de troupeaux sans vigiles. Le forestier, à la fois nomade et sédentaire, sait qu'il n'y a pas de bois sans jeunes pousses, que le berger et le paysan sont à la fois ses alliés et ses ennemis, réconciliés seulement, dit un grand maître indien, à la septième génération.

Vous seuls, plus que les autres, hommes de pouvoir, savez que seul le long terme l'emporte dans un monde éphémère. Vous seuls pouvez peut-être aider à ce que le politique puisse remplir son rôle dans ce long terme. Epargner, protéger, prévoir, tels sont les trois maîtres mots du politique de demain; il ne pourra remplir son rôle que s'il accepte de toutes nouvelles dévolutions de pouvoir aux institutions internationales capables d'imposer le respect de ce sanctuaire.

Après tout, les plus grandes oeuvres d'art ont été l'oeuvre de nomades décidés à laisser trace dans l'éternité, et la plus grande oeuvre d'art est évidemment la vie.

Carlos Castañeda, l'anthropologue américain, dans son livre L'herbe du diable et la petite fumée évoque la sagesse des Indiens Yakis selon laquelle l'homme affronte dans sa vie successivement quatre ennemis: la peur; la peur de ne pas avoir assez à manger, la peur de ne pas être capable de se développer. La sage Yaki dit qu'une fois que l'homme a vaincu cette peur il rencontre un autre ennemi: le pouvoir. Non pas parce qu'il

n'a pas de pouvoir, mais parce que le pouvoir obscurcit et que le pouvoir est une menace pour celui qui possède le pouvoir. Lorsque, dit le sage, l'homme est capable de vaincre cette peur du pouvoir, il rencontre un troisième ennemi: la clarté. Lorsqu'il sait qu'il peut vaincre la misère et la famine, lorsqu'il sait que le pouvoir est une chose relative, il est victime de cette domination du savoir et de la science qui peut détruire tout, y compris la planète elle-même. Lorsque l'homme sait relativiser le savoir, il rencontre son quatrième ennemi: la mort, dont, dit le sorcier, il ne peut que retarder l'inévitable victoire.

Je crois qu'aujourd'hui il nous faut apprendre à avoir peur de mourir de l'exercice du pouvoir.

**CHAIRMAN:** On behalf of the Conference and myself, Mr Attali, we thank you deeply for the very inspiring lecture and words of wisdom.

Since Frank McDougall came from Australia, I now invite the delegation of Australia to come to the podium and say a few words.

**Simon CREAN (Australia):** I, too, would like to join with you in congratulating Mr Attali for what has been, as you indicated, a very inspiring speech, but in my view also a very challenging speech to this meeting of the FAO. We have heard from a person who is not just a philosopher and a visionary, but also a person who in a very practical sense is head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. I think that position itself and the thoughts that he has given us today indicate the important role he sees for this Organization, as well as international organizations generally.

I am particularly pleased as the new Minister for Primary Industries and Energy in my country to be here today moving this vote of thanks in honour of a lecture named after Frank McDougall, because Frank McDougall was an Australian who was instrumental in the founding of the FAO at a time of great challenge in Europe, it being in 1945 at the end of the Second World War. He would have witnessed dramatic changes that occurred in that part of the world in the period from its emergence from devastation of war until his death in the late 1950s.

It is fitting that you, Mr Attali, should deliver this Memorial Lecture at a time in history when vast changes are again sweeping Europe. This time the changes in many senses have been far more rapid. I think that if we reflect on circumstances even in which this Conference last met, and of the dramatic changes that have occurred in the ensuing two years, we would be dishonest with ourselves if we said that we anticipated that the extent of the change would have been as great as it has been to date. The very fact of the existence of the Bank over which you now preside, Mr Attali, and the need for it I think is testament to the extent to which these changes not only have occurred but to the significant responses from the nations of the world.

As an Australian I am proud of Frank McDougall's vision and of his determination in laying the foundation for the Food and Agriculture Organization. His ideas have become a basic tenet of this great international organization and have been fundamental in shaping and directing its activities. His life and work would have been an inspiration to those of us who are involved in multilateral endeavours aimed at a world that is free of both hunger and malnutrition.

The achievements of the FAO clearly demonstrate that it has been sensitive and responsive to the changing needs and concerns of its member countries throughout the world. However, whilst the FAO has achieved much since its formation, the problems of poverty and hunger still remain with us. This does increase the pressures of the UN system and this Organization in particular to respond in a meaningful and effective way. The situation increases the need to identify priorities within the mandate of FAO so as to use its limited resources and to deploy its technical expertise to the optimum advantage.

The problems of world food and agriculture need to be approached from an appropriate priority, but also with pragmatism without raising unrealistic expectations and without setting unobtainable goals that could be a future source of disillusionment.

There must also be a realization that the problems cannot be addressed by one institution alone. As the FAO is essentially a technical body, it needs to work closely with others and complement and reinforce all the resources available to the international community to better understand, better articulate and better attain our common objectives of overcoming world hunger and malnutrition.

I believe it is particularly fitting that those responsible for the organization of this lecture saw the opportunity to invite you as head of this important new international structure to help us not just to recognize the global challenge, but in many senses to realize the responses to it. There are many problems that still remain to be solved, as I say, the problems of hunger and poverty that the world and this Organization continue to face. But the people responsible for the establishment of this Organization, Frank McDougall in particular, gave us a vision. In working together to achieve that vision we must not let him down. I think that in many senses today the speech, the challenge that you have put to us, Mr Attali, not only will set the pace and tone for the deliberations of this Organization over the coming weeks but in many senses will help bind this Organization and yours as part of the common response to what we must all come to grips with.

On behalf of this Conference I thank you for your inspiring and thoughtful speech. I wish you well in the important deliberations of your structure and look forward to close associations with that structure in years to come. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr Crean.

Since Mr Jacques Attali comes from France, I will now request the Honourable Ambassador of France to say a few words.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** M. le Président, ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un de mes compatriotes se fait entendre dans cette salle à la faveur de conférences exceptionnelles ou de remises de prix qui sont organisées ici de temps à autre. Mais c'est la première fois, je crois, qu'il a été fait appel à l'un d'entre eux dans le cadre de la prestigieuse Conférence McDougall. Au nom du pays que je représente, la France, et au nom de mon Gouvernement, j'en suis particulièrement honoré.

M. le Directeur général, vous avez dans votre introduction insisté sur la personnalité à multiples facettes de Frank McDougall. Jacques Attali est à la fois économiste, écrivain, romancier, philosophe de l'Histoire, aujourd'hui banquier. Il était particulièrement qualifié pour succéder sur ce podium à un économiste comme Gunnar Myrdal, un Historien comme Arnold Toynbee ou à des hommes ou des femmes politiques comme Bruno Kreisky ou Indira Gandhi.

Les réflexions stimulantes qu'il vient de nous faire partager sur le dialogue Nord-Sud, le désarmement, la guerre et la paix, l'éducation et la solidarité sociale, la démocratie et l'économie de marché, et d'une manière très générale sur les mutations qui se profilent dans le monde à l'horizon du XXIème siècle, ont contribué à placer d'emblée notre 26ème Conférence générale à un niveau de conceptualisation très élevé.

M. le Directeur général, en faisant appel à un homme encore très jeune, du moins du point de vue de beaucoup d'entre nous, et qui plus est - il l'a dit lui-même - responsable d'une très jeune institution internationale de développement, vous avez fait la preuve de la jeunesse de notre Institution et de sa capacité permanente de s'adapter aux nouvelles circonstances.

Aussi bien notre assemblée n'est-elle pas seulement une assemblée où l'on se contente de voter un budget - ce que nous ferons dans une semaine - et de discuter des projets, mais aussi un lieu privilégié où l'on peut échanger des idées et réfléchir sur l'avenir. Jacques Attali nous l'a montré il y a quelques minutes.

Je termine très simplement en remerciant ici même, à la fois Jacques Attali pour la très brillante conférence qu'il vient de faire devant une assemblée qui a été - j'en témoigne - particulièrement attentive à tous ses propos, et également le Directeur général d'avoir honoré mon pays et mon Gouvernement - qui n'a rien eu à voir dans votre choix - en choisissant précisément un de ses ressortissants les plus qualifiés pour s'adresser à nous aujourd'hui.

Merci à l'un comme à l'autre et à vous, M. le Président, de m'avoir laissé la parole pour ces quelques minutes.

3. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Aprobación del programa

4. Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items
4. Organisation de la session et répartition des questions inscrites à l'ordre du jour
4. Organización del período de sesiones y asignación de los temas del programa
  
5. Admission of Observers
5. Admission d'observateurs
5. Admisión de observadores

**CHAIRMAN:** We are going to take up Agenda Items 3, 4, 5 and 33 which are as follows: Item 3 is Adoption of the Agenda; Item 4 Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items; Item 5 is Admission of Observers and Item 33 Applications for Membership in the Organization.

As instructed by Conference this morning, the General Committee has prepared its Report containing proposals on these items as well as on other necessary arrangements.

I now propose that this First Report of the General Committee be read out section by section for Conference's consideration. The Report will be available to all by Monday morning as document number C 91/LIM/6.

May I, with your permission, ask the Secretary-General please to read out the Report section by section.

### First Report of the General Committee

#### Premier rapport du Bureau

#### Primer informe del Comité General

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Je donne lecture du premier rapport du Bureau. Ordre du jour de la session. Le Bureau a examiné le point de l'ordre du jour provisoire de la Conférence qui figure dans le document C 91/1. Il recommande que la Conférence adopte l'ordre du jour provisoire.

**CHAIRMAN:** You have heard what the Secretary-General had to say. Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, I declare the section which has just been read to be adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Création des Commissions et ordre du jour provisoire de la session. A sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session, le Conseil a formulé, concernant l'Organisation et le calendrier de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence, des propositions qui ont été communiquées aux

délégués et aux Etats Membres dans le document C 91/12. Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence crée trois Commissions chargées d'examiner la première et la troisième parties de l'ordre du jour et de faire rapport. Il est signalé à la Conférence qu'il sera peut-être nécessaire, pour donner aux ministres qui ne seront présents à Rome que durant les premiers jours de la Conférence le temps de parole qu'ils auront demandé, de prolonger ce jour-là le débat général jusqu'à 13 heures le matin et 18 h 30 l'après-midi, étant entendu que les séances devront commencer rigoureusement à l'heure. Il faut espérer qu'il sera ainsi possible de donner la parole à tous les orateurs inscrits pour les mardi 12 et mercredi 13 novembre au cours de ces séances. Si cela se révélait impossible, on pourrait prévoir une séance supplémentaire du soir. La durée de chaque intervention ne devra pas dépasser 15 minutes.

Le Bureau a examiné l'ordre du jour provisoire et il a jugé souhaitable que le point 33, Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation, soit examiné par la plénière à sa troisième séance plutôt qu'à sa deuxième, afin de permettre à la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs de terminer ses travaux. En outre, il est également nécessaire que le point 24, Accession d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale à la qualité de membres de la FAO - Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation, soit examiné et que les conclusions soient tirées au début de la session pour permettre le déroulement du scrutin concernant toute candidature de la communauté économique européenne pendant la session de la Conférence.

Le Bureau a également noté que le Gouvernement néerlandais a demandé qu'un point intitulé Examen d'une éventuelle demande d'admission de la Communauté européenne à la qualité de membre de la FAO soit inscrit à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence et que la future demande de suspension de l'Article XIX fasse l'objet d'un point approprié de l'ordre du jour. A cet égard, le Bureau estime qu'il ne sera pas opportun de recommander l'adjonction d'un nouveau point de l'ordre du jour consacré à ces questions, celles-ci étant déjà traitées au point 33 de l'ordre du jour, Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation. Le Bureau recommande cependant que ce point soit laissé en suspens pour permettre l'examen d'une éventuelle demande d'admission de la Communauté économique européenne à la qualité de membre de la FAO, une fois que la conférence aura pris une décision sur le point 24.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? If there are no comments, then the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le Bureau a recommandé que la Conférence approuve l'ordre du jour provisoire adopté par le Conseil avec les modifications suivantes. Le point 33 Demande d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation sera examiné en séance plénière le lundi 19 novembre dans



l'après-midi. Il sera ensuite laissé en suspens jusqu'après l'adoption par la Conférence du rapport relatif au point 24 de l'ordre du jour. Deuxièmement, la Commission III tiendra sa première séance le mardi 12 novembre dans la matinée pour débattre du point 24 Accession d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale à la qualité de membre de la FAO - Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. Elle poursuivra ses travaux jusqu'au mercredi 13 novembre en matinée si nécessaire. Elle se réunira à nouveau le jeudi 14 novembre à 18 heures pour adopter son rapport sur le point 24. Troisième modification. Ensuite, la plénière adoptera la troisième Commission relative au point 24 le vendredi 15 novembre dans l'après-midi. Quatrièmement, compte rendu de ce qui précède, la Commission I entamera ses travaux dans l'après-midi du mercredi 13 novembre. Il est également entendu que ce calendrier peut être modifié en fonction de l'avancement des travaux pléniers et des commissions. Le Bureau recommande également que la réunion officieuse des organisations non gouvernementales se tienne le matin et l'après-midi du mardi 12 novembre.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, this section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Nomination des Présidents des trois Commissions. Conformément aux Articles VII-1 et XXIV-5(b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation et comme indiqué dans le document C 91/LIM/1. Le Conseil à sa centième session a proposé les candidatures suivantes à la Présidence des Commissions.

Commission I: Waleed A. Elkhareiji (Arabie Saoudite)

Commission II: Hans Jorgen Kristensen (Danemark)

Commission III: Samuel Fernández-Illanes (Chili)

Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence d'adopter la proposition du Conseil. Il propose de formuler les recommandations concernant la Vice-Présidence des Commissions, Article X-2(c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation dans un rapport ultérieur.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, then the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Comité des résolutions. A sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session, le Conseil a recommandé la création d'un Comité des résolutions de la Conférence composé de sept membres à raison d'un membre par région de la FAO. Son mandat a été énoncé dans le document C 91/12, Annexe D ainsi que les critères devant présider à la formulation des résolutions. Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence fasse sienne la proposition du Conseil et que les Etats Membres suivants, identifiés par la région à laquelle ils appartiennent, siègent à ce comité: Afrique, le Ghana; Asie, République islamique d'Iran; Europe, la Suisse; Amérique latine et Caraïbes, Uruguay; Proche-Orient, Egypte; Amérique du Nord, Etats-Unis d'Amérique; Pacifique du Sud-Ouest, Nouvelle-Zélande. Les délégations des pays concernés sont priées de communiquer dès que possible au Président de la Conférence le nom de leur représentant au Comité des résolutions. Le Bureau recommande en outre que le Comité des résolutions soit présidé par le représentant de la région Afrique.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, then the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Admission d'observateurs des Etats ayant demandé à devenir membre de l'Organisation. Comme il est d'usage, le Directeur général a provisoirement indiqué les Etats qui ont présenté une demande d'admission à être représentés par les observateurs jusqu'à ce qu'une décision ait été prise quant à leur demande d'admission. La Conférence souhaitera certainement confirmer les indications concernant l'Estonie, la Lettonie et la Lituanie et Porto Rico. Le Comité a noté que la question d'accorder le statut d'observateur à l'Afrique du Sud ne se pose plus.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? If there are no comments, then the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Admission de l'observateur de l'Union des républiques socialistes soviétiques. Le Directeur général a reçu le 24 septembre 1991 de la part de l'observateur de l'URSS une lettre indiquant que le Gouvernement de l'URSS souhaiterait être représenté à la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. Le 8 octobre 1991 une invitation à assister à la Conférence en qualité d'observateur a été envoyée au Ministre des Affaires étrangères de l'URSS, mais il a été précisé que cette invitation devra être confirmée par la Conférence conformément aux principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux nations, Textes

fondamentaux, Section L, paragraphe B. 1 où il est spécifié que les Etats Membres de l'Organisation peuvent, sur demande, être invités par la Conférence à se faire représenter par un observateur à une session de la Conférence. Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer l'invitation.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? There seem to be no comments, so the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Admission et contribution des nouveaux Etats Membres. Le Comité a décidé de renvoyer l'examen de ces questions à sa prochaine séance le lundi 11 novembre 1991.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments? No comments, so the section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil. A la date fixée par le Conseil, c'est-à-dire le 6 septembre 1991, une proposition de candidature aux fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil avait été reçue: celle de M. Antoine Saintraint (Belgique). Cette candidature a été notifiée à tous les Etats Membres par lettre circulaire G/CF-4/3 du 13 septembre 1991.

Aux termes de l'Article XXIII-1(b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau fixe et annonce la date de l'élection. Le Bureau recommande que le scrutin secret en vue de cette élection ait lieu dans la matinée du mardi 26 novembre 1991.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section? No comments. The section is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Election des membres du Conseil. L'Article XXII (a) du RGO dispose que la Conférence, sur recommandation du Bureau, fixe, au plus tard trois jours après l'ouverture de la session, la date de l'élection des membres du Conseil et la date limite de présentation des propositions de candidatures.

Le Bureau recommande donc:

- a) que le scrutin commence le matin de lundi 25 novembre;
- b) que les candidatures aux sièges du Conseil, à pourvoir à la présente session, soient communiquées au Secrétaire général de la Conférence (Bureau B-202) au plus tard le lundi 18 novembre à 12 heures, pour permettre au Bureau, conformément à l'Article XXII-10(d) du RGO, de communiquer à la Conférence, trois jours ouvrables au moins avant la date fixée pour l'élection, la liste des candidatures recevables qui lui auront été soumises.

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

- “3. En choisissant les membres du Conseil, la Conférence s'efforce de tenir compte de l'intérêt qui s'attache:
  - a) à assurer au sein de cet organisme une représentation géographique équilibrée des nations intéressées à la production, à la distribution et à la consommation des produits alimentaires et agricoles;
  - b) à assurer la participation aux travaux du Conseil des Etats Membres qui contribuent dans une large mesure à la réalisation des objectifs de l'Organisation;
  - c) à donner au plus grand nombre possible d'Etats Membres l'occasion par roulement des sièges, faire partie du Conseil.”
- “4. Les membres du Conseil sont rééligibles.”
- “5. Aucun Etat Membre n'est éligible au Conseil si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes.”
- “7. Un membre du Conseil est considéré comme démissionnaire si l'arriéré de ses contributions à l'Organisation est égal ou supérieur aux contributions dues par lui les deux années civiles précédentes, ou s'il ne s'est pas fait représenter à deux sessions consécutives du Conseil.”

On trouvera dans le document C 91/LIM/22 toutes les informations nécessaires sur les sièges pour lesquels des candidatures doivent être présentées ainsi que les formules de présentation de candidature.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Droite de vote. Le Bureau note que les Etats Membres ci-après n'ont pas versé une part suffisante de leur contribution ordinaire pour conserver leur droit de vote à la Conférence.

Les Etats Membres ci-après ont informé l'Organisation qu'un versement est actuellement opéré et devrait lui parvenir sous peu.

L'Article III. 4 de l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation stipule ce qui suit: Chaque Etat Membre ne dispose que d'une voix. Un Etat Membre en retard dans le paiement de sa contribution à l'Organisation ne peut participer aux scrutins de la Conférence si le montant de ses arriérés est égal ou supérieur à la contribution due pour les deux années civiles précédentes. La Conférence peut néanmoins autoriser ce membre à voter si elle constate que le défaut de paiement est dû à des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté.

A mesure que le Directeur général sera informé par d'autres Etats Membres de leur situation, soit qu'ils aient effectué des versements, soit qu'ils aient présenté une demande d'examen spécial par la Conférence d'un plan de liquidation de leurs arriérés par tranches échelonnées, ces renseignements seront examinés par le Bureau qui fera ensuite rapport à ce sujet à la Conférence.

Dans l'intervalle cependant, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence que les Etats Membres intéressés soient autorisés à voter le lundi 11 novembre 1991 sur le point 33 de l'ordre du jour (Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation) étant entendu que l'Organisation restera en rapport avec eux afin de veiller au règlement de leurs arriérés, et que le Bureau examinera l'ensemble de la question sans tarder, à la lumière des résultats obtenus.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Droit de réponse. A ses douze sessions précédentes, la Conférence avait décidé que, si un délégué désirait répondre à des critiques visant la politique de son gouvernement, il devait de préférence le faire dans l'après-midi du jour où ces critiques avaient été exprimées après que toutes les personnes désireuses de participer au débat auraient eu la possibilité de prendre la parole. Le Bureau recommande qu'il en soit de même à la présente session.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

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

La correction du compte rendu peut se faire soit par rectification d'erreurs de transcription et autres, soit par amendements portant sur un mot ou une expression effectivement utilisés. En pratique, ces rectifications, ou amendements, ne sont acceptés que s'ils sont demandés par la délégation qui a fait l'intervention, et cela dans les 48 heures qui suivent la distribution du compte rendu provisoire.

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

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

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

- a) que la Conférence, ou la Commission intéressée, soit informée par son Président qu'une déclaration qui n'a pas été effectivement prononcée, ou qu'un complément substantiel à une déclaration faite en séance, est inséré dans le compte rendu;
- b) que le texte à insérer soit rédigé en anglais, espagnol ou français, c'est-à-dire dans l'une des langues utilisées dans le compte rendu sténographique;
- c) que le compte rendu provisoire contenant la déclaration ajoutée soit distribué trois jours au moins avant la clôture de la session; et
- d) que les délégations participant à la session aient la possibilité d'exercer leur droit de réponse en faisant, avant la clôture de la session, une intervention portant sur la déclaration ajoutée.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Déclarations des Chefs de délégation (débat général). Le Bureau recommande que la liste des orateurs soit publiée tous les jours dans le Journal de la Conférence, dans l'ordre dans lequel le Président leur donnera la parole, et recommande en outre que les déclarations ne dépassent pas 15 minutes.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Admission d'observateurs d'organisations intergouvernementales et d'organisations internationales non gouvernementales. La liste des organisations intergouvernementales et des organisations non gouvernementales que le Directeur général a invitées à se faire représenter par des observateurs à la présente session de la Conférence figure dans les documents C 91/13 et C 91/13-Sup.1. Les invitations adressées à des organisations intergouvernementales avec lesquelles la FAO n'a pas conclu d'accords officiels et à des organisations internationales non gouvernementales ne jouissant pas du statut consultatif auprès de la FAO sont faites à titre provisoire, sous réserve de l'approbation de la Conférence.

Ayant étudié cette liste, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer ces invitations provisoires.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Réunion officieuse des observateurs d'organisations non gouvernementales. Le Conseil a recommandé que, comme lors des sessions précédentes de la Conférence, les observateurs des organisations non gouvernementales soient invités à tenir une réunion officieuse afin que leurs avis et suggestions concernant les activités et programmes de l'Organisation puissent être communiqués à la Conférence. Il est suggéré que cette réunion ait lieu le matin et l'après-midi du mardi 12 novembre. Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence accepte cette proposition.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Participation de mouvements de libération. Conformément à la suggestion formulée par le Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session, des observateurs de l'Organisation de libération de la Palestine et des mouvements de libération africains reconnus par l'OUA (le Congrès national africain de l'Afrique du Sud et la Congrès panafricain d'Azanie) ont été invités à prendre part à la Conférence. Le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de confirmer ces invitations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Conclusion. Le Bureau recommande enfin que la Conférence confirme toutes les dispositions détaillées relatives à l'organisation de la session et que, sauf pour la période mentionnée plus haut aux paragraphes 4, 5, 6 et 7, l'horaire de travail des séances plénières et des commissions soit normalement de 9 h 30 à 12 h 30 et de 14 h 30 à 17 h 30. Si nécessaire, des séances du soir pourront aussi avoir lieu de 19 h 30 à 22 h 30. Le Bureau invite toutes les délégations à observer la plus grande ponctualité.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this section, please? - No comments.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** That concludes the adoption of the First Report of the General Committee, and also our proceedings for today. Thank you all.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 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 91/PV/3

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(11 November 1991)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 15.5 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

Adoption of the Second Report of the General Committee

Adoption du deuxième rapport du Bureau

Aprobación del segundo informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** Welcome to the Third Plenary meeting that is starting a little later than the time specified. I hereby open this Plenary meeting. Our first task this afternoon will be to approve the proposal of the General Committee which met this morning on the item of applications of new members and their contributions. I shall ask the Secretary-General to start reading the Report for your consideration.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** In its meeting this morning the General Committee discussed as a first item: Admission of new Member Nations. I read the section of the report concerning this item; In conformity with the provisions of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization the following applications for membership had been received by the deadline of the 9 of October 1991: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, South Africa, Puerto Rico as Associate Member. Under Article II-2 of the Constitution the Conference decides on the admission of additional Member Nations by two-thirds majority of the votes cast provided that the general majority of the Member Nations of the Organization are present. Votes cast means for and against and do not include abstentions or defective ballots. Membership becomes effective upon the date on which the Conference approves the applications.

The application for admission by South Africa was discussed by the Committee. The Committee recommends that no action should be taken on the application of South Africa at this time but that the Conference decide to place this matter on the provisional agenda of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference November, 1993.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments on this section of the Report? No comments. This section is adopted

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** With respect to the other applications the Committee recommends that the Conference hold a vote for the admission of these countries on Monday the 11th of November. The result will be announced at the same meeting and the ceremony for installing the new members will take place immediately afterwards. As is customary the Chairman will welcome the new members and each of them may make a statement. In order to gain time the Committee recommends that only one country responds on behalf of each region.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments on this section, please? No comments. Section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The second item discussed by the Committee was: Contributions of new members. In accordance with Rule 5.8 of the Financial Regulations, the Conference determines the amount to be paid by newly admitted Member Nations beginning with the quarter in which the application is approved. According to the established principles and customs the minimum contribution due from these new members for the last quarter of 1991 and the advance to the Working Capital Fund are: Estonia contribution last quarter US \$6 960, Working Capital Fund Advance US\$2 000; Latvia contribution US\$6 960, Working Capital Fund US\$2 000; Lithuania contribution US\$6 960, Working Capital Fund US\$2 000. Contributions for the last quarter and advance to the Capital Fund are based on the assumption that the assessment rate for these nations is 0.01 percent. This is subject to revision pending the result of information from the United Nations Committee on Contributions. For Puerto Rico the contribution for the last quarter is US\$4 176 and there is no contribution to the Working Capital Fund.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments on this section, please? No comments, section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Another item discussed by the General Committee was: Statements by Heads of Delegations in the General Discussion. The Committee noted with satisfaction that the list of speakers scheduled under the general discussion each day would be published in the Journal of the Conference. The Committee agreed that precedence would be given to Ministers and Heads of Delegations of Member Nations over speakers from Observer Delegations and other organizations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments on this section, please? No comments, section adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

### Adoption of the First Report of Credentials Committee

### Adoption du premier rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

### Aprobación del primer informe del Comité de Credenciales

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** Mr Chairman, delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, the first Report of the Credentials

Committee: the Credentials Committee held its first meeting on 9 November 1991, and the second meeting on Monday 11 November at 12.00 hours, to examine the credentials of the delegates from Member Nations to the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. The Committee elected Ambassador Fotis Poulides of Cyprus as its Chairman.

In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization and the criteria established by previous Committees, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 131 delegations and found them to be valid. The Member Nations to which these delegations belonged are shown in the attached list. To date twenty-six Member Nations have not presented credentials. Six Member Nations have advised the Secretariat that they will not attend the Conference. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cook Islands, St Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands and Suriname. Any other credentials which will be received from Member Nations, as well as the credentials of representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations, will be examined by the Committee at subsequent meetings.

I now give the list of Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials which have been found to be in order: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany (Federal Republic), Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. That is a total of 131 Member Nations.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr Poulides. Are there any comments on this Report, please?

**Brahim IDRISSE (Tchad):** M. le Président, normalement, notre pays devrait être cité juste après la République centrafricaine car le Tchad a présenté ses lettres de créance. S'agit-il d'un oubli?

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** Chad has not presented its credentials. We have not received credentials from Chad.

Are there other questions to which I can reply?

**N'Koley KOFFI ABOTCHI (Togo):** Le Togo également a présenté ses lettres de créance et a même vérifié, tout à l'heure, la véracité de la chose. Il devrait être cité immédiatement après la Thaïlande mais nous n'avons pas entendu notre nom.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** Togo has not presented any credentials. We have not received any credentials. You may think that we have received credentials if you have sent them by fax, but fax is not considered to be a credential because it is not sealed and it is not signed properly.

**Philip DOVO (Vanuatu):** Vanuatu has also presented its credentials but I understand that they were sent through the regional representative in Western Samoa. I did not hear our name read out.

**CHAIRMAN:** It would appear that there has perhaps been a communication gap. Some people may have sent their credentials through telexes or through other countries and their credentials may not have reached us. I have been assured by the Committee that whatever was received earlier has been gone through thoroughly. However, the Committee is quite prepared to look into any of these problems if there are any, and if there are any omissions we can look into it. Therefore, I would request delegates who have doubts to approach the Secretariat so that each case can be examined. If there is an omission, that will be accepted or otherwise. I declare that the Report of the Committee as a whole is adopted.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before calling on the Director-General to make his statement to the Conference, as part of the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the transfer of FAO to Rome, the Director-General has arranged for us to view a fifteen-minute documentary film produced by the Italian Film Institute in tribute to this anniversary and to FAO's dedication to agricultural development.

I will invite the Director-General to introduce this film.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, il y a quarante ans, le siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture s'établissait dans cette grande capitale européenne et historique qu'est Rome. Aujourd'hui, la via delle Terme di Caracalla a pris valeur de symbole pour ceux qui travaillent dans cette Organisation et toutes les délégations étrangères qui s'y rendent chaque jour.

En hommage à ce quarantième anniversaire, nous avons le grand plaisir de vous présenter un documentaire réalisé conjointement par la Division de l'information de la FAO, et surtout par l'Institut Luce: Il nome delle terre, en français Le nom de la terre. Ce film est le fruit d'une coopération naissante entre les deux institutions, internationale et italienne. Dans le cadre d'un accord de coopération récent, le Docteur Sangiorgi, Président de l'Institut Luce, ici présent, sur le podium dans cette salle, et moi-même avons convenu de promouvoir la production, l'échange et la distribution de programmes de vidéo en Italie, sur ces thèmes vitaux qui nous sont chers: l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Cette première réalisation cinématographique conjointe est le témoignage concret de cette nouvelle volonté que nous vous invitons à partager à travers Il nome della terra.

Le documentaire sera projeté en version originale, aussi bien en anglais qu'en italien. Les autres versions linguistiques seront assurées par l'interprétation simultanée.

### DOCUMENTARY FILM IN TRIBUTE TO FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FAO'S TRANSFER TO ROME

### DOCUMENTAIRE EN L'HONNEUR DU QUARANTIEME ANNIVERSAIRE DU TRANSFERT DE LA FAO A ROME

### DOCUMENTAL SOBRE EL 40° ANIVERSARIO DEL TRASLADO DE LA FAO A ROMA

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Dr Sangiorgi for a very instructive film, short and to the point.

The next Item is the Director-General's statement to the Conference, so I give the floor to Dr Edouard Saouma.

### DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE

### DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCE

### ALOCUCION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, il est devenu banal de dire que tous les grands problèmes se sont mondialisés. L'interdépendance est un fait que tout le monde reconnaît aujourd'hui. Chaque décision prise dans un grand pays risque de se répercuter sur tous les autres.

Or, à peine avons-nous assimilé cette notion, à peine commençons-nous à en tirer les conséquences, qu'un phénomène entièrement nouveau vient compliquer notre effort d'analyse et notre recherche de grandes orientations capables de mener à un nouvel ordre mondial, je veux parler de la soudaine et prodigieuse accélération que l'Histoire connaît depuis deux ou trois ans.

Le cours des choses se précipite; les systèmes politiques et économiques régissant des centaines de millions d'êtres humains s'effondrent à grand bruit, des nations longtemps assujetties retrouvent leur indépendance. Tout va si vite, et l'actualité fourmille de tant d'indications contradictoires qu'essayer de dégager quelques grandes lignes relève de la gageure.

Dans cette évolution qui s'emballe sous nos yeux, éléments positifs et négatifs s'entremêlent d'une façon souvent inextricable. Une dynamique de paix et de dialogue commence à s'instaurer. Détente et avènement d'une ère de coopération Est-Ouest; réduction des armements qui devrait ouvrir des perspectives nouvelles pour l'aide au développement; démocratisation, nouvel envol de la liberté, retour en force du droit des peuples à disposer d'eux-mêmes, fin de l'Apartheid, apaisement progressif des drames qui éprouvent l'Afghanistan, El Salvador et combien d'autres pays. Tout cela devrait nous remplir d'une joie sans mélange et nous ouvrir à des espoirs exaltants.

Pourquoi faut-il que ces heureux progrès s'accompagnent de convulsions d'une violence inouïe? Chaque fois que l'on parvient à maîtriser le feu dans un coin du globe, d'autres incendies éclatent ailleurs. Des nationalismes s'exaspèrent et débouchent sur des conflits sanglants. La récession économique et le chômage continuent de sévir dans les pays avancés, en outre ces dernières années, et notamment en 1991, ont été particulièrement fertiles en catastrophes naturelles aussi meurtrières que destructrices. Jamais autant d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants n'ont souffert de la faim.

Jamais autant de réfugiés ne se sont pressés sur les routes ou entassés sur de dérisoires embarcations. Jamais les besoins d'assistance technique et humanitaire sous toutes ses formes - y compris l'aide alimentaire - n'ont été aussi grands, non seulement en Afrique et dans les autres régions en développement, mais aussi au Nord, dans cette Europe de l'Est où tous les systèmes de production et de distribution sont à refondre.

Une conjoncture aussi complexe met à l'épreuve, d'une façon radicale, notre capacité de nous hausser à la dimension des risques et des chances qui caractérisent notre époque, et d'assumer pleinement nos obligations humaines dans le respect mutuel.

Au milieu du désarroi que suscite une telle situation, il apparaît évident que le système des Nations Unies, naguère si décrié par tant d'esprits critiques, a pris une stature et une autorité nouvelles. Qu'il s'agisse des problèmes de la paix, des moyens de faire face aux grandes crises économiques et sociales, des menaces mortelles qui pèsent sur l'environnement ou de l'action à mener en cas d'épidémie ou de catastrophe naturelle majeure, tout le monde s'accorde désormais à reconnaître qu'à l'échelle mondiale ce système est seul capable d'affronter les risques et de saisir les chances dont je parlais à l'instant.

Ce regain de prestige et de confiance tient assurément à des capacités d'intervention concrètes, mais plus encore au fait que l'ONU et les institutions spécialisées offrent un espace qui n'a pas d'équivalent pour le dialogue et la concertation, l'analyse des problèmes et la découverte de solutions. Si un nouvel ordre international doit voir le jour, il ne pourra naître que dans et par la famille des Nations Unies.

Pour que l'action de cette famille soit en mesure d'affronter les crises et les bouleversements actuels, les Etats Membres ne doivent pas se borner à en reconnaître l'utilité: il faudrait qu'ils puissent doter nos institutions de moyens et de ressources correspondant à l'augmentation vertigineuse des besoins et à l'ampleur du travail qu'ils attendent de nous.

Or, il faut bien s'en rendre compte, la persistance ou même l'aggravation des maux dont souffre l'économie mondiale interdit pour le moment le soutien matériel massif qui serait nécessaire. Parmi les Etats Membres, les uns sont pauvres et ne cessent de s'appauvrir, et les autres connaissent des difficultés et des déséquilibres tels qu'ils ne peuvent dégager les ressources voulues. C'est ainsi que l'aide publique au développement - dont l'objectif de 0,7 pour cent du PNB n'a jamais été atteint - ne fait que stagner en termes réels, et que les transferts de technologies pourtant indispensables se trouvent freinés par la réduction des budgets.



Quant aux flux commerciaux et privés, ils sont tombés, dès le début de la crise d'endettement des années 80, à des niveaux désastreux, et n'ont pas encore donné signe de redressement.

Il ne s'agit pas de considérer cet état de choses comme normal et d'en prendre son parti; il s'agit de reconnaître qu'il existe et, dans l'attente de jours meilleurs, de moduler notre action en conséquence, en nous efforçant de sauvegarder l'essentiel, et donc en précisant et affûtant nos priorités. Etant donné la rapidité de l'évolution, l'apparition de besoins nouveaux et la manière dont les problèmes se déplacent, cela exige de nos institutions plus de souplesse, de lucidité, d'imagination et d'énergie qu'à aucun moment de leur histoire.

Tel est, M. le Président, le contexte dans lequel s'ouvre la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. La situation que je viens d'évoquer affecte la FAO comme toutes les organisations soeurs. Il suffira d'ajouter quelques précisions propres à notre domaine spécifique.

Je ne vais pas évoquer ici trop longuement les données matérielles de ce que nous appelons traditionnellement la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Mais il nous faut rappeler que les disponibilités sont actuellement suffisantes pour couvrir les besoins de toute la population du globe. Pourtant, le fait important, c'est que la demande solvable reste très en deçà de ces besoins. En termes concrets, cela veut dire que plus d'un demi-milliard d'êtres humains souffre de la faim et qu'un nombre plus élevé encore connaît la malnutrition, faute de disposer des moyens nécessaires pour se procurer une nourriture adéquate. Pendant que les pays avancés doivent affronter de difficiles problèmes d'excédents, la pauvreté interdit à des centaines de millions de nos semblables l'accès à la sécurité alimentaire.

Pauvreté des personnes, pauvreté des pays. Dans le monde en développement, où l'agriculture constitue souvent la principale source de revenus, la baisse persistante des cours des matières premières fait diminuer les recettes et accélère l'appauvrissement. En fait, les prix des produits agricoles de base sont aujourd'hui à la moitié de leur niveau de 1980, lui-même point bas de la décennie précédente; nul n'envisage un redressement prochain. L'aide internationale n'est-elle pas alors un palliatif dérisoire et sans perspective de succès? Un progrès sur les prix représenterait des ressources bien plus considérables, sans contraindre les pays en développement à pressurer encore davantage leurs ressources naturelles pour compenser par les quantités ce que la chute des cours leur soustrait.

De plus, depuis 10 ans, la majorité des pays en développement est écrasée par les charges d'une dette étouffante, dont bien peu ont pu desserrer l'étau. Les ressources qu'ils doivent sacrifier à réparer le passé ne peuvent, évidemment, leur servir à préparer leur futur. Tous les secteurs en souffrent, et l'agriculture au premier chef. La recherche d'initiatives internationales pour résoudre cette contradiction progresse, hélas, bien lentement.

De leur côté, la Banque mondiale et le FMI proposent des remèdes parfois trop énergiques. Peut-on attendre une solution? Il est trop tôt pour le dire: au bout de quatre ou cinq ans, on en perçoit surtout les conséquences négatives sur le plan social, mais les effets bénéfiques ne pourront se manifester pleinement qu'au bout de 15 ou 20 ans. La Banque et le Fonds

doivent donc poursuivre leurs efforts, tout en s'attachant à réduire le coût social des ajustements qu'ils préconisent.

Les prix des produits agricoles des pays développés s'affaiblissent eux aussi, et le mécontentement des agriculteurs de ces pays s'exprime parfois avec violence, malgré les milliards de dollars de subventions dont ils bénéficient. Bref, le malaise des producteurs agricoles est un phénomène universel, mais c'est seulement dans les pays riches qu'il se manifeste avec assez de force pour arracher aux autorités une aide importante. Or, si l'agriculture des pays avancés a besoin de subventions, comment ne pas admettre leur nécessité, dans certaines situations, pour les pays pauvres?

Des difficultés parfois plus menaçantes encore se posent dans le domaine de l'écologie. Il serait trop long d'exposer ici comment la pauvreté, jointe à une démographie galopante, met l'environnement en péril. Surexploitation et dégradation accélérée des terres marginales, déforestation, marche irréversible vers la désertification - tous ces phénomènes vous sont hélas bien connus, et vous aurez à en débattre au titre du point 7 de votre ordre du jour.

Comment la FAO a-t-elle réagi aux situations que je viens d'évoquer? Nous avons été très sollicités, et nous nous sommes à chaque fois efforcés d'intervenir avec un maximum d'efficacité, souvent en nous joignant à d'autres pour des missions humanitaires, dans la limite des ressources disponibles. Au-delà des réactions immédiates, dictées par l'esprit de solidarité internationale qui est notre raison d'être, de telles demandes soulèvent inévitablement une question fondamentale: quels doivent être le rôle de la FAO et ses moyens d'action?

C'est notre Acte constitutif qui, en son Article premier, énonce les grandes fonctions de notre Organisation. Elles se résument ainsi: réunir, traiter et diffuser l'information touchant les domaines de notre compétence; offrir aux Etats Membres un lieu de dialogue et de concertation; leur donner avis et conseils sur l'élaboration des politiques; leur apporter l'assistance technique qu'ils demandent.

Suivant les circonstances et à mesure que les besoins des pays évoluent, tel ou tel aspect de notre mission peut sembler, à un moment donné, revêtir plus d'importance que d'autres. Mais en fait, ces différents rôles forment un tout inséparable dont les éléments sont interdépendants: en analysant l'information, en écoutant les débats de nos Etats Membres, nous renforçons notre capacité de formuler des avis sur les politiques à envisager et de bien orienter notre action sur le terrain. Inversement, notre expérience du travail de terrain nourrit et précise notre réflexion et enrichit notre connaissance. Si est vrai que nous devons parfois privilégier tel aspect plutôt que tel autre - par exemple, l'action concrète lorsque de nombreuses situations d'urgence l'exigent - il n'y a dans le mandat qui nous incombe aucune opposition entre le théorique et le pratique: ce sont les facettes d'une seule et même vocation. Comme dit le proverbe chinois, il faut marcher sur ses deux jambes.

Nous ne saurions sans manquer à notre devoir renoncer à aucun des rôles que définit notre Acte constitutif. Pour les différentes catégories d'activités que je viens d'évoquer, nous occupons une position qui n'a pas d'équivalent dans le monde.

D'une part, nous recevons de nos Etats Membres et de nos agents dans les pays et les régions une masse d'informations que nul autre que nous ne serait en mesure de rassembler et qui nous permettent de dégager certains principes susceptibles de régir les comportements dans les domaines de notre compétence. Je suis fier de pouvoir dire que jamais la FAO n'a poussé aussi loin le travail qui relève de cette catégorie, qu'il s'agisse de notre système d'information et d'alerte rapide, que nous ne cessons de renforcer, ou de nos activités normatives sur les produits alimentaires, l'emploi des pesticides, les ressources phytogénétiques, etc.

D'autre part, notre action sur le terrain revêt une originalité, une spécificité qui la rendent irremplaçable. Qui d'autre que nous aurait pu coordonner à une si vaste échelle la lutte antiacridienne, ou, pour prendre un exemple tout récent, organiser et mener à bien une campagne qui a permis de bloquer l'expansion de la redoutable lucilie bouchère vers les pays riverains de la Méditerranée? Assurément, le secteur privé et les programmes bilatéraux, qui disposent de moyens considérables, ont un rôle à jouer, et nous ne cherchons pas à marcher sur leurs brisées. Mais notre richesse à nous réside dans notre universalité, dans la diversité des personnes, des cultures et des techniques auxquelles nous pouvons faire appel, dans notre expérience et notre ancienneté, et surtout dans notre indépendance et notre impartialité, dans notre absence de toute motivation politique ou commerciale. Nous n'entendons pas supplanter les autres formes d'action au service du développement, mais nous leur apportons un complément indispensable, et rien ne saurait nous faire renoncer à cet aspect fondamental de notre mission.

Nous ne nourrissons pas pour autant des ambitions ou des prétentions démesurées. Nous savons que notre poids dans l'économie agricole du monde est limité. Nous ne sommes pas un ministère mondial de l'agriculture. Nous offrons un espace d'échange, de dialogue, de concertation et de coopération au bénéfice des agriculteurs, des forestiers et des pêcheurs - mais aussi des consommateurs et de ceux qui font commerce des produits agricoles. Nous fournissons à l'intention de toutes ces catégories d'utilisateurs une gamme très étendue de services et d'informations.

Pour diverse qu'elle soit, notre action présente une très forte homogénéité: sous la conduite des gouvernements qui définissent nos politiques, notre travail forme un tout dont les éléments sont solidement reliés entre eux et intégrés. Suivant un rigoureux processus d'évaluation et de contrôle, nous rendons périodiquement compte de notre action à nos mandants. A l'échelle des problèmes mondiaux, notre Organisation est petite mais importante, car nous constituons un outil forgé par les Etats Membres eux-mêmes et qui fonctionne bien, même si son action demeure souvent inconnue du grand public - je songe par exemple au travail que nous menons en commun avec l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique dans la recherche d'utilisations des techniques nucléaires au service du développement agricole.

M. le Président, c'est dans cette perspective que je voudrais examiner avec vous ce que la FAO a fait au cours de l'exercice qui s'achève et ce qu'elle envisage de faire dans celui qui va s'ouvrir.

Deux facteurs ont exercé une influence prépondérante sur notre travail pendant l'exercice 1990-91: d'une part, la Conférence nous avait chargés de mettre en oeuvre les conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Je ne crois pas qu'aucune institution des Nations Unies ait jamais été scrutée de façon aussi exhaustive et approfondie que la FAO l'a été dans le cadre de cet examen. Il est réconfortant de constater qu'au terme d'une étude aussi méticuleuse l'unanimité se soit faite, depuis les experts indépendants jusqu'à la Conférence, en passant par le Comité du programme, le Comité financier et le Conseil: tous ont estimé que la FAO est fondamentalement saine et n'a besoin que d'être renforcée.

La mise en oeuvre des recommandations qui nous étaient adressées supposait des ressources supplémentaires, que j'avais estimées à 27 millions de dollars. Nous n'avons reçu aucun montant additionnel pour cet objet. Pourtant, mes collègues et moi sommes parvenus à faire presque tout ce que vous attendiez de nous dans ce domaine. Je ne veux pas m'étendre sur la somme d'énergie, de travail et d'ingéniosité que notre Secrétariat a dû déployer, ni sur les sacrifices qu'il lui a fallu consentir pour arriver à ce résultat. Quoi qu'il en soit, je suis heureux de pouvoir dire qu'aujourd'hui la FAO a déjà fortement progressé dans le sens de vos souhaits.

D'autre part, nous avons dû faire face à la pire situation financière que l'Organisation ait connue depuis sa création. Cette situation nous a occasionné de grandes difficultés dans l'exécution du Programme de travail et budget en 1990-91. Je vous en résume les aspects les plus saillants. Premièrement, nos ressources se sont trouvées amputées par de gros retards dans le versement des contributions. Songez qu'à l'heure actuelle une quinzaine de pays risquent de perdre leur droit de vote parce que leurs arriérés dépassent trois ans de contributions - c'est-à-dire plus qu'il n'est prévu à l'Article III, paragraphe 4 de l'Acte constitutif. Deuxièmement, il nous a fallu absorber des augmentations de coûts qui étaient imprévisibles et qui portaient notamment sur les rémunérations et les charges sociales. Troisièmement, les difficultés financières exercent un puissant effet négatif sur nos ressources en personnel: la diminution prévue des prestations de retraite a provoqué de nombreux départs anticipés, et nous avons beaucoup de mal à combler les vides ainsi créés, parce que les traitements et conditions d'emploi que nous pouvons offrir n'attirent guère de compétences nouvelles.

Pour faire face à nos obligations les plus impérieuses, il nous a fallu pour la première fois, au cours de cet exercice, recourir à l'emprunt, y compris auprès d'établissements commerciaux. Nous l'avons fait à contrecoeur; même si le règlement de certaines créances importantes nous a permis de nous libérer rapidement, une telle situation est tout à fait anormale, coûteuse pour l'Organisation et génératrice d'instabilité. A l'heure actuelle, nous avons quelque raison de croire à une amélioration prochaine, notre principal contributeur ayant commencé à régler ses arriérés.

Pendant l'exercice qui touche à sa fin, nous avons mis l'accent sur les problèmes considérés comme prioritaires par nos Etats Membres - à savoir le conseil et l'appui en matière de politiques, l'environnement et le développement durable, les forêts, l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale de 1992 sur la nutrition....

Toutes ces questions figurent à votre ordre du jour, et je ne veux pas anticiper sur les débats que vous allez leur consacrer. Je signalerai seulement que l'obligation de préserver l'outil de production - à savoir la

terre et sa productivité - impose aux pays en développement un fardeau supplémentaire qu'ils ne seraient guère en état de supporter sans l'appui de la solidarité internationale. C'est dans cet esprit que nous avons élaboré un premier programme mondial de développement durable de l'agriculture. Présenté d'abord à la Conférence sur le thème agriculture et environnement qui s'est tenue aux Pays-Bas en avril dernier, approuvé ensuite par le Conseil de la FAO, ce plan formera la base de notre contribution à la grande conférence que les Nations Unies vont consacrer à cette question capitale et qui se tiendra à Rio de Janeiro en juin 1992.

Nous attachons une importance primordiale à la manière dont l'homme doit réaliser le mariage entre développement et environnement en assumant toute sa responsabilité de gestionnaire du patrimoine de ressources naturelles du globe. C'est dans ce cadre que s'inscrit notamment notre action touchant les forêts, définie en particulier dans notre Programme d'action forestier tropical.

Comment allons-nous affronter les responsabilités qui nous attendent en 1992-1993 et dans les années à venir? Cela dépendra en premier lieu de nos Etats Membres. A cet égard, je ne saurais passer sous silence une éventuelle modification dans la composition de notre Organisation. La présente session de la Conférence sera saisie de plusieurs demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre, ce qui témoigne du dynamisme de notre Organisation et de la place fondamentale qu'elle occupe dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je me félicite tout particulièrement de la candidature des trois Etats baltes - Estonie, Lettonie et Lituanie - Etats qui ont déjà pris place au sein de l'ONU et qui souhaitent désormais adhérer à la FAO. En outre, les Etats-Unis demandent l'admission de Porto Rico en qualité de membre associé. Je me réjouis de ces diverses candidatures, car elles vont, je l'espère fermement, permettre à notre famille de s'agrandir et rapprocher l'Organisation de l'universalité à laquelle elle a vocation.

Par ailleurs, la Communauté économique européenne a l'intention de poser sa candidature pour devenir membre de plein droit de l'Organisation, si la présente session de la Conférence adopte certains amendements aux Textes fondamentaux.

M. le Président, je tiens à ajouter quelques mots au sujet de la proposition visant à amender les Textes fondamentaux de la FAO, de manière à prévoir les modalités selon lesquelles des organisations d'intégration économique régionale pourraient accéder au statut de membre. Depuis quelques années, les organisations d'intégration économique régionale comme la Communauté européenne et le rôle qu'elles jouent dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture prennent une importance grandissante. C'est pourquoi leur participation au processus de prise de décisions, dans des institutions comme la FAO, doit être à la mesure d'un tel rôle. La Communauté économique européenne s'est déjà révélée un partenaire précieux pour traiter des problèmes essentiels de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Il incombe à la présente session de la Conférence de décider s'il faut réviser les Textes fondamentaux afin de reconnaître ce rôle et d'autoriser l'adhésion à la FAO, selon des modalités spécifiques, des organisations d'intégration économique régionale auxquelles les Etats Membres ont délégué des compétences dans certains domaines de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Nous nous trouvons, M. le Président, à un tournant de

l'histoire: je suis persuadé que l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies suivra de très près l'issue de vos délibérations car, ne l'oublions pas, la FAO fait en la matière oeuvre de pionnier.

De toute évidence, c'est votre assemblée plénière qui va déterminer notre action durant l'exercice à venir par les décisions qu'elle va prendre au sujet du Programme de travail et budget. Pour la première fois, nos propositions s'inscrivent dans le plan à moyen terme pour la période 1992-97 sur lequel vous êtes appelé aussi à vous prononcer. Ce plan à moyen terme est l'un des résultats les plus importants émanant de l'Examen de la FAO. Pour préparer ce document de caractère nouveau, nous avons exploité l'expérience acquise antérieurement par l'Organisation dans la planification à moyen terme: nous nous sommes efforcés également de tirer profit le plus possible de l'expérience des autres Organisations du système des Nations Unies.

En réponse au vœu de la Conférence que ce plan puisse constituer une base pour les programmes de travail et budget des six prochaines années, j'espère que vous y trouverez le contexte approprié pour juger des objectifs que nous devons poursuivre, des orientations de nos politiques et des priorités à fixer.

Je suis heureux que ces diverses propositions aient emporté l'assentiment du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, qui les ont examinées avec leur soin habituel. Les priorités que nous avons définies ont été approuvées sans aucun désaccord, les seules divergences de vues qui se sont exprimées portant sur les moyens de financement. Je suis persuadé que la Conférence trouvera, dans sa sagesse, le moyen de surmonter ces différences mineures et qu'elle parviendra facilement à un consensus sur le budget.

Il me paraît très important, en effet, que notre Programme de travail et budget soit adopté par consensus, au moment où nous devons concentrer toutes nos énergies dans un effort unanime pour faire face aux défis qui nous assaillent. Pour permettre un tel consensus, j'ai fait le maximum afin de surmonter le dilemme suivant: d'une part, la situation telle que je l'ai évoquée, les besoins d'aide grandissants et le volume croissant des services que les Etats Membres attendent de nous auraient amplement justifié une expansion substantielle de nos programmes. D'autre part, une majoration notable des contributions serait inacceptable pour de nombreux Etats Membres, puisque certains d'entre eux ne parviennent même pas à s'acquitter de leurs obligations actuelles. Dès lors, après mûre réflexion et non sans regret, j'ai été amené à proposer, comme solution de compromis, un niveau de budget qui, je l'espère, pourra être approuvé par consensus. Mieux vaut s'arranger tant bien que mal d'une situation difficile si la cohésion entre tous nos Etats Membres peut ainsi être assurée.

M. le Président, je voudrais maintenant évoquer à grands traits, dans une perspective plus large, les principaux enjeux de l'agriculture mondiale dans les années à venir et les missions que la FAO va devoir assumer en conséquence.

D'une part, les pays de l'Europe de l'Est, depuis notre dernière Conférence en novembre 1989, ont basculé dans la transformation vertigineuse qui les conduit de la collectivisation au marché. Les périls sont extrêmes; tous, nous avons intérêt à parer l'effondrement de ces agricultures en transition. La FAO se tient prête à fournir, dans toute la mesure possible et pendant toute la durée nécessaire, l'aide que les pays intéressés lui

demandront pour les aider à franchir ce passage délicat: apporter avis et conseils aux Etats Membres est une mission inscrite dans notre Acte constitutif. Reste à savoir ce qui va se passer en attendant que les nouveaux systèmes arrivent au stade du décollage et de la rentabilité. La Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement - dont le dynamique Président a prononcé la Conférence McDougall à l'ouverture de nos travaux - est appelée à jouer un rôle crucial à cet égard, et je tiens à saluer sa création.

La communauté internationale doit donc injecter dans ces pays beaucoup de capitaux et de technologies, ainsi qu'une importante aide alimentaire. Est-il possible d'éviter que cela se fasse au détriment des pays en développement? Question capitale, qui ne peut trouver de réponse que par la concertation, la mise en commun des idées, des savoir-faire, des ressources et des moyens logistiques et autres de tous les donateurs éventuels. Là encore, la FAO est prête à mettre son expérience et sa compétence au service de la communauté internationale.

D'autre part, le secteur agricole des pays avancés demeure fragile et vulnérable malgré son extraordinaire efficacité, et semble lui aussi atteindre un tournant de son histoire. Même dans les pays où ils ne représentent plus qu'une petite minorité de la population active, les agriculteurs conservent un poids considérable auprès des gouvernements; lorsqu'ils sont en proie au malaise, les répercussions sur la vie politique et économique peuvent prendre des proportions surprenantes. Cela tient au fait que même les sociétés les plus industrialisées et les plus prospères ont toujours besoin de l'agriculture. Mais voici que l'engagement des pays industrialisés dans des négociations agricoles au GATT remet profondément en cause l'arsenal de protections et d'encadrement qui avait jusqu'ici servi à concilier progrès technique et équité sociale. Avec quelles précautions se prépare là aussi cette évolution!

Mais les problèmes de l'agriculture en Europe de l'Est et dans les pays avancés ne doivent pas masquer l'immense détresse du monde paysan et les difficultés sans nombre du secteur agricole dans les pays en développement.

C'est là que se joue le destin de la grande majorité de l'humanité et, en fin de compte, celui de tous. Endettement, flux financiers, environnement, matières premières, débouchés, migrations - lequel de ces sujets peut recevoir une solution qui n'engage pas à la fois les pays du Nord et les pays du Sud?

Tant que les cours des produits primaires n'auront pas retrouvé un niveau et une stabilité assurant aux producteurs une rémunération convenable et aux pays exportateurs des recettes suffisantes, tant que les principaux obstacles technologiques et économiques à l'essor de la production agricole dans le respect des ressources naturelles n'auront pas été levés, il sera vain de parler d'eradication de la faim et de développement durable.

Les efforts des pays en développement pour surmonter leurs handicaps et s'ajuster à la mondialisation des économies sont poignants; ils ne peuvent réussir sans un nouvel ordre international qui leur assure les moyens du progrès et prévienne les évolutions commerciales contraires. Le rôle des institutions techniques et financières internationales, celui de la Banque mondiale en particulier, est des plus importants à cet égard. Il est essentiel que les ressources et les moyens d'intervention de ces

organisations soient portés à la hauteur du défi que nous devons, tous ensemble, relever.

Je crois fermement que notre Organisation peut et doit jouer à cet égard un rôle irremplaçable, tant sur le plan des politiques que sur celui de l'action concrète.

A ce moment précis de l'histoire, tous les Etats Membres, quels que soient leur niveau de développement et les problèmes qui se posent à eux, doivent pouvoir compter sur la FAO - c'est-à-dire à la fois sur la solidarité sans défaillance de tous les pays qui composent notre communauté et sur les services que peut fournir notre Secrétariat. Les avis que vous allez exprimer, les grandes lignes que vous allez définir, les décisions que vous allez prendre à cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence revêtent par conséquent une importance exceptionnelle. C'est donc avec une ferveur toute particulière que je forme des vœux pour le plein succès de vos travaux.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Director-General, for that very illuminating and thought-provoking speech. Your detailed discourse made suggestions, recommendations, proposals. I assure you that my colleagues and I who are gathered here will keep very much in view the proposals made by you and where possible, and most of these are practical, we will try to address them with the spirit with which you have explained and these items will come up either through Commissions, especially the Financial Commission, Commission II, and others during our deliberations but, as I said, I think I am speaking for the entire Conference, that we will think very seriously about them and address them with all the will at our disposal.

It is now time for us to hear the Independent Chairman of the Council and then I wish to call upon Mr Antoine Saintraint, the Independent Chairman of the Council to make his statement to the Conference.

### INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCILS STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE

### DECLARATION DU PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL A LA CONFERENCE

### ALOCUCION DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDANTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

**Antoine SAINTRAINT (Président indépendant du Conseil):** M. le Président de la Conférence, M. le Directeur général, Messieurs et Mesdames les Ministres, Mesdames, Messieurs, deux années déjà se sont écoulées depuis qu'en sa vingt-cinquième session la Conférence me fit l'honneur de me porter à la présidence du Conseil de l'Organisation; deux années remplies de bouleversements et de changements presque imprévisibles en 1989, changements chargés d'espoir mais aussi d'interrogations angoissantes pour l'avenir de tous.

Je voudrais, si vous le permettez, vous faire part du fruit de mes réflexions et de mon expérience comme président indépendant de votre Conseil. Je voudrais tout d'abord vous fournir un bref compte rendu des activités du Conseil, vous faire partager ensuite mes vues sur la situation présente de la FAO, et tenter enfin de tracer quelques lignes d'orientation sur la fonction de l'Organisation et sur sa capacité de réponse face aux défis de la fin du présent millénaire.



Le Conseil, après la Conférence de 1989, a tenu une brève session pour procéder à l'élection des membres des différents comités. Les choix se sont avérés, à l'expérience, particulièrement judicieux.

J'ai eu l'occasion de suivre les travaux du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier. Ce fut pour moi un enrichissement certain. Le sérieux avec lequel les problèmes ont été abordés sont un gage de la solidité de l'Organisation et surtout de son caractère réellement démocratique.

Dans le courant du premier semestre de 1990, j'ai pu suivre les travaux des différentes conférences régionales: celles pour le Proche-Orient, pour l'Europe, pour l'Asie et le Pacifique, pour l'Afrique, pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

Ces conférences sont très importantes car elles permettent sur des problèmes spécifiques des échanges de vues fructueux, en renforçant les solidarités régionales indispensables à la construction du monde de demain.

La quatre-vingt-dix-huitième session du Conseil s'est tenue en novembre 1990 et a traité de problèmes importants: situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, préparation de la Conférence internationale de fin 1992 sur la nutrition, examen des travaux du Comité des forêts, problèmes d'environnement et de développement durable, engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques et les questions relatives à la diversité biologique.

Le rôle de la FAO a été longuement discuté ainsi que toutes les questions relatives à l'examen de ce qui fut improprement qualifié de réforme de la FAO et qui fut en réalité l'examen des buts et des opérations de l'Organisation.

La question des relations entre le Programme alimentaire mondial et la FAO fut abordée également ainsi que les répercussions des orientations nouvelles prises par certains éléments du système des Nations Unies, notamment par le PNUD.

Les questions financières ont été largement débattues et ont, hélas, continué à absorber une part importante des activités du Conseil.

Le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques a beaucoup travaillé, notamment aux propositions de modification de l'Acte constitutif et du Règlement de l'Organisation, pour permettre à des organisations d'intégration économique régionale de devenir membre de la FAO. Cet important problème, révélateur de l'évolution du monde, fut débattu par votre Conseil au cours de trois de ses sessions.

La quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session de votre Conseil s'est tenue en juin 1991. A son ordre du jour figuraient, bien sûr, les problèmes d'alimentation dans le monde, ainsi que le rapport du Comité de sécurité alimentaire. Au cours de cette session, furent examinés le rapport du Comité de l'agriculture ainsi que le rapport de la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas sur l'agriculture et l'environnement qui se tint en avril 1991. Fut examiné également le rapport de la session de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, examen qui permit d'aboutir à la mise au point d'un projet de résolution dont votre Conférence aura à délibérer. Fut examiné aussi le rapport du Comité des pêches, ainsi que tous les problèmes délicats des relations entre la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial. Les problèmes

forestiers dans le monde ont fait l'objet d'un examen minutieux et particulièrement compétent.

Au cours de la même session le Programme de travail et le budget du prochain biennium furent examinés de manière approfondie, ainsi que toutes les questions financières représentant la vie de l'Organisation et la possibilité pour celle-ci de développer ses activités.

A nouveau votre Conseil a étudié les modifications de textes indispensables pour permettre l'adhésion d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale ayant des compétences propres dans les domaines relevant des attributions de l'Organisation.

La centième session de votre Conseil s'est tenue la semaine dernière et a permis d'aborder les grandes questions qui seront débattues par la Conférence en ses séances plénières et au niveau de ses différentes commissions.

M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, au cours de ses quatre sessions, votre Conseil a bien travaillé, même si parfois en certaines matières des désaccords ou des points de vue différents ont dû être constatés. Le Conseil est un organe clef de l'Organisation. Ce fut pour moi une tâche lourde et délicate, que d'en assurer la présidence. La Conférence, en sa vingt-cinquième session, m'avait fait confiance. J'ose espérer et croire que cette confiance n'a pas été déçue.

Tels sont, M. le Président, en très bref des comptes rendus de l'activité du Conseil qui peut suivre la vie de l'Organisation presque pas à pas.

Le problème le plus inquiétant et le plus douloureux incontestablement - je pèse le terme que j'utilise - est la situation financière de l'Organisation. Le Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, auquel je tiens à rendre un très vibrant hommage, a connu une situation quasi impossible du fait du non-paiement d'importantes contributions. Sans les versements réguliers des contributions obligatoires il n'est pas possible à l'Organisation de fonctionner correctement et d'exécuter un budget qui, compte tenu des besoins du monde, constitue un minimum absolument incompressible.

Je voudrais à mon tour lancer un appel à tous les Etats Membres qui, conscients de leurs responsabilités, doivent à l'avenir veiller au paiement régulier de leurs contributions. Certains pays certainement se trouvent confrontés à des situations qui nécessitent des mesures particulières, vu les inextricables difficultés financières que ces pays rencontrent.

Les événements de ces deux dernières années nous laissent l'espoir, le grand espoir de voir demain une part de plus en plus importante des gigantesques sommes consacrées à l'armement avec son corollaire de misère, de destruction et de gaspillage, affectée au développement. Je suis profondément convaincu que le monde ne sortira de son marasme que dans une vision de solidarité réellement multilatérale. J'ai trop souvent dans ma carrière rencontré de soi-disant apôtres du bilatéralisme invoquant des critères d'efficacité, alors qu'en réalité ce qui était principalement recherché était une vision de profit et d'égoïsme à court terme, non pas dans une cogestion sur un pied de parfaite égalité mais dans des rapports de force souvent peu respectueux des faibles et des pauvres. J'ai appris M. le Président, petit à petit, à connaître l'Organisation, à en apprécier

ses qualités et parfois ses faiblesses, et à me rendre compte de l'énorme fossé existant entre ce qui est demandé à l'Organisation et ce qu'elle est capable de fournir, compte tenu des moyens dont elle dispose. J'ai toujours été frappé par la mentalité d'aucuns, heureusement peu nombreux, critiquant sans cesse l'Organisation avec une volonté de la diminuer et non pas de la renforcer: c'est, je vous l'avoue, une mentalité que je ne parviens que difficilement à comprendre et que je ne puis en aucun cas admettre. L'Organisation est notre Organisation. Elle est la propriété de tous ses Etats Membres auxquels il incombe de la renforcer et non pas de l'amoindrir.

Dans notre monde, les problèmes deviennent de plus en plus angoissants. Chaque année, nous avons plusieurs dizaines de millions de bouches supplémentaires à nourrir. Aussi, le principe de ce qu'on a appelé la croissance zéro est moralement insoutenable. Un effort de compression des dépenses absolument extraordinaire a été consenti pour la préparation du budget du prochain biennium. Pour l'avenir, il faudra toutefois pouvoir reprendre un rythme de croissance normal tout en veillant, comme cela est le cas depuis de très nombreuses années, à la compression des dépenses administratives contestables.

La FAO a besoin de stabilité et de sécurité. Son principal capital est la qualité de son personnel, sa compétence technique, son dévouement ainsi que sa composition très diversifiée, source de grand enrichissement mutuel. L'atmosphère d'instabilité a causé un tort considérable à l'Organisation et les mesures prises à la légère parfois par d'autres membres de la famille des Nations Unies risquent de causer de considérables dégâts. Notre Organisation a maintenu un équilibre entre ses fonctions normatives et ses activités de terrain. Vous connaissez tous l'interrelation étroite existant entre le Siège et les projets de terrain qui permet un flux et un reflux de compétences et d'échanges absolument indispensables.

Le plan à moyen terme qui vous est soumis est un instrument précieux traçant les grands axes des fonctions de l'Organisation et de ses perspectives.

M. le Président, après ces quelques réflexions trop brèves sur la situation présente de l'Organisation, je voudrais tenter de la situer au sein de la famille des Nations Unies dans le cadre d'une meilleure adéquation des organes multilatéraux aux nécessités de développement de la planète.

Le défi qui se pose à nous est gigantesque et j'ai presque un peu peur de l'aborder. Le fossé qui sépare les nations riches des nations pauvres n'a fait que croître et s'agrandir. Il faut, dès lors, davantage rendre efficaces et opérationnelles les organisations dont c'est la vocation. Il faudrait sans nul doute assurer une meilleure interrelation entre les organisations, agences, programmes et Fonds qui s'occupent d'agriculture et d'alimentation. Qu'on ait le courage de définir clairement les responsabilités de chacun et que les pays souverains puissent demain avoir des positions cohérentes dans les différentes instances et conseils dont ils sont membres. Il faut, M. le Président croire en certaines utopies et en la possibilité d'amélioration et d'adaptation des structures. Ne faudrait-il pas demain avoir le courage de réétudier la fonction et le but du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, compte tenu du bilan des dernières années? Nous avons assisté à la volonté du Programme alimentaire mondial de se transformer en agence de développement, à l'instigation de certains. Ne faudra-t-il pas demain, et plus précisément dès le printemps 1992, renouer

des liens qui n'auraient pas dû être distendus, pour que le Programme alimentaire mondial retrouve sa place qu'il n'aurait jamais dû vouloir quitter?

Je crois aussi que le Fonds international de développement agricole, qui est une banque de développement pour les plus pauvres, devrait s'articuler plus étroitement sur l'Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Cette articulation est indispensable, non seulement au niveau de l'élaboration des projets, mais également au niveau de leur suivi, de leur exécution et de leur évaluation. Le FIDA n'a de sens que s'il collabore et s'intègre dans les programmes de terrain de la FAO. Vouloir imaginer qu'il existe une formule magique de développement détenue par certains organismes relève ou de la naïveté, ou de la suffisance. La collaboration entre Organisations se réalise au niveau des activités de terrain, et ce n'est certainement pas en déposant des propositions de résolution, où que ce soit, que l'on parviendra à créer cette collaboration sur le terrain, indispensable.

Quand on songe que notre Organisation a dû emprunter de l'argent dans des conditions difficiles pour assurer le paiement de son personnel, et la poursuite de ses activités alors qu'un Fonds distant de quelques kilomètres dispose d'un nombre considérable de centaines de millions de dollars placés en banque, on peut se poser un certain nombre de questions sur la nécessité d'améliorer les structures multilatérales du système des Nations Unies.

On a assisté également à des déviations dangereuses du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement. Le PNUD a partiellement abandonné sa tâche essentielle de coordination pour se constituer en sa propre agence d'exécution, affaiblissant de la sorte la capacité opérationnelle des agences dans les aires de compétence qui leur sont imparties. Le problème des frais de soutien est un des grands problèmes qui se posent à la FAO. Espérons que la voix de la raison finira par se faire entendre pour en revenir à des formules simples, forfaitaires et efficaces et non à des formules alambiquées d'une complexité folle qui vont obérer le travail des uns et des autres.

L'Organisation a une vocation d'universalité. Espérons que les pays qui n'ont pas encore rejoint notre Organisation le fassent très bientôt, tout comme nous souhaitons que les Etats puissent se regrouper progressivement dans des ensembles plus larges et en consentant de véritables transferts de souveraineté permettant à des organisations régionales de devenir membres à part entière de la FAO pour renforcer l'Organisation en la rendant plus solide et davantage opérationnelle. Admettre des organisations qui n'auraient pas de compétences propres serait affaiblir l'Organisation, ce que personne ne peut vouloir.

La Communauté économique européenne, qui n'a de sens que dans la mesure où progressivement elle devient politique, peut jouer un rôle de pionnier et renforcer de manière significative notre Organisation. Encore faut-il, et je redis ce que j'ai déjà dit, savoir de quelle communauté européenne s'agira: d'une communauté généreuse, largement ouverte sur le monde et acceptant des renoncements importants pour combler le fossé qui sépare le Nord du Sud? ou d'une Europe égoïste repliée sur elle-même et sur ses fantasmes du passé qui, hélas, resurgissent parfois avec une vigueur alarmante?

M. le Président, notre Organisation a une tâche énorme et l'effort de clarification, qui a été fait lors de la Conférence précédente, a été très utile. L'Organisation doit être universelle. Elle doit aussi assumer les tâches qui lui sont imparties de par son Acte constitutif dans tous les domaines relevant de ses compétences. Il ne peut être question pour notre Organisation de laisser sous-traiter par d'autres les tâches qui lui incombent, que ce soit dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche ou de la forêt. Il faut aussi que l'Organisation puisse servir de support à d'autres corps - j'ai évoqué le CMA, le PAM, le FIDA, et il y en a d'autres encore, je songe à la recherche scientifique internationale - qui doivent s'articuler sur la FAO. Depuis 40 ans notre Organisation siège à Rome; elle s'est, ces dernières années, largement ouverte sur le monde; il faudra en tenir compte pour le renforcement indispensable des bureaux régionaux.

La volonté de recherche du consensus ne peut être le commun dénominateur de la médiocrité, mais elle doit être au contraire le stimulant qui permettra demain et plus tard de répondre mieux encore à l'immense espérance que nous plaçons tous en l'Organisation.

Votre Conseil, M. le Président, est conscient de la dimension des enjeux et de leur acuité. Je suis convaincu que cette conscience éclairée va permettre demain l'équilibre, la stabilité et la performance par une situation financière enfin normalisée.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Saintraint. You have provided us very amply with an insight into the functioning of the Council during the last two years of its activities, and of the problem which it faces. I am sure that your speech has been heard with great attention, and that some of the important points - all are important, but some are more important than others - have been taken note of by the honourable delegations.

Two particular points about which you have spoken are, firstly, in the domain of finance. I am sure we are all very sympathetic to your suggestions and responsive to your demands, and that this question will be properly addressed. Secondly, you spoke very strongly about the admission of the EEC to FAO. As you well know, and as honourable delegations know, this question will come up in the House for discussion and decision a little later during the period of this Conference.

Once again, I thank you for your very detailed speech, which has informed us of many aspects of FAO and Council.

#### IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

#### IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS

#### IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES

#### 33. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

#### 33. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (suite)

#### 33. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** The Conference will now vote on the admission as Members of the Organization of the following three countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

This vote is covered by Article II-2 of the FAO Constitution, which reads: The Conference may, by a two-thirds majority of the vote cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional Member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of admission.

The Conference will also vote on the admission of Puerto Rico as an Associate Member of the Organization. This vote is covered by Article II-3 of the FAO Constitution, which reads: The Conference may, under the same conditions regarding the required majority and quorum as prescribed in paragraph 2 above, decide to admit as an Associate Member of the Organization any territory or group of territories which is not responsible for the conduct of its international relations upon application made on its behalf by the Member Nation or authority having responsibility for its international relations, provided that such Member Nation or authority has submitted a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept on behalf of the proposed Associate Member the obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of admission, and that it will assume responsibility for ensuring the observance of the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article VIII, paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article XVI, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article XVIII of this Constitution with regard to the Associate Member.

The document giving details of these applications is C 91/28.

In accordance with Article II of the FAO Constitution, and under the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 79 Member Nations must be represented and present in the Hall at this time. I have requested the Officers in charge of the election to carry out a count, and I am told at this moment there are over 127 delegations of Member Nations present in the Hall. We shall therefore proceed at once with the voting.

May I inform you that, in accordance with paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting, except to raise a point of order in connection with that vote. In accordance with paragraph 9(c) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairman of a Conference appoints two tellers from amongst the delegates or representatives or their alternates. In order to speed up the voting process, I should like to suggest that we appoint four tellers as has been done on previous occasions.

If there are no comments, I shall request the delegations of Canada, Cyprus, New Zealand, and the Philippines to serve as tellers for this election. As there are no comments, will those four delegates please proceed to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

**CHAIRMAN:** Voting is ended and the tellers will leave to count the votes.

PRESENTATION OF B.R. SEN AND A.H. BOERMA AWARDS FOR 1990 AND 1991

REMISE DES PRIX B.R. SEN ET A.H. BOERMA POUR 1990 ET 1991

ENTREGA DE LOS PREMIOS B.R. SEN Y A.H. BOERMA PARA 1990 Y 1991

**CHAIRMAN:** It is now time for the B.R. Sen Award. This award was established by the Conference in honour of Mr B.R. Sen, who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967. The award is made annually to a Field Officer who has made a special contribution to the country or countries to which he or she was assigned. The prize consists of a medal inscribed, a cash prize of US\$5 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse to the Conference Session at which the award is presented.

I will now call on the Director-General to introduce the winner and present the B.R. Sen Award.

**LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL:** Nous allons donc honorer les lauréats de ces prix pour 1990 et 1991.

Pour 1990, c'est à M. Komi Gbeblewoo, citoyen togolais, que nous avons attribué le prix Sen. Nous avons voulu ainsi rendre hommage à la contribution exceptionnelle de M. Gbeblewoo à la mise en place d'un service national de statistiques agricoles fiables au Zaïre. En effet, si ce pays dispose aujourd'hui d'un système permanent structuré de statistiques agricoles et de données portant sur plusieurs aspects de l'agriculture, c'est sans aucun doute et dans une large mesure grâce à M. Gbeblewoo. Le Gouvernement zaïrois, en appuyant la sélection de notre expert pour ce prix, a notamment souligné son esprit d'initiative et ses compétences, sans oublier, bien sûr, son indéfectible dévouement.

**CHAIRMAN:** I invite Mr Gbeblewoo to come and receive this award. May I now invite Mr Gbeblewoo to take the podium and speak to the Conference.

**K. GBEBLEWOO:** M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, il m'est très difficile de dissimuler toute mon émotion en ce moment qui marque profondément ma carrière à la FAO. C'est vrai que nous avons eu à travailler dans des conditions difficiles, voire même pénibles; mais je ne m'imaginais pas que les plus hautes autorités de notre Organisation, et notamment le Directeur général, puissent avoir le temps de suivre de près ce qui se passe dans les coins les plus reculés d'un pays aussi immense que la République du Zaïre, avec ses réalités complexes et variées.

M. le Directeur général, ma famille, mes collaborateurs et mes amis se joignent à moi pour vous adresser nos sincères remerciements et vous exprimer toute notre reconnaissance pour cette désignation comme lauréat pour 1990 du Prix B.R. Sen. Le personnel du terrain par ma voix vous exprime toute sa gratitude pour la sollicitude et l'intérêt soutenus que vous ne cessez de manifester à son égard. Je saisis cette occasion pour vous réaffirmer le ferme engagement de ce personnel de se surpasser dans ses tâches quotidiennes, pour que tous ensemble et avec vous-même, bien entendu, nous contribuions à l'éradication définitive de la malnutrition et la famine afin de permettre à l'humanité toute entière de vivre un véritable bonheur sur cette terre des hommes.

M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs, le projet d'appui au Système permanent de collecte des statistiques agricoles du Ministère de l'agriculture de la République du Zaïre, de l'animation rurale est l'illustration même de la volonté de coopération active entre le Gouvernement zaïrois, le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement et l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la Banque mondiale, l'USAID.

Je veux adresser mes vifs remerciements aux autorités de la République du Zaïre qui, malgré une situation socio-économique assez difficile n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour soutenir ce projet d'envergure nationale, à travers une politique clairement exprimée de disposer d'un système de collecte, de dépouillement, d'analyse et de publication des statistiques agricoles, accompagnée de décisions salvatrices à des moments cruciaux de la vie du projet.

Au Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD), je voudrais adresser mes sincères remerciements à travers sa représentation locale au Zaïre.

La Banque mondiale et l'USAID ont également contribué au fonctionnement. Qu'ils aient ici ma gratitude. L'honneur qui m'est fait aujourd'hui doit être perçu comme le fruit d'un travail commun réalisé par une équipe d'intervenants que je tiens à remercier publiquement.

Je voudrais citer mes responsables hiérarchiques aussi bien ici au Siège de notre Organisation que sur le terrain au Zaïre, dont le suivi tant technique qu'opérationnel a été déterminant dans les résultats que nous connaissons. Les Volontaires spécialistes des Nations Unies associés à notre action ont été tout simplement remarquables par leur ardeur au travail, leur enthousiasme sur le terrain et leur dévouement.

Un hommage particulier doit être rendu au personnel technique national affecté au projet et qui, confronté à de nombreux problèmes de tous genres, a contribué de manière efficace à la réussite de notre action. Ce personnel national est le moteur même du succès du projet car c'est de sa capacité à progresser dans la voie dans laquelle nous avons travaillé ensemble que dépendra dans les années à venir, le succès définitif de notre action.

Avant de conclure, je tiens à vous assurer, M. le Directeur général, que cette haute distinction qui nous est décernée, à mon équipe et à moi-même, ne pourra que galvaniser davantage notre ardeur au travail pour obtenir de nouveaux résultats, toujours de meilleure qualité, afin que le flambeau de la FAO dans l'accomplissement de sa noble mission soit toujours porté au plus haut.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Now Mr Kenmore, a national of the United States of America in recognition of the key role he has played in the development and implementation of integrated pest management strategies in Asia. As a result of Mr Kenmore's efforts integrated pest management is now considered to be the best pest control strategy in the context of agricultural sustainability. IPM, as we call it, reduces risk for the environment and human health, stabilizes yields, increases farmers' profits and provides national savings by reducing pesticide importation and subsidies. Furthermore he has been most innovative in the application of the principle of anthropology and mass communication to make IPM available for farmers.



Mr Kenmore's selection for a B.R. Sen Award has been supported by the governments of those countries in which the project operates, i.e., Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam who have recognized by writing the substantial contribution he and his team have made to the goal of sustainable agriculture. We warmly thank and congratulate both Mr Gbeblewoo and Mr Kenmore and wish them continued success in their future activities.

**CHAIRMAN:** Will Mr Kenmore come on to the stage and receive his award. May I now request Mr Peter Kenmore to address the Conference.

Peter KENMORE: Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues, family and friends, it is with profound emotion, deep humility and appreciation that I today receive the prestigious B.R. Sen Award for 1991. No one person alone can earn the recognition embodied in this award. This award recognizes integrated pest management for and among Asian rice farmers and speaking for the many partners in nine countries, soon to be more, we thank you for this award. The Sen Award is especially meaningful to us because it came from a man who came from rice-growing Asia.

My special thanks of gratitude go to Dr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General, for the confidence placed in this programme and for the support and the encouragement of him and the senior management in FAO that has been extended to me and to my colleagues in the field. I wish to assure him and our member countries through you that I and my colleagues will continue to endeavour to uphold the aims and objectives of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

The FAO inter-country programme which I have the deep honour to direct has trained over half million farmers in the field in the practice of integrated pest management. Furthermore IPM has managed to succeed in phasing out the use of broad spectrum insecticides and to discontinue or reduce in the nine participating countries the practice of pesticide subsidies. This has resulted in multi-million dollar savings for these governments, an increased profit for the farmers and consequent improvement of human and environmental health in the region. IPM is a success because all parties work together, the farmers, the researchers and the administrators but it is the farmers who are the main protagonists since they are able to identify and solve the problems and have been able to transform previously unresponsive institutions. You cannot imagine the excitement and satisfaction experienced in witnessing researchers from small villages all the way through the International Rice Research Institute uncovering the power and profit of natural pest control; witnessing local political leaders, sensing that the farmers themselves are moving IPM, swinging their support to this new programme and farmers taking pride in confirming and in standing up for their own field observations, based on principles of ecology and because they believe in IPM.

In conclusion I would like to express my deep appreciation, of course, to our donor Governments, Australia, the Netherlands and the Arab Gulf Fund and especially to the Governments of Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam for unreservedly endorsing my nomination and to assure them that my colleagues

and I will further increase our efforts in the future in implementing IPM strategies in the context of agricultural sustainability. If this award has been conferred on me it is due in large measure to the cooperation and unfailing support which we have received from these countries from all levels.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Kenmore. I know how much service and benefit these pest control strategies have been to all countries, rice-growing countries in Southeast Asia, almost all. With your permission, my colleagues, I as Chairman, am going to take a little undue advantage of all the rice-growing South Asian countries; only Pakistan was missing, therefore, through the good offices of the Director-General and the Independent President, and through Mr Kenmore I am going to request, I cannot give a ruling, I am going to request that Pakistan is also included in this and we want to benefit from this. I have the approval of the House! There is no argument! You see, Mr Director-General. Thank you very much once again.

**N'Koley KOFFI ABOTCHI (Togo):** M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Excellences, Honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs. C'est avec une grande émotion à peine maîtrisée mais toute naturelle, bien sûr, que je voudrais, au nom de mon pays, le Togo, et naturellement au nom de toute l'Afrique, saisir l'occasion pour vous dire combien nous sommes, plus que le lauréat, honorés du choix qui a été fait par la FAO pour le prix B.R. Sen 1990 à l'adresse d'un africain, un togolais.

J'ai connu personnellement M. Gbeblewoo, qui s'est toujours distingué par son ardeur au travail. Au Togo déjà, il avait réalisé avec une réelle compétence le jeune service des statistiques agricoles qu'il a su structurer pour le rendre plus efficace. Connaissant ses qualités professionnelles exceptionnelles, je dois vous avouer que c'est avec beaucoup de regret que nous l'avons vu partir du Togo. Mais le voilà, aujourd'hui, qui nous comble de joie par le mérite de son travail. Je le félicite très sincèrement et lui souhaite encore d'autres succès.

**CHAIRMAN:** May I thank the honourable delegate from Togo. I now call upon the honourable delegate from Zaïre.

**Moomi Te Avelala SAMBA (Zaïre):** Je voudrais au nom de mon pays m'acquitter d'un agréable devoir, celui de remercier sincèrement tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, ont honoré le Zaïre en décernant ce jour le prix B.R. Sen à l'un de ses serviteurs le plus dévoué.

En lui décernant cette distinction la FAO, fidèle interprète de notre pensée commune, vient de récompenser l'un de ses ardents défenseurs dont le dévouement à la question agricole et l'intérêt tout bienveillant qu'il a porté à l'organisation des services de mon pays n'ont jamais failli. Organiser la collecte d'information agricole dans un pays aux dimensions du Zaïre n'est pas une sinécure. C'est un travail ardu, de très longue haleine qui exige courage, compétence, abnégation, assiduité et initiative. Mais M. Gbeblewoo, ici présent, réunit toutes ces qualités pour atteindre le but de sa mission dans mon pays.

C'est pourquoi la remise officielle de ce prix qui nous réunit aujourd'hui est un grand jour de fête pour ce collaborateur et pour tous les agriculteurs zaïrois.

Personne au monde n'est plus heureux de la haute récompense qui échoit aujourd'hui à M. Komi. Nous savons, mon cher M. Komi, que c'est dans la satisfaction du devoir bien accompli et des services rendus que vous trouvez la plus belle récompense de votre dévouement et de vos rares mérites. Mais laissez-moi vous dire que le Zaïre est heureux de profiter de l'occasion qui lui est offerte aujourd'hui pour vous remercier publiquement de vos bienfaits, quitte à blesser peut-être votre modestie. Et tout en vous priant d'agréer nos félicitations, je suis particulièrement fier d'être ici l'interprète fidèle de tous ceux, et ils sont nombreux, qui ont eu à se louer de vos bontés et qui, en prenant part aujourd'hui à votre joie, ont tenu à vous donner un gage de leur profonde reconnaissance. Encore une fois, merci mon cher M. Komi, et merci à la FAO et au Président.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, the honourable delegate from Zaire. I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate from the United States of America.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** This is indeed a momentous occasion for Dr Kenmore and his contemporaries whose work is acknowledged here today. On behalf of the United States Government, may I say that it is an honour and a privilege to see a United States citizen receive the prestigious B.R. Sen Award. Dr Kenmore's outstanding work on integrated pest management in Asia will serve as a benchmark for future progress in this important field. It is very satisfying to see an award bestowed on someone who has worked so hard and with such dedication. Our thanks to FAO and our best wishes to Dr Kenmore for his continued success. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:** We now proceed to the A.H. Boerma Award for 1990 and 1991. The A.H. Boerma Award is a biennial award given to a writer or a journalist whose writings or production on radio and television is likely to have increased international awareness of the world's food problems and measures leading to their solution.

The Award consists of a scroll, a cash prize of \$10 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse.

This time, as indicated in document C 91/INF/7, the Award is shared between two persons. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and present the A.H. Boerma Award.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** It is with great pleasure that I present to you Ms Sanitsuda Ekachai, who has been for many years a correspondent of the daily newspaper, the Bangkok Post. Ms Ekachai is a Thai journalist whose work is well-known not only in her country but also throughout the Southeast Asian Region. Since many of the poor in developing countries are women who play such a strong role in food production, it is particularly important that their voice is being spread by a fellow woman who definitely understands and feels their plight. Through visits to rural areas, she fulfils an important mission in spreading greater awareness of their

conditions. As her articles clearly attest, Ms Ekachai is a sensitive and proud writer. In all her writings, she demonstrates her deep-rooted concern for the poor and for all those who are so often forgotten in the rush and transitions brought about by the development process. Her words reflect excellent and compassionate understanding of the complex and interwoven human, social and ecological issues involved in development.

Congratulations Ms Ekachai. This coveted prize is a recognition of your writing and your commitment to a noble cause.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Director-General. I will ask Ms Ekachai to come forward to receive the Award.

**Ms Sanitsuda EKACHAI:** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for this honour and for an opportunity to say something. The poor are often blamed as the destroyers of natural resources. My job as a reporter is to tell what I see. What I see is quite different. I see fishermen suffer because of big trawlers, farmers because of the eucalyptus plantations, the salt industry or land speculators. They suffer from the money barons, with support from the authorities in the name of the export industry.

At the same time, I see the small people trying to save their source of livelihood - their forests, the land, the rivers and the seas. They do by going back to their ancestral knowledge in ecological farming, and by doing so they have also regained their lost self-confidence and their dignity. The small people have given us a big lesson that agriculture, the environment, and spiritual development must go hand in hand. But this is impossible with centralized decision-making.

Therefore, I am glad that such an influential world organization as the FAO feels it significant to pay attention to the plight of the poor and to support their rights to control their natural resources. This endorsement from FAO is an important political message for governments which normally overlook the voices of the poor. I hope that FAO continues to make its voice louder and I hope that I can be of some use as part of this process of change.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je suis très heureux de remettre également le Prix Boerma à un journaliste français, il s'agit de M. Christophe Naigeon que nous connaissons depuis longtemps, car nous suivons avec intérêt ses activités de journaliste et ses nombreuses initiatives, tant dans le domaine de la presse écrite qu'à la radio et à la télévision. Il a monté une agence de presse orientée principalement sur les questions du développement et d'agriculture. Son originalité tient surtout au fait qu'il a su développer un vaste réseau de correspondants permettant, notamment, de valoriser et d'appuyer les actions du développement des pays du Sud. C'est toujours avec ce souci de faire connaître au Nord ce qui se passe dans les pays du Sud que M. Naigeon anime des émissions de radio et de télévision

distribuées par les grands réseaux internationaux sous le nom d' Intertropiques. Enfin, grâce à l'une de ces récentes initiatives, la création du journal Liber-titre reprenant des articles de journalistes africains, il rend ainsi compte de l'émergence d'une presse africaine de plus en plus intéressante et autonome. Bravo, Christophe Naigeon, et continuez cette mission d'information avec l'enthousiasme que nous vous connaissons.

**CHAIRMAN:** I now request M. Naigeon to receive the award and take the floor.

**Christophe NAIGEON:** Pour quelqu'un dont la place habituelle est là-haut, au balcon, c'est, vous pouvez facilement l'imaginer, pour moi une grande émotion que de se retrouver projeté sur le devant de la scène et d'être pour un instant, acteur et non plus spectateur et critique. Pour avoir trop souvent raillé de là-haut, avec mes confrères, les travers de tel ou tel orateur, je sais à quel point on s'expose en prenant place à cette tribune.

Mais ma tâche est particulièrement agréable aujourd'hui puisque votre organisation a bien voulu me décerner un prix qui, sans aucun doute, est un point d'orgue dans une vie professionnelle pour quelqu'un qui a décidé de faire des pays du sud son champ d'action et de l'agriculture son domaine. Ce prix a d'autant plus de valeur à mes yeux que je n'ai jamais été le griot de la FAO et à chaque fois que, pour écrire ou filmer, j'ai eu à utiliser les services de cette maison, ici ou en Afrique, jamais il n'a été fait pression sur moi. C'est donc en toute liberté que je vous remercie avec toute la chaleur qu'il est possible d'exprimer dans une circonstance aussi solennelle. Sachez seulement que j'en suis profondément touché.

Je sais que la plupart des personnes qui sont assises ici entendent parler de moi pour la première fois. Je donnerai donc rapidement trois points de repère qui pourront mieux vous faire comprendre comment on peut devenir journaliste agricole et tropical. Ces trois mots me qualifient et sont le résultat de trois maladies dont je souffre depuis mon plus jeune âge.

La première de ces maladies est la graphomanie. Une infirmité qui fait que, pour exister, la pensée doit se transformer en signes.

La seconde est un irrésistible géotropisme. Cette attirance vers la terre que les plantes connaissent bien - et que je dois certainement à des origines rurales. L'agriculture a donc été naturellement le champ de mes investigations.

La dernière est la xénophilie. Un goût prononcé pour l'étranger. Les paysans d'Asie puis d'Afrique m'ont apporté un lot quotidien d'interrogations, de surprises, de remises en cause. Qu'ils en soient ici remerciés.

Que soient aussi remerciés ici tous les autres qui, se sont laissés contaminer par moi et m'ont suivi, depuis dix ans cette année, dans l'aventure de l'agence Periscoop.

Car si, aujourd'hui, vous couronnez à travers moi une équipe de quatorze personnes, c'est qu'il nous a fallu une grande dose d'orgueil, d'entêtement et certainement d'inconscience pour vaincre nos doutes et continuer à travailler dans un secteur où le pessimisme, le cynisme et la langue de bois sont beaucoup trop souvent la règle.

Mais aujourd'hui, nous sommes heureux. Non seulement d'être reconnus par une organisation telle que la vôtre, mais aussi d'avoir pu, enfin, prouver que nous avons raison de croire en l'Afrique.

J'ai à cet instant une pensée toute particulière pour les 38 correspondants journalistes africains du Système Francophone d'Information Agricole créé en 1988. Dans des conditions précaires, souvent menacés et toujours sans moyens, ils nous ont accordé leur confiance.

Quand on sait le prix qu'ils peuvent payer parfois pour un mot de trop, il leur fallait à eux bien plus de courage pour nous envoyer leurs articles, sachant que nous allions les rediffuser sous leur nom à quelque 200 journaux et radios africains. Heureusement, le mouvement de démocratisation qui nous vient maintenant en aide nous permet de produire chaque année 150 articles - dont les trois quarts sont signés par des journalistes du Sud sans que cela implique quelque complaisance que ce soit de notre part - cela ne nous paraît plus aujourd'hui une utopie, c'est devenu une réalité, qui nous encourage à continuer. Déjà, nous avons le même projet pour l'audiovisuel. Nous voulons prouver qu'il est possible de produire une émission de qualité. Diffusée dans 100 pays d'Afrique, mais aussi en Europe et en Amérique du Nord, plus de la moitié des images sera réalisée par des équipes du sud. Pour cela, à vous, représentants des pays du Sud, je demande de nous aider en faisant confiance à vos propres journalistes. Ceux qui ont choisi l'ingrate spécialité du journalisme agricole ont avant tout besoin d'être reconnus et respectés. Regardez la presse africaine; la liberté a donné le talent aux journalistes. C'est ce que nous avons voulu montrer à travers Liber-titre, notre revue de presse. C'est aussi elle qui permet aux journalistes du Sud de participer aussi activement à la nouvelle revue que nous lançons maintenant avec l'association SOLAGRAL, le courrier de la Planète. La montée en puissance des journalistes africains m'inspire un vœu qui sera ma conclusion: que mes confrères du Sud finissent par prendre ma place et, je pèse mes mots en disant cela, comme dit le proverbe africain, pourquoi bêler soi-même quand on a un bon troupeau.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Anat ARBHABHIRAMA (Thailand):** I am deeply honoured to be present on the occasion of the presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award for 1990-91 to Ms Sanitsuda Ekachai from my country, Thailand, and to Mr Christophe Naigeon from France.

On behalf of my country and myself, I should like to express our appreciation of the great honour given to Ms Ekachai by the Selection Committee of this prestigious Organization, FAO. I am certain that all of us, rich and poor, men and women, share a common conviction that world food and agricultural problems need to be tackled in the interest of better

living conditions for all mankind. Ms Ekachai, as a journalist, has greatly contributed towards public recognition of vital issues concerning food and agriculture. Her articles in the Bangkok Post, an English-language daily newspaper of Thailand, have focused on important aspects of agriculture, children and environment in a rapidly changing Thai society. In particular, her articles make every sector, including the Government, more aware of the rural poor and their problems. They also offer policy recommendations and urge closer collaboration between the Government and the private sector in solving this chronic problem. Her implicit warning is that social disintegration is inevitable if the rich and the more powerful ignore the problems of the rural poor.

We are very proud that the work of Ms Ekachai is formally recognized today by the A.H. Boerma Award.

Her work is appreciated not only in Thailand but also in Southeast Asian countries.

We are also proud of the fact that Thai society offers career opportunities equally to both men and women to demonstrate their abilities and achieve their individual fulfilment.

We hope this award will encourage Ms Ekachai to put even greater efforts into raising the public awareness of the world food problems.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Jacques WARIN (France):** M. le Président, c'est la seconde fois qu'un journaliste français est couronné par la Conférence de la FAO pour ses écrits et l'ensemble de son oeuvre en faveur du développement agricole.

En 1985, Claire Brisset, du journal Le Monde, avait reçu cette récompense qu'elle avait partagée alors avec un journaliste du Kenya. Aujourd'hui, c'est Christophe Naigeon qui est honoré en compagnie de Mme. Ekachai. Je note qu'il a l'âge de la FAO, ou plutôt de l'installation de la FAO à Rome, tout juste 40 ans. C'est dire qu'il a encore un long avenir devant lui. Je note surtout que M. Naigeon connaît parfaitement les difficultés que représente tout processus de développement sur le terrain et qu'il a su, en utilisant tous les moyens d'information modernes - la radio, la vidéo, la télévision, la presse écrite - communiquer au grand public africain la mesure de ces difficultés ainsi que le goût de les surmonter.

M. Christophe Naigeon vient d'évoquer avec humour, il y a quelques instants, les principaux tropismes qui l'ont guidé dans sa carrière. Et vous-même, M. le Directeur général, vous avez rappelé les titres multiples qui lui valent aujourd'hui de se voir décerner le prix Boerma. Parmi tous ces titres, je relève surtout que M. Naigeon a créé le premier réseau d'information agricole en français, qui englobe une trentaine de pays d'Afrique, favorisant ainsi le développement du dialogue Nord-Sud et la mobilisation de l'opinion publique en faveur des questions d'alimentation et de développement dans les pays du tiers monde.

Vous me permettrez de joindre mes félicitations à celles qui ont déjà été adressées ici à M. Naigon et à remercier la Conférence d'avoir bien voulu, en lui décernant le prix Boerma, honorer une nouvelle fois, en distinguant l'un de mes compatriotes, la France et les français.

**CHAIRMAN:** The counting of votes on these applications for Membership has now been concluded. The results are as follows:



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	137
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	132
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	132

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoria requerida	89
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# ESTONIA

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.  
Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.  
Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

## Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature  
Mr C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)  
Firma .....

Signature  
Mr H. CARANDANG (Philippines)  
Firma .....

11.11.91  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley, GIC  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	137
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	134
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	134

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	90
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# LATVIA

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.  
Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.  
Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

## Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature

Mr S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

Firma .....

Signature

Mr E.W. WEYBRECHT (Canada)

Firma .....

11.11.91

.....

Date

Fecha

B. Linley, GIC

.....

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	137
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	133
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	133

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	89
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LITHUANIA

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.  
Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre.  
Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature	Signature
Mr S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)	Mr E.W. WEYBRECHT (Canada)
Firma .....	Firma .....

11.11.91  
.....  
Date  
Fecha

B. Linley, GIC  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No.  1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	137
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	10

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	121
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	126

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	84
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PUERTO RICO

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Associate Membership.  
Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre Associé.  
Habiendo obtenido la mayoría requerida, es admitido Miembro Asociado.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature

Mr C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus)  
Firma .....

Signature

Mr H. CARANDANG (Philippines)  
Firma .....

11.11.91  
.....

Date  
Fecha

B. Linley, GIC  
.....  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**CHAIRMAN:** It is my proud privilege to welcome the new members and ask them to take their seats.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is indeed a great honour for me to extend a warm welcome to the new members as they enter the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I will now ask the Director-General to address them.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je serai très bref. Je voudrais, au nom de tous mes collègues et en mon nom personnel, féliciter les délégués de la Lituanie, de la Lettonie et de l'Estonie pour la brillante élection de leur pays comme membre de la FAO. Je félicite également le délégué de Porto Rico pour son admission comme Etat Membre associé. Je voudrais les assurer de la disponibilité de tous les services de la FAO de les aider à développer leurs ressources agricoles, forestières et halieutiques

**Olav KART (Estonia):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to express the deep appreciation and gratitude towards all the countries and nations who actively supported us during our difficult pursuit of independence. Today, Estonia is affiliated with the FAO, and we want to thank you all on behalf of our people for that possibility. We assure you that we will fulfil all our obligations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Uldis BENIKIS (Latvia):** Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers and Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am here representing Latvia, a country which is populated once again by a free nation, free and proud because for centuries we have managed to maintain our language, culture and flag. It is significant that our flag has in it the colour Cobalt blue. It symbolizes the hard struggle of our people for independence.

The Latvian national anthem begins God bless Latvia. We believe and hope it will be so forever. Over centuries all European worlds have touched Latvia - the Germans, the Swedish, the Spaniards, the Russians and the Polish. Nevertheless, we have managed to survive and declare ourselves to the world as a free State. The testimony of this is twenty years of sovereignty when we gained remarkable achievements in our economy and culture. During these years, agriculture developed faster than other sectors. Agricultural products were competitive on the world market. Our currency was one of the most stable in Europe.

The year 1940 interrupted the normal development of our sovereign State. The following fifty years of Soviet occupation will be remembered as the years of oppression. As a result of the unwise management, our economy was

destroyed. From a State whose trend was to agrarian production, Latvia was transformed into an industrial region. The majority of raw materials were carried to Latvia from other Republics and major products were exported away from our country, with all the industrial wastes being left in our country. Under the cover of industrialization there was a "Russification" of Latvian people. In our European State which is named after its principal nation, after all these years the number of its representatives is less than three quarters; but as a result of the politics in Latvia there are only 52 percent of Latvians. One of the greatest priorities at the end of the Twentieth century is the right of nations to self-determination. Our nation started on the way to independence in 1988, and on 4 May 1990 the Independence Declaration of the Republic of Latvia was announced. Our aim was to regain freedom by democratic and peaceful negotiation. The evidence of January 1991 when armed forces turned against unarmed people, as well as the coup of August convinced us that without regaining sovereignty the Baltic States would be completely destroyed. We shall never forget those who forfeited their lives defending independence in those days. Now the people can stand up again, as a blade of grass stands up, with vigour, to start anew. This is the source of our strength.

The support of the world States and organizations for the Baltic States which have just regained their independence fills us with satisfaction and hope. The consent of FAO, the largest United Nations organization to admit Latvia as member provides us with the possibility of finding solutions to many of the agricultural problems in Latvia.

Today, at this solemn moment I feel satisfied that the flag of my country has again entered into European and world circulation. I believe that with the support of FAO Member States, Latvia will overcome all difficulties and in the future it will become an equal and reliable partner.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Rimvydas Raimondas SURVILA (Lithuania) (Original language Lithuanian):** With your approval the Republic of Lithuania has taken one more step on the road to international recognition. Participation in FAO activities, closer contacts with all the countries of the world will help us to restructure our food industry in a more perceptive way. With your support, we hope to receive more information about world markets, and to contribute to cooperation with different States in the sphere of agriculture. We pledge ourselves to meet all obligations honestly and honourably. Lithuania is prepared to make every effort not only to supply high quality products, but also to contribute comprehensively to a global solution of food problems. At present, Lithuania is an exporter of food products. We believe that membership of FAO will help us in the development of agricultural technologies, and to produce high quality food stuffs.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**Alfonso DAVILA (Puerto Rico):** Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señor Director General, Ministros, Delegados, observadores y amigos: El Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, a través del Departamento de Agricultura, que represento, tiene el honor de aceptar su inclusión en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, en la celebración del 26<sup>a</sup> periodo de sesiones de tan prestigioso organismo.

Nuestra participación en FAO como país caribeño representa una importante oportunidad para poder ofrecer nuestra tecnología, infraestructura, organización y relaciones político-comerciales que favorecen el intercambio hemisférico desde nuestro suelo.

Contando con recursos humanos cualificados, conociendo las necesidades alimentarias de nuestro planeta, podemos ofrecernos como colaboradores activos para el logro de los objetivos que mundialmente FAO propone alcanzar. En Puerto Rico contamos con varios colegios agrícolas especializados en el desarrollo científico de la agricultura, considerados un importante renglón del desarrollo de nuestra economía. Los empresarios y técnicos agrícolas que pertenecen al Gobierno y a la empresa privada poseen vastos conocimientos gerenciales y el dominio del idioma español como idioma nacional y oficial y el del inglés como segunda lengua.

La política de nuestro Gobierno se basa en una democracia con participación activa de sus ciudadanos en la toma de decisiones fundamentales y en el desarrollo de la política pública. Las experiencias de desarrollo comunal que aprendimos con la operación Manos a la obra, estrategia de desarrollo, del primer Gobernador electo por nuestro pueblo, don Luis Muñoz Marín, enmarcaron nuestro destino político en uno basado en los procesos democráticos y donde el desarrollo de la ruralía se mantuvo como prioridad.

La Universidad de Puerto Rico posee siete estaciones experimentales para el continuo desarrollo científico y tecnológico de nuestra agricultura. Deseamos ofrecerles nuestros laboratorios agrológicos y el laboratorio de tecnología de alimentos para desarrollar programas de intercambio técnico y tecnológico con los respectivos países miembros de la FAO. Nuestra isla caribeña cuenta con la planta de procesamiento de pollos más avanzada del mundo, que ha sido seleccionada por el Departamento de Agricultura Federal para desarrollar un programa piloto de control microbiológico y agilidad en los procesos de producción. También contamos con innovadoras plantas procesadoras de frutas, tales como la piña, mango, parcha y guanábana, actualmente reconocidos en los mercados internacionales de exportación. Nuestra agricultura tecnificada se extiende a un sustancial progreso en la producción y manufactura de los vegetales, también reconocidos en el exterior.

Quisiera poder ofrecerles, en nombre del Gobierno del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico, el suelo borincano, del cual provengo, y sus recursos humanos para beneficio de las metas alimentarias y ambientales, que compartimos con todos los miembros de FAO. Esta es una oportunidad que no debemos ignorar para estrechar nuestros brazos y engrandecer las oportunidades de desarrollo comercial de Latinoamérica y el resto del mundo.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of the European Member Nations of FAO I have the honour to take the floor.

It is a great privilege for me as the representative of one of the Central and Eastern European Member Nations of FAO to have the honour on behalf of the European Region to welcome Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to FAO and to congratulate them on their new membership in FAO.

At the same time, on behalf of the European Region I congratulate Puerto Rico on its associate membership in FAO.

The words of welcome to the new members of our Organization should not be only formal ones. It is our sincere hope, intention and duty to encourage and to promote their first steps in the largest specialized agency of the United Nations system. The role and importance of FAO in world agricultural development is stressed by the interests of the three new independent Baltic States in membership of our Organization.

We expect high activity and strong involvement of FAO in Europe, especially in the central and eastern part, taking into account the priorities and main orientation of the Organization in the developing countries.

We further expect an active FAO participation in the restructuring and transition in the agricultural sectors of the new democracies in central and eastern Europe to a market-oriented economy.

The European Region wishes all success to the new Member Nations and to all of us the best results in the implementation of the main goals and targets of FAO to which we are all dedicated.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, we are very pleased on this occasion on behalf of the North American region to welcome the new members to the Food and Agriculture Organization. It is particularly gratifying, given the dramatic changes this past year, to join other regions in extending congratulations to the Delegations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as FAO Members. Equally, we welcome the admission of Puerto Rico as an Associate Member.

We look forward to working with all of our new members in furthering the valuable work of FAO.

**Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon):** Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor to extend on behalf of the African Group our very warm congratulations to the newly elected members, namely, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and also Puerto Rico as an Associate Member of the FAO.

We wish to see the new members not only in Rome but also in our respective countries for them to see and to compare the various levels of our agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, because the opportunity comes but once sometimes, may I be permitted to take this opportunity to add a special note that I personally feel very happy for these countries of the Baltic as I personally had the



opportunity to visit beautiful Vilnius, Tallin and Riga when I served as a diplomat of Cameroon in the Soviet Union between 1968 and 1971. I want to mention particularly Riga, which was known for its manufacture of refrigeration and stereo equipment adapted for tropical countries. Mr Chairman, I will not claim any honorarium from Riga for this publicity.

These countries have come a very long way. We of the African Group have come from countries that struggled for independence, and we are still struggling to see that all Africa becomes independent and takes its place in the community of nations. The African Group in the FAO is a very friendly group, and we are here to make contacts with the new members whenever they desire.

Once more, congratulations from Africa to the FAO.

**S. Azmat HASSAN (Pakistan):** Mr Chairman, I am delighted and honoured to take the floor on behalf of Pakistan and the other 19 members of the Asian Region of FAO, and on their behalf to congratulate Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on their admission to membership, as well as to Puerto Rico on its admission to associate membership of FAO. They bring with them rich cultures and traditions as well as centuries of agricultural experiences. Their presence amongst us will further strengthen FAO and enrich the proceedings of our intergovernmental deliberations. Their entry, while benefiting the Organization, will also open the vast bank of FAO's data, information, expertise and services to the new members.

We welcome them amongst us and look forward to working closely with them.

**Abdullah AL-MUSAED (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and heads of delegations, on behalf of the Near East Region we would like to welcome the membership of the three Baltic countries as new members in this pioneering organization in the field of food and agriculture. We are sure that, by joining this Organization, they will enrich the deliberations of this Organization.

I would also like to welcome Puerto Rico as an Associate Member, and we are sure that their membership will consolidate the work and activities of the Organization in the field of tropical forests.

**Sra. Rita MISHAAN ROSSELL (Guatemala):** En nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, Sr. Presidente, celebramos con especial agrado el ingreso de Puerto Rico que ha optado por ser parte de la gran familia de la FAO. Estamos seguros que esta decisión aportará una valiosa contribución que permitirá incrementar la positiva labor que desarrolla la FAO en nuestra Región y en el resto del mundo.

Igualmente, Sr. Presidente, damos la bienvenida a los países de Estonia, Lituania y Letonia, deseando que esto sirva de ejemplo para que prevalezca a lo largo de la historia de nuestras sociedades en busca de un mañana mejor.

**Peter Gary FRANKLIN (Australia):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the countries of the South West Pacific I would also wish to join other regions in welcoming Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, as well as Puerto Rico to the FAO. The countries of the South West Pacific look forward to establishing close working associations with those countries that have now been accepted as members of the FAO.

We wish them well in further extending and benefiting from the valuable work of the FAO.

**CHAIRMAN:** This concludes for today Item 33 of the Agenda, which brings our Organization's membership to 160 Member Nations and one Associate Member.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 horas.



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1991)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

### DEBAT GENERAL

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

Netherlands, Italie, Bangladesh, United States of America, Brazil, Australia, China, Norway, Israel, Cameroon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Denmark, Bénin, Tchad.

**CHAIRMAN:** This morning we will begin the general discussion proper and I will give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who have requested speaking time in advance.

You will recall that the Conference agreed to the Council's suggestion that Heads of Delegation, as on previous occasions, limit their statements to a maximum of fifteen minutes.

We have many requests for speaking time and this is really the only way for us to proceed.

I would refer the Honourable Delegates to paragraphs 18 to 22 of document C 91/12 which we approved on Saturday 9 November.

In view of the large number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to limit yourselves to the fifteen minutes indicated.

I shall now call upon the first speaker, the Head of the Delegation of the Netherlands, His Excellency Mr Piet Bukman, Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries.

**Piet BUKMAN (Netherlands):** I am very honoured to be today's first speaker at this Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO.

In the more than forty years that the Organization has existed a lot of things have changed.

Since the last Conference, however, developments have succeeded each other more rapidly than ever.

I shall discuss three of them.

In the first place, the wave of democratization in Central and Eastern Europe has greatly altered political relations in and between countries, and has also affected developing countries - and, very fortunately, it has also led to new membership. My congratulations.

Secondly, the notion that there is a limit to the carrying capacity of nature and the environment has now become widely accepted.

The Den Bosch Conference on Agriculture and the Environment - Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, which was organized jointly by FAO and the Netherlands in April last, has translated this notion into a programme for action.

The Director-General yesterday also referred to this successful meeting. In particular, as a result of the excellent cooperation with FAO, the Den Bosch Conference has led to important recommendations, which will be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil next year.

Thirdly, there are the changes that have occurred in international economic relations.

I am thinking in particular of the GATT negotiations in the context of the Uruguay Round.

The Netherlands has dedicated itself to a successful completion of these negotiations, which are in the interests of all countries, developing as well as developed countries.

These changes in international economic relations have consequences for FAO, too.

Another matter is the relationship of FAO with the European Community; after two years of studies and negotiations the Community hopes to join the Organization shortly.

As President of the European Community's Council of Agriculture Ministers I sincerely hope that this Conference will come to a favourable decision.

The last Conference has approved the Review, which lays down several clear priorities. I think that is a good thing.

Financial margins are tight, which is reflected in a zero budget growth proposal in real terms. Therefore, choices will have to be made.

In Mr Saouma's vision on the future as outlined in his introduction to the Medium-Term Plan, I recognize these priorities again: on the one hand, a shift in attention from transfer of technology to improvement of efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and on the other, emphasis on achieving a better balance between the top-down and bottom-up approach to development.

Strengthening the role of rural organizations is very important in this respect, because these organizations can serve three purposes at the same time.

First, people will be better able to take decisions, carry them out and benefit from them; this is what we call human resources development.

Secondly, the wealth of knowledge and experience gained by the local population of production systems and the carrying capacity of their natural environment will be put to more adequate use.

Thirdly, people will be better able to dialogue with their Governments when they are organized. There is hardly a better basis for sustainable agriculture.

This brings me to the concept of Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture. The potential for applying the principles of this concept will have to be considered separately for each individual situation.

For although it may be desired to limit the application of chemical fertilizers and agrochemicals, as long as the harrowing shortage of food is the number one threat to life in many developing countries, absolute priority should be given to the increase of food production in developing countries. Our agricultural policy should therefore first and foremost aim at general food security. Not until this aim has been achieved can we think about and work for agricultural systems that are in every respect sustainable.

This is why I would rather speak about adequate external input agriculture adjusted to local circumstances. The system is not the end; the end determines the system.

On sustainable management of tropical forests, the Dutch Government has also taken a considered stand. Economic development is indispensable to the countries of the Third World. Our aim is to encourage the conservation of the rain forests via a balanced and sustainable use in order to call a halt to the rapid process of deforestation and other forms of environmental degradation.

We attach major importance to an updated Tropical Forestry Action Plan as a principal framework for achieving protection and sustainable management of tropical forests.

Therefore, we urge FAO to fully exercise its lead agency role in bringing about the establishment of a consultative forum or group on the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

The discussions in last week's Council on this issue have yielded some positive results which deserve serious consideration and follow-up.

Decentralization within FAO, another just priority, is a logical consequence of recognizing the individual responsibilities of the developing countries.

In this respect FAO will focus more on the outlines of development in policy advice, institution building and human resources development.

Implementation of this vision has obvious consequences for FAO's functioning. More than ever technical specialists will have to try to place their efforts in a wider framework of sustainable farming systems and against a socio-economic background. As a result, the number of multi-disciplinary activities will increase.

Efficient cooperation between FAO divisions, with the country offices and with other international organizations will and should gain importance.

A moment ago I mentioned GATT. The Director-General yesterday also referred to its importance. The agriculture dossier proves to be one of the hardest in the Uruguay Round talks, but also one of the most important, not least to the developing countries.

The outcome of the negotiations may have a variety of consequences for various developing countries, depending, for instance, on whether the countries are exporting or importing agricultural products.

To consolidate the improved export position and to mitigate the probable effects of rising food prices, prolongation of support is necessary, support that should aim not only at food security but also at participation in the world markets.

I would applaud more FAO assistance to developing countries in setting up programmes and suggesting instruments, ranging from establishment of tariffs for a transitional period to sustainable rural development, in order to improve efficient participation of these countries in world trade. FAO, of course, is active in this area of policy advice, but I think further marshalling of activities is required.

Depending on the outcome of the Uruguay Round, there will be a need for policy advice at the side of developing countries: how to grab new opportunities.

I am, of course, aware of the fact that FAO alone has insufficient means to realize all this. Therefore, the Netherlands proposes to carry out a joint FAO/Netherlands pilot study in one or two countries. This study would have to lead to policy advice for the country or countries concerned, if they are interested, on how to cope with these new opportunities. The results of this project could also assist FAO to direct their new activities.

The quick succession of international developments requires critical reflection. Again and again we have to ask ourselves how we, in these changing circumstances, are going to realize our aim of feeding the rapidly increasing world population adequately using a system of sustainable agriculture.

Together with donor and developing countries, an international organization such as FAO will play a central part in this, but it forms our common and joint challenge.

**Giovanni GORIA (Italie) (Langue originale italienne):** M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Messieurs les délégués, je suis très honoré de pouvoir intervenir à cette Conférence, qui est l'organe suprême de la FAO, et de le faire en tant que représentant du Gouvernement de ce pays qui, depuis 40 ans, abrite l'Organisation. Nous avons d'ailleurs célébré, hier, au Capitole, cet anniversaire.

Tout d'abord, je tiens à féliciter le Ministre Malik Abdul Majid qui a été élu Président de cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence. Je salue également tous les membres du Bureau. Je voudrais féliciter tout particulièrement le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, qui s'est remarquablement conformé, dans toute la mesure possible, aux indications relatives au programme de l'Organisation approuvées lors de la dernière Conférence. Mon salut chaleureux également à tous les délégués et, en particulier, à mes collègues, les Ministres de l'agriculture, ici réunis.

Notre réunion se situe sur une scène internationale bouleversée. La géopolitique s'est radicalement transformée. On a vu se renforcer l'influence des institutions internationales, qu'elles soient régionales ou



universelles; d'ailleurs, nous en avons la preuve ici: d'une part, l'adhésion à la FAO de la Lituanie, de la Lettonie et de l'Estonie - et c'est avec chaleur que nous accueillons ces pays. Par ailleurs, il y a la demande d'accès à titre de participant à part entière de la Communauté européenne; les travaux se poursuivent à un rythme accéléré et nous espérons aboutir rapidement sur ce point.

Le nouvel ordre international qui est en train de s'esquisser, pour être juste et durable, suppose que les gouvernements passent à une forme de coopération dynamique avec une programmation internationale, surtout pour le désarmement et le développement. C'est sur cette voie que se trouve la détente internationale ainsi, d'ailleurs, que la bataille pour régler les problèmes transversaux.

Si les totalitarismes s'écroulent et si la communauté internationale en vient à agir de concert, il reste toutefois des drames tels que la faim pour 500 millions d'habitants de la planète. Il faut donc plus que jamais poursuivre une stratégie mondiale qui tienne compte de trois réalités.

Premièrement, la planétarisation des circuits productifs, commerciaux et technologiques. Cela peut se traduire par des avantages pour tous les pays à condition que la politique économique des pays industrialisés arrive à moduler par synergie l'aide publique au développement, les flux financiers privés de crédit et de capitaux ainsi que les règles commerciales.

Deuxièmement, ces notions, de plus en plus acceptées dans le système de l'ONU, de bon gouvernement et de bonne gestion, c'est-à-dire la synthèse des principes de la démocratie et des principes du marché libre dans le cadre d'une administration publique efficace. Cela doit constituer partout le paramètre de référence, au Nord comme au Sud.

Troisièmement, le développement agricole bien conçu représente pour les pays en voie de développement l'élément essentiel si l'on veut arriver à ce que l'on appelle une croissance durable. Cela est indispensable non seulement pour assurer l'approvisionnement alimentaire, mais aussi pour que l'on crée des revenus suffisants pour les équilibres territoriaux et également pour la sauvegarde de l'environnement.

Dans cette optique, il y a des responsabilités accrues, des possibilités nouvelles pour la FAO qui oriente maintenant, à juste titre, son activité vers une programmation à plus longue échéance: six années (1992-97). A ce sujet, il y a ce que la FAO réalise avec d'autres organisations des Nations Unies dans ce secteur de l'environnement. Il faut mentionner, en particulier, ce que la FAO a fait pour contribuer à la réussite du Congrès forestier mondial, qui s'est tenu à Paris en septembre. Il y a aussi les efforts que fait actuellement la FAO pour préparer la Conférence sur l'environnement et le développement qui est prévue, au mois de juin 1992, à Rio de Janeiro. A cet égard, signalons la collaboration de la FAO avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé pour organiser la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui aura lieu à Rome en décembre 1992.

Dès lors, pour nous, en Italie, l'Examen du budget de la FAO pour 1992-93 constituera l'un des éléments essentiels de tous nos travaux. Essayons d'aboutir à son adoption par consensus.

L'Italie a toujours accordé une très grande importance au versement en temps voulu des contributions à titre obligatoire. Elle accorde aussi une grande importance à l'alimentation des fonds fiduciaires de la FAO grâce auxquels elle peut financer des projets de développement ad hoc. Je rappelle qu'à ce titre mon pays vient en tête de la liste de ceux qui appuient le programme de coopération entre la FAO et les pays membres. L'Italie, entre 1980 et 1990, a accordé quelque 280 millions de dollars aux fonds fiduciaires, aux programmes d'urgence et aux programmes spéciaux de la FAO. En 1991, ce que nous avons apporté comme contribution sur ce point représente 40 milliards de lires.

Au cours de cette session, l'Italie présentera sa candidature au Comité financier et au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, précisément pour aller dans le sens de l'harmonisation des compatibilités financières et des aspects juridiques.

Pour l'aide publique au développement, qu'elle soit bilatérale ou multilatérale, l'Italie reste convaincue qu'il y a une complémentarité très marquée entre ces deux voies d'acheminement, et on peut espérer qu'on arrivera à bien coordonner les programmes en commun.

Dans le cadre de la Communauté européenne, l'Italie souhaite - c'est un de ses objectifs prioritaires dans la définition de l'union politique - faire harmoniser les politiques de développement des pays membres, et souhaiterait que l'on accorde des ressources plus importantes aux programmes gérés par la Commission supranationale.

Quant à la subdivision sectorielle, depuis des années notre manière de concevoir l'aide au développement insiste surtout sur le secteur agroalimentaire. Il faut, d'une part, répondre aux besoins fondamentaux, puis assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire et mettre en valeur tout ce secteur, parce que c'est lui qui pourra propulser les autres mécanismes de développement.

J'en viens à mes conclusions. Je vais évoquer tout particulièrement les négociations de ce que l'on appelle l'Uruguay Round. J'ai déjà dit ce matin même qu'il faut une stratégie cohérente unissant l'aide au développement aux échanges commerciaux et aux équilibres financiers. Les règles que prévoira le GATT, et qu'il faut dès maintenant définir, devront tenir compte des règles internationales du commerce qui devraient permettre de surmonter dans tous les secteurs les barrières visibles et invisibles qui gênent les échanges. Et cela non seulement au sein des pays industrialisés, mais également dans le cadre de ce que l'on appelle l'axe Nord-Sud et aussi dans les échanges Sud-Sud.

Pour ces deux derniers contextes, il faut mettre en place et renforcer des voies préférentielles pour les pays en développement, et il faudrait en arriver dans le secteur agricole à un système d'échanges qui libère les flux de produits agricoles, alimentaires ou autres, du Sud vers le Nord. Cette perspective à long terme devrait nous montrer que tous devraient en tirer parti, et qu'en particulier on réduirait ce phénomène anti-économique et antisocial d'excédents dans certaines zones et de disettes dans d'autres pour les mêmes produits. On pourrait rendre plus élevés les prix internationaux des produits agricoles pour assurer de meilleurs revenus aux producteurs du Sud, et pour l'avantage également des citoyens du Nord, en réduisant les prix artificiels. On réduirait ainsi l'instabilité des prix sur les marchés internationaux et on avantagerait les consommateurs. On

pourrait donc destiner à des aides structurelles pour l'agriculture les sommes du budget qui sont actuellement consacrées au soutien conjoncturel des produits agricoles. Et surtout, la libéralisation progressive des échanges en matière agricole permettrait de surmonter le cercle vicieux de la dette extérieure et du taux de développement faible dans de nombreux pays.

**Major General Majid-Ul-HAQ (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to address this Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Bangladesh delegation and my own behalf I offer you, Mr Chairman, my warmest felicitations on your election as Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Conference.

Your election to this high office is indeed a tribute to your personal qualities and vast experience and also to the friendly country of Pakistan. I assure you, Mr Chairman, of our fullest cooperation in ensuring the success of this Conference. I would also like to thank the other members of the Bureau whose experience, I am sure, will assist you in the discharge of your onerous responsibilities. In your opening address, Mr Chairman, you have given the Conference important guidelines which will immensely help us in our deliberations and in realizing our desired objectives.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to convey through you our heartiest congratulations to the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, for his illuminating statement which has set the Conference priorities in perspective. We deeply appreciate Director-General Saouma's efforts in upholding the Charter of the FAO and his sincere efforts in strengthening the FAO as an instrument for providing succour and relief to the poor and the needy of the world.

It gives me great pleasure to express my heartiest felicitations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as members of FAO and to Puerto Rico as an Associate Member of the Organization. I wish them well.

Mr Chairman, momentous political and social changes have taken place around the globe. Many nations which had earlier chosen different system for socio-economic development are now switching over to democracy and market economy commensurate with the hopes and aspirations of their people. Cooperation among nations is also helping the process of finding solutions to long-standing local and regional problems. These changes provide us opportunities and challenges for promoting the well-being of the common man.

Mr Chairman, as a direct consequence of lessening of international tension the developing countries expect to get the benefit of reduced spending on armaments, although many are apprehensive that with the increased focus on new areas the attention of developed countries may be diverted from the urgent needs of the low income developing countries.

Mr Chairman, in Bangladesh momentous development has taken place in the recent past. A historic popular upsurge swept away an authoritarian regime and helped restore a legitimate democratic government after almost a decade. To consolidate the political gains achieved through popular movement a free and fair election was held on February 27, 1991 resulting in the restoration of parliamentary form of government under the dynamic

leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia. All these have made the Government accountable to the people and have paved the way for people's participation in national development endeavour.

I would like to mention here that economic development effort in Bangladesh is being greatly hampered by high rate of population growth and recurrent disasters. However, due to the determined efforts of our people and continued cooperation from our development partners we have been able to achieve some progress particularly in the field of food production. Our production of food grains increased from 9 million tons in 1970 to about 19 million tons in 1990. This has been possible through various policy support and technical assistance given by FAO, UNDP and other agencies and also bilateral economic assistance given by other development partners. Our recent policy of privatization and deregulation of fertilizer and agro-machineries have shown some gains. However, attaining self-sufficiency becomes doubly difficult with an existing large population, high rate of population growth and limited land. While attempt is made to utilize optimum available land mass, at a certain stage there is hardly any room to increase the acreage any further. With this as a fixed factor, we plant as best as we can, with as much adaptation of present day technological advances as possible, in order to get more and more tonnage out of the same limited acres. Towards achieving greater yield, agro-scientists have developed HYV of seeds, evolved new techniques of planting and have been experimenting with newer varieties of fertilizers. Even then an optimum level of production will have been reached at the end of the next decade, while the population growth will not decrease correspondingly to keep level with food production. As a matter of fact, even with the present reduced population growth rate from 3 to 2.2 percent in 1990, we will have a staggering 2.5 million new mouths to feed every year, in our country.

In the light of what I have explained, it is now clear that although the Green Revolution technology of the past few decades using high yielding variety of seeds and other inputs have proved useful in raising production and productivity of food grains, this technology has its constraints and limitations. Therefore, we have to look for new technologies to increase the agricultural production to match the rapidly growing population in the coming years in the developing countries in general and Bangladesh in particular. Development of new technology especially bio-technology seems to offer the possibility of another great revolution in agriculture. The developing countries will require considerable assistance from the developed countries for adaptation of this technology through strengthening the institutional framework, research and training facilities. Here again we the poorer of the developing countries must not forget the added cost that will have to be borne to use these sophisticated technologies of the future. On this issue an important question will have to be addressed, i.e., will the poor farmers, 60 percent of whom live below subsistence level, be able to bear this? If not, who will then?

In this context, it is also our view that every effort must be made to maintain the genetic diversity of the crops and the crop varieties which still exist. We require crop varieties which are not only high yielding but are also resistant to insects and diseases. In Bangladesh we are considering the possibility of establishing a Plant Genetic Resource Bureau which will enable us to preserve varieties which still exist in Bangladesh.

Mr Chairman, hitherto our development efforts have brought about environmental problems such as loss of soil fertility, soil erosion, water pollution, shortages of fuelwood, over-fishing, etc. Such problems are common in many developing countries and the solution to these problems calls for immediate action through cooperation by both developed and developing countries. To protect the environment and to ensure sustainable development, awareness of the farmers must be raised through education and training, and offering technology to the farmers which is not hazardous for environment. In this transfer of technology which is environment-friendly we will need the support and cooperation from the developed countries and multilateral agencies.

In Bangladesh, fisheries have traditionally served as a major source of protein for the people. In the recent years per capita consumption has declined because of reduced production of fish. It is our assessment that there are immense possibilities for increasing fisheries production in Bangladesh. The fisheries are a renewable resource and it is critical that a system of sustainable production be established. I hope deliberations in FAO will give some guidelines about the future development of this sector.

In Bangladesh there is an increasing awareness about the role of women in development particularly in agricultural development. A recent study indicates that 40 percent of our rural women are involved in primary agricultural production. Through our new projects, we will try to ensure adequate involvement of women in production activities both as beneficiaries and as participants.

Mr Chairman, many countries of the world including the developed countries have achieved considerable success in agricultural production through government intervention in the form of heavy subsidy to the farmer community. We in Bangladesh adopted a similar policy in the previous year to encourage farmers to use fertilizers, irrigation water and high yielding variety of seeds. But in the recent years we have taken positive steps for gradual withdrawal of subsidy in order to attain the goal of free market mechanism. But I am afraid the withdrawal of subsidy should be gradual and in a phased manner, otherwise it may be counter-productive.

Mr Chairman, we have read with interest paragraph 6 of document C 91/26 on FAO's involvement vis-à-vis LDCs. We note with satisfaction FAO's Special Action Programme covering areas of particular interest to the LDCs such as food security, seed improvement and development, soil fertility improvement and pest control programmes. However, in the view of my delegation, we have a long way to go to achieve our objectives of: (a) sustained and increased production of food grains to match the growing population; (b) crop diversification and increased production of non-cereal crops; (c) increased production of fisheries and livestock; (d) conservation and expansion of forest resources; (e) alleviation of poverty; (f) providing more employment and higher income to the rural poor; and (g) improving the nutritional level of the vulnerable groups especially women and children. Therefore, efforts should be made to do more within the framework of the FAO for the LDCs.

We are aware that to provide effective support to the LDCs in these areas the existing institutions are far from satisfactory. New mechanisms, therefore, must be devised. The international community should come forward and help us with adequate and timely measures for the accelerated development of the LDCs.

Mr Chairman, at this stage I want to make a brief comment on the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific. You will recall that FAO played a significant role in establishing this Centre in Bangladesh. CIRDAP projects are funded, amongst others, from sources such as FAO, the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The main focus of the Centre's activities has been on the follow-up of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. As the Centre was established at the initiative of FAO, Mr Chairman, it would be appropriate for FAO to provide full support and assistance to CIRDAP in its expanded programme activities.

I would also like to acknowledge the very close cooperation we have been receiving from the FAO Representatives in our country and our region. They have always operated in the most professional manner and we appreciate their efforts.

From the perspective of Bangladesh and the LDCs it is of paramount importance for us, as well as the developed countries, to concentrate on the primary role of small farmers in achieving a permanent solution to hunger and the vital need to help them acquire easy access to the factors of production and to share in the results. This is so because hunger and poverty should not be seen purely as technical issues but as a consciousness of the real problem, viz., the unjust and ineffective economic and social structures that distort and constrain the development process, particularly the external economic environment.

Once these distortions and aberrations are corrected, then only will you have proclaimed Freedom from Hunger.

**Edward R. MADIGAN (United States of America):** Mr Director-General, fellow delegates and friends. We are entering a new and challenging period for world agriculture. It is fair to say that the agriculture now plays a pivotal role in the political and economic changes sweeping the globe.

The peoples of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are fighting to free themselves from the vestiges of communism and build strong private sector economies. Agriculture is crucial for their success. If agriculture fails them in the next few years, we may soon see renewed threats to their experiment in freedom.

The people of Africa continue to struggle to feed themselves against a backdrop of widespread war and civil unrest. Tens of millions of Africans live precariously, poised on the brink of starvation. If African agriculture does not help meet this challenge, we can forget the promising political and social reforms now surfacing all over the continent.

At the global level, we all face an even broader challenge. After five years of negotiations, the world still awaits the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT. Again, agriculture is crucial. If we can come to an agreement on agriculture, the Uruguay Round can and will succeed.

Despite the tremendous importance of agriculture in world commerce and politics, many countries still view all agricultural issues through the narrow prism of their own self-interest. No country is blameless on that score. It is time for us to move beyond that. It is time we all accept that we have a world agricultural system and act accordingly.

What an American farmer plants in Iowa, may help or hurt a farmer's income in Poland. An Argentine wheat farmer's profits may hinge on the EC Common Agricultural Policy and the plantings of a farmer in France. A Thai rice farmer's future may ultimately depend on a political decision made in Japan. Farmers in small nations become the unintended victims of subsidy battles among their larger neighbours.

The failure to find cooperative solutions to production and trade problems within this world system costs taxpayers and consumers in the OECD countries alone US\$300 billion a year. And those who can afford it least - the farmers in developing countries - lose US\$26 billion in income each year because of export subsidies, protectionism, and other trade distorting measures. In 1991 no nation can pretend that its production and trade decisions exist in isolation, that these decisions do not deeply affect the well-being of its neighbours.

What can we do to begin a new era of world cooperation in agriculture?

First and foremost, we must come to an agreement on agriculture in the Uruguay Round. Eastern Europe will not thrive if it is denied access to the markets of its neighbours. The farmers of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America will never climb from poverty if they cannot sell their products freely on world markets.

Agriculture is not the only area of contention in the Uruguay Round, but it is the most crucial. The developing nations have said they will not make concessions in areas of interest to more developed nations - areas such as intellectual property rights and services - unless there is a good agreement in agriculture, the sector they depend on most for export earnings.

The United States strongly endorses the views of the developing countries on this issue. President Bush has made it clear that a Uruguay Round agreement must address the issues of market access, export subsidies and trade-distorting internal supports in agriculture.

The United States has put all policies on the table. The resolve of the Bush Administration to come to a good agreement has never been stronger. We are ready to negotiate significant reductions in market access barriers and expect the same from our trading partners. We recognize the need for transition mechanisms for all parties, especially developing countries, allowing for the phased reduction of tariffs and special safeguards to protect against sudden import surges and price drops.

The technical talks on agriculture ended last month. That part of the process was very thorough and productive. Now we must make the tough policy decisions.

Recent signs of movement and flexibility, particularly on the part of our German and French colleagues here in Europe, give me new optimism about the future of the Uruguay Round. I believe that with some hard work we will have the framework for an agreement in agriculture by the end of this year.

A successful Uruguay Round can ensure that all nations share the opportunity to trade and prosper economically. But for the poorest nations, that will not be enough. We have to offer them our support through

technical assistance, training and research so they have the tools to produce and the capacity to take advantage of new opportunities in world trade.

The United States has moved to improve the efficiency and focus of its aid programmes. Last year we rewrote the legislation for one of our leading aid programmes - Food For Peace. As a result we expect to increase the proportion of food aid given on a grant basis. In addition, the President has new authority to forgive indebtedness that he is using to ease the debt burdens of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

The United States remains a strong advocate of food aid through the United Nations. I am proud to inform you that our contribution to the regular and emergency operations of the World Food Programme this biennium has climbed more than 40 percent. We will soon break the half billion dollar mark, an historic record. We look to WFP to continue its fine work in bringing food and hope into the lives of tens of millions of the world's poor and malnourished.

As evidence of our deep commitment to WFP, the United States has offered a candidate to succeed James Ingram as head of the Programme - Assistant Secretary Catherine Bertini. We appreciate the support she has received from many countries represented here. We are confident she would be a dedicated, compassionate and effective Executive Director.

Agriculture continues to take a leading place in US international aid and we now spend US\$1 billion a year on this type of assistance. We are giving high priority to helping developing nations strengthen their private sector; funding micro-enterprises, particularly those run by women; and spurring private US investment in agriculture in developing countries.

We continue to support a vast network of agricultural research and scientific exchanges that spans the globe, so American scientists can pool their talents with their counterparts here in Europe, India, Egypt and many nations in the developing world.

The rapid pace of political and economic changes poses particular challenges for FAO. I call on FAO, with the leadership of the Director-General and his staff, to seize the initiative.

First, find ways to help nations make the transition to free market economies. The welfare of the peoples of Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Africa depends on making that transition a success.

Second, press for a quick and positive outcome to the Uruguay Round. Then help developing countries and Eastern Europe take advantage of the opening in world markets.

Third, work to strike a sound balance between the need for development and the need to preserve the environment in forestry, fisheries and agriculture programmes. I know that is no easy task. We struggle with this same issue in the United States. People must be fed, but they will not be fed for long if we damage the environment in the process.



In sum, we are looking to FAO to become an innovator in a time of fundamental political and economic change. We are pleased by signs that FAO is moving in that direction. We welcome the Director-General's support of the Uruguay Round of the GATT and urge him to continue and expand these activities.

We look to FAO to play a more active role in fostering international trade in the years ahead. By expanding the scope and effectiveness of the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention, we can prevent artificial barriers to trade that are not based on genuine scientific standards. We believe these two activities should have a high profile within the Organization.

We encourage FAO to help the developing countries become more involved in the Codex Alimentarius. Through policy advice and its Technical Cooperation Programme, FAO can strengthen knowledge in developing countries on food quality and safety issues as they relate to trade. We encourage greater attention to this area, where FAO can serve the interests of developing and developing countries alike.

The United States appreciates the work FAO has done to gather and upgrade data for the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT). We are also looking forward to the International Conference on Nutrition co-sponsored by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO). We view this Conference as an opportunity to agree on concrete measures on a wide range of problems, from the micro-nutrient deficiency diseases that scar the lives of millions of children, to broader international agreements on food safety and quality and nutritional labelling for food products.

This year the United States joined FAO's Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The Commission is addressing important questions on plant genetic resources that will have a direct bearing on our ability to meet the growing demand for food in the years ahead. Issues such as intellectual property rights with respect to genetic resources are not easy to resolve, but we look to FAO to play a central role in this process.

We are very pleased to see that FAO has begun to carry out recommendations from the review of its programmes. We look forward to more progress this biennium, especially in ensuring that: field projects are sustainable, effective and environmentally sound, and focus on areas where FAO has a comparative advantage technically; the role of women as agricultural producers and consumers is considered in all aspects of FAO's work; and, coordination with other UN agencies and bilateral donors is strengthened.

In addition, during this Conference the United States looks forward to beginning a dialogue with other members and the Secretariat on how we can streamline our working methods and decision-making in FAO's Governing Bodies and Technical Committees.

Like so many of its Member Governments, FAO will be asked to do more with less. Virtually every major contributor to FAO is facing a government budget deficit this year. Some are quite severe. The governments of other Member Nations are striving to live with strict fiscal austerity measures. For this reason, the United States must oppose special assessments and we call on our fellow Member Nations to seek a final FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 with maximum absorption of non-discretionary cost increases.

The United States is pleased by the actions the Director-General has taken so far to curb cost increases and to achieve no real growth in programmes. From my own experience at the Department of Agriculture, I know first-hand how difficult this task can be.

The United States also commends the Director-General for his support as we seek to make the early submission of a Budget Outline a permanent feature of FAO's budget process at this Conference.

To underscore the United States' interest in lessening the financial difficulties facing FAO, we expedited our last payment as soon as we received the Congressional appropriation for fiscal year 1992. I am pleased to notify the membership of a United States payment of nearly US\$50 million in October, including a US\$13.7 million payment toward our arrears. These funds, along with additional substantial payments in the event we join consensus on the budget, could help restore FAO's financial base.

In closing I would like to note that support for the United Nations and its specialized agencies has grown in the United States in recent years. Increasingly, the American people recognize that the United Nations can be a valuable instrument for promoting democracy and needed political and economic change. Dedicated to ending hunger and building economic opportunity worldwide, FAO has a crucial role to play in the United Nations system.

President Bush is personally committed to repaying the arrears the United States owes to the United Nations agencies, including FAO, and he has made this a budgetary priority. Pending Congressional appropriation, we plan to make these payments over the next few years.

FAO can do much to foster a new era of cooperation in agriculture. But it is up to each member country to help. We cannot ask FAO to be innovative, if we are not innovative ourselves.

Mr Director-General, you have my pledge that the United States will help FAO meet the challenges that face world agriculture. In Africa, in Eastern Europe, in every quarter of the globe, those challenges intensify each day. Let's work together to meet them.

**Antonio CABRERA MANO FILHO (Brazil) (Original language Portuguese):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, food production is the noblest and the most edifying amongst the tasks of human labour. In young countries which are still striving to achieve minimum standards of socio-economic development, the difficulties to supply low-income populations are a permanent constraining factor threatening democracy, liberty and political evolution. This Conference, which gathers over 100 Ministers from all over the world, brings us hope for solidarity, support and reconciliation amongst experts and politicians who have taken on complex, personal institutional responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and good relations amongst peoples.

Brazil comes to Rome, the historic cradle of Latin civilization, aware of its role and responsibilities which stem from its condition as one of the largest agricultural nations in the world. Not only the Minister, but all the Government and all Brazilian farmers, are mindful of the duties implied by the position of one of the largest, continuous stretches of agricultural

land in the world. The incorporation of these awesome expanses in the production system is more than just a national objective of the people who till the land in my country. The actualization of Brazil's economic potential is a challenge for all democracies, for all liberal economies, for science, for technology, for societies committed to cooperation and solidarity and, above all, to universal conscience.

On the eve of the celebrations of the Fifth centennial of the discovery of the Americas, the nations of the young continent are here in ancient and wise Italy to account for their responsibilities and to state very clearly the injustices imposed by the current trading practices imposed on countries which believe in the freedom to produce and sell. We have come here to say that the practice of liberalism at the international level has been equivocal, generating an apprehension and disquiet amongst workers, producers, business men and governments.

Gentlemen, Brazil is bracing itself to harvest next year more than 65 million tons of grains, some 30 million tons of vegetables, another 30 million tons of tropical fruit, 10 billion litres of milk and 7 million tons of beef, pork and poultry meats. We are joining the producer nations, even if we are utilizing a small portion of our potential and facing difficulties with our investment. We have ample possibilities to increase immediately five or six-fold the figures for food production which I have just mentioned. The extraordinary artificiality that dominates the terms of trade amongst countries, always to the detriment of the poorest and less developed, indicates that this is something which disturbs the conscience of everyone by virtue of its evident injustice. The subsidies afforded by several highly developed countries give rise to deplorable situations exemplified by the cows which receive a yearly subsidy higher than the per capita income of our countries. These subsidies have been rewarding inefficiency and consecrating the reproduction of these distorted and absurdly useless practices. This is an affront to liberal and democratic economies. It is an evident proof of insensitivity with regard to countries with more efficient agricultural production.

In the coming negotiations in the Uruguay Round, it is hoped that rational and intelligent concepts of equity and justice, fundamental principles for harmonious coexistence amongst peoples, will prevail once again.

The example of my country, Brazil, is very clear in this regard. We are systematically and permanently criticized in connection with the Amazon Rain Forest, our inestimable patrimony. The main culprits of the threats to the Amazon Forest are not the humble rubber tappers, fishermen, gatherers of native fruits and small producers who live in that region, nor the rural entrepreneurs who have been trying to produce in that area; the main aggression to nature and to the environment comes from the fact that our small, skilled producers do not receive fair and adequate remuneration because the markets are closed off to them and producers from developed countries are full of subsidies and sheltered by protectionism. We are not asking for exceptions, nor rewards, nor subsidies for our products. We want, in fact, just rewards for the efforts of those who make the land produce, fertilized by the sweat of their brow.

Protectionism by way of trade distortions is an uncontrolled incentive to the degradation of the environment, deeply regrettable in itself, but even more so when added to the lack of respect and consideration for the labour

and for the fruits of the labour of millions of rural families not only in Brazil, but in the whole of Latin America and in other developing regions.

The Twenty-sixth FAO Conference is a moment of reconciliation and hope. Let my words now therefore serve as an alert. There can be no peace, progress or democracy without jobs, without food, without health, without housing. The developed countries have to open their minds and their hearts to understand the extent to which their outdated protectionist measures distort unfairly the terms of trade in the world today.

Developing countries want neither arms nor privileges; we need and demand commercial freedom and that competition through efficiency, productivity and the willingness to work and produce be allowed. This is needed to achieve systems in which the rich will be less powerful and the poor will suffer less. When the distortions are eliminated, we will lead a more just life and have a more lasting peace.

Bitter lessons are sometimes forgotten far too quickly. At the root of all confrontations and all conflicts lie the suppression of liberty and the reduction of the minimal conditions of the survival of peoples, nations and societies. Political barriers fall and the rich and powerful nations establish alliances and systems of solidarity. However, the foremost and most honourable gesture of support and solidarity, the establishment of fair and equal conditions to allow all to live from their work, does not come about.

**Simon CREAN (Australia):** Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to represent Australia for the first time at this, the Twenty-sixth Biennial Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). My predecessor, Mr Kerin, had the honour of chairing the previous meeting in 1989. May I add my congratulations, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chairing of this meeting.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the work of FAO under your leadership, Mr Director-General.

As the new Australian Minister responsible for agriculture, I welcome the opportunity to further develop and promote Australia's international agricultural objectives. I would like also to reaffirm our commitment to the FAO as the leading international organization addressing food and agricultural issues.

An additional advantage of attending this Conference is the opportunity it provides me, so early in my new role, to meet with all of you, my colleagues from around the world. I look forward to developing a strong and continuing relationship with you as my colleagues in both bilateral contact and multilateral fora such as the FAO.

Mr Chairman, Australia has had a long involvement in the FAO; we played an integral role in its establishment in 1945, and we have continued since then to maintain a strong commitment to the Organization. We have participated actively in the FAO Council and its Committees as the representative of the South West Pacific region and we intend to continue this active participation.

We, like you, as members of this Organization, have accepted the challenge of FAO's mandate. Its mandate is to raise the level of nutrition and standards of living, secure improvements in the efficiency of food production and distribution, and better the conditions of rural populations, as well as contribute towards an expanding world economy and ensure humanity's freedom from hunger.

Given this background, therefore, I would like to confine my remarks to four broad areas. The first relates to the global challenge; the second is Australia's perspective; the third addresses the critical importance of trade liberalization; and finally, the FAO Agenda itself.

Firstly, the global challenge. Many parts of the world are undergoing fundamental political, economic and social changes and our capacity to support the growing world population is under threat, as poverty and hunger continue to afflict up to one fifth of the world's population.

The world can produce sufficient food to meet the needs of the world's growing population but our challenge is to set in place the correct mechanisms to bring this about and to store and distribute the results of our efforts efficiently.

In the early part of this new decade, as noted by FAO, the overall economic environment has been unfavourable for agriculture. Most countries are experiencing a period of economic downturn which has been exacerbated by the effects of the Gulf War.

In the international context we still confront the legacy of the 1980's - stagnating growth, huge external debts, low commodity prices and restricted market access.

We in Australia understand these problems all too well, being dependant as we are on commodity exports. The industries of my portfolio - the primary industries in our country - are responsible for 80 percent of Australia's exports.

This FAO Conference is meeting at a time not when the challenge has changed so much, as the opportunity to respond to that challenge has.

Highlighting the positive, there remains great potential for continued and strengthened international cooperation. East/West tensions are subsiding and there have been dramatic moves by the countries in Eastern Europe and the USSR towards market-based economies. As well, there have been new efforts by the major powers to reduce nuclear armaments, freeing up resources that can be directed to more productive ends.

From the Australian perspective. Despite being a significant exporter of efficiently produced quality agricultural products, Australia is currently experiencing a rural crisis. A drought in eastern Australia, depressed commodity prices and continued restrictions on our market access have all contributed to this situation.

I am convinced, however, that agriculture has a very sound future in Australia. How sound will depend on two dimensions, the extent of trade liberalization and the extent to which we as a nation more effectively add value to our agricultural output.

On the latter point, Australia is the only OECD nation in the world whose proportion of exports relative to GDP has not increased in 30 years, essentially because we have been too reliant on trading commodities instead of manufactures and services, particularly those based on our natural resources.

The restructuring of our manufacturing base and significant improvements in areas of micro-economic reform, including labour market reform, mean we are poised to make much more of our opportunities in the future.

Using our research and technology capacity more effectively and developing more innovative marketing strategies through expanded agricultural business activities and better linkages between agriculture, innovation and manufacturing will in my view ensure this path.

The other major problem relates to the world trade environment. It is a problem which many in this room face.

Without substantial trade liberalization an effective global response will continue to elude us. The solution to world hunger and economic growth in developing countries cannot possibly be addressed if price support and export subsidy mechanisms continue to sink scarce resources into less efficient solutions to food production and if market access restrictions limit export opportunities from the more efficient agriculture producing nations.

The last two years have seen huge directional shifts towards market driven domestic economies, but we are still to sensibly address that issue in an international context.

Many countries, including Australia, have become frustrated and angry at the inconsistency by proponents of liberalized markets whose own policies, at the international level, distort this goal.

We, like many countries, have developed structural and economic policies resulting in significantly improved efficiencies, competitiveness and productivity. These policies have involved significant political and social difficulties, but the hard decisions were taken to position ourselves as a nation better to participate in world trade.

But what it has taught us is that becoming competitive is not sufficient if access to markets is denied or if the efficient producers must compete with heavily subsidised domestic and export price schemes.

This is fundamentally the complaint of the Cairns Group, a group chaired by Australia, which has been instrumental in ensuring that agriculture is not just included in the GATT Round but that there can be no successful outcome from the Round, as a whole, unless there is a satisfactory outcome in agriculture.

The Uruguay Round continues to offer the best opportunity for over half a century to achieve substantial and enduring trade liberalization and reform. We are poised on the brink of success or failure and the next few weeks are going to be critical.

Discussions in the last week give added weight to optimism that we can succeed. Recent developments build on the commitment of the heads of the

Group of 7 Nations to personally involve themselves to achieve a successful outcome; on a serious addressing by the EC of the CAP; on the encouraging recent stance of the German Government and in the recent and indeed current talks between the United States and EC.

As important as agriculture is, all will gain from a successfully-concluded GATT Round.

Other outstanding issues such as market access, services and intellectual property rights hold enormous potential. But success in agriculture will provide the circuit breaker to the Round.

Such success is critical in addressing world hunger and the economic growth opportunities for developing countries.

There does appear to be a package involving specific commitments on each of the three legs of agricultural support - export subsidies, border protection, and domestic support. The issue remains as to whether the package will go far enough both in terms of the breadth of the areas of reform and the depth of the adjustments.

The disciplines and adjustments agreed must be genuine. Export subsidies should be curbed with quantitative, as well as budget, constraints; export subsidies should not be permitted in new markets. Market access needs to be real. This means full tariffication without exception, with realistic tariff levels. It also means, through tariff quotas, providing minimum access and transforming existing access, tariff quotas in both areas attracting real growth. That any transitional safeguard mechanism does not simply become a second generation variable levy. It also requires that the domestic support reductions must be real, including all commodity-specific payments within the disciplines. We also need to say that a genuine package will be a package which treats equally all of the agricultural commodities covered in world trade, not just focusing on those that the big players have at the top of their agendas. Finally, the package must have significant, real, sustained cuts bound into the GATT. These are among the issues which must be intensively focused on over the coming weeks.

There needs to be a clear signal from this meeting of the FAO. First, that success in agriculture for the GATT negotiations is imperative to tackle world hunger and reduce the North-South inequity, and second, that for the success to be achieved there needs to be substantial reform in the areas and manner which I have detailed above.

Turning finally to the FAO Agenda. The agenda for this Conference demonstrates the daunting size of the challenges facing the world, the FAO and its Member Nations. It also reflects the great breadth and variety of the FAO's work.

The important technical contribution which FAO makes is reflected in such Agenda Items as that on Plant Genetic Resources and the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. There are other items which have reform and socio-economic implications and there are items dealing with the Organization itself.

Also needing to be addressed is a resolution on reforms to the governance of the World Food Programme. The WFP has become the largest multilateral aid agency outside the World Bank/IMF Group. While it is not easy to change

a long-standing relationship, it is generally acknowledged that the WFP requires greater autonomy from FAO if it is to operate with the optimal degree of effectiveness demanded by donors and recipients alike.

Australia wholeheartedly commends these far-reaching reforms to the Conference.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of a fellow Australian, Mr Jim Ingram, who is to retire after outstanding service from the position of Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

The high priority and increased resources allocated by FAO to the environment and sustainable development of agriculture is very strongly supported by Australia. There is a clear recognition now, by both developing and developed countries, that we must protect the environment and conserve our resources if we are to feed the world and ensure the survival of the planet.

In recent years governments all round the world have focused their attention on the concept of sustainable development and the need to better integrate environmental, social and economic objectives. In Australia we have recognized ecologically sustainable development as one of the major issues confronting policy makers and the Government has established a broad-ranging consultative process so as to provide a basis for the development of policies in the future.

As well as addressing sustainable development domestically, Australia has been active in international efforts in this area. We participated, for example, in the recent FAO/Netherlands Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and the Environment and we have been contributing to the preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development next year.

Other areas of the FAO's Programme in which Australia takes a close interest are the importance of women in agricultural development and the emphasis on providing developing countries with sound policy advice for their agricultural, forestry and fisheries development.

I mentioned at the beginning of my address the major challenges facing us as we move into the 1990's. The FAO also faces challenges of its own.

While the FAO is being asked to respond to ever-increasing demands, the resources available to the Organization are limited. This is a challenge that my Government, and, I am sure, the Governments of most members here, are familiar with. To meet the challenge requires discipline and sensible decision-making.

FAO has made efforts over the last two years to respond to this challenge. Many of the recommendations from the Review of the FAO, endorsed by the last Conference, have been implemented. In particular, the reintroduction of the Medium-Term Plan will help to guide the Organization in establishing priorities and focusing its future work programme.

It is also pleasing to note that the Director-General has, for the first time, prepared a draft budget for the next biennium on the basis of no real programme increase. This, I believe, reflects the understanding that it is



not possible for the FAO's budget to continue to grow while there are budgetary and financial pressures confronting its contributing member countries. The FAO must work within the resources available, concentrating on those areas where it has comparative advantage.

Australia supports a consensus budget based on maintaining the current level of funding in real terms and containing cost increases. There are elements of the proposed budget with which Australia does not fully agree and it is hoped that discussion at this Conference will lead to a budget agreement which has the general endorsement of all members.

There are a number of important areas we will be discussing under specific Agenda Items and in the proposed Programme of Work which, while being of global significance, are of particular interest to the countries of the Southwest Pacific Region.

The Agenda Items I refer to are those covering Fisheries, Forestry and the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997.

The fishing and forestry industries are extremely important to the economies of the Southwest Pacific Region and to Australia, and we would like to see them developed in an economically sustainable and environmentally sound way.

Australia's opposition to driftnet fishing continues and we take comfort in the fact that the countries in the Southwest Pacific are working together and have brought about a cessation of driftnet fishing in their region.

We are pleased to see the priority FAO has given to the sustainable development of forestry in its Programme of Work and to the implementation of the Tropical Forests Action Programme in our region. Australia has supported the programme in the Southwest Pacific through bilateral and multilateral initiatives and by direct financial assistance.

Plant protection is another area on which the region places high priority. We have been a strong advocate for the International Plant Protection Convention, including the technical consultations this year among regional plant protection organizations.

Finally, I would like to say how pleased I am that under the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, Australia will host the Second Session of the Codex Regional Coordinating Committee for North America and the Southwest Pacific in Canberra in December this year. This is the first time Australia has had the opportunity to host a Codex meeting.

In conclusion, I am grateful to have had this opportunity to address the Conference. I am confident that it will proceed in a constructive atmosphere and that we will be successful in progressing, or reaching agreement on, the important issues before us and in providing guidance for the work of FAO over the next biennium.

Australia will maintain its commitment, in whatever future capacity it can, to the work of this Organization.

**Liu ZHONG-YI (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all, in the name of the Chinese delegation I would like to warmly congratulate you and the three Vice-Chairmen on your election. We are confident that under your leadership the Conference will achieve fruitful results.

In general, since the last session of the Conference, people in the world have made new strides in their struggle to seek subsistence and development, the world economy has grown and world agriculture has further developed. However, all this is characterized by an increasingly obvious feature, that is imbalanced development and the vast number of developing countries are faced with a more difficult plight. Thus, some important issues in the world food and agriculture sector have not been adequately addressed and the world food security situation remains fragile. Therefore, to improve the conditions for the development of world agriculture and to promote stable and sustainable development in world agriculture is still a pressing and arduous task for all of us. In this context, I would wish to make the following observations.

Due to varied social, economic and natural conditions, countries have different challenges and advantages in their development. Consequently, they will follow diversified paths and adopt their own policy measures for development. Nonetheless, we believe that for the vast number of developing countries it is necessary to establish a rational and to some extent self-sufficient agricultural and economic structure. Only in this way can we continuously enhance our capability to adapt to the changing world economy and international market. To this end we must carry out the policies that are in line with local conditions that will bring our own advantages into full play with development based on self reliance. Of course, international cooperation and external aid are also necessary.

From a developmental point of view world agriculture has achieved considerable progress with the common efforts of people in the world. However, there are still hundreds of millions of people in the world suffering from hunger and malnutrition. At present, in addition to stimulating a balanced and full-scale development in production, the promotion of rational circulation and distribution of agricultural products will have important and practical significance in addressing this problem. In fact, current global cereal production is around 1.95 billion tons a year and the per capita average is about 345 kilogrammes. According to our experience, such an average level is sufficient to satisfy basic subsistence needs. However, the vulnerable groups still find it difficult to obtain access to necessary food due to the trade barriers and some irrational policies of distribution and economic means. Therefore, we hope that the international community will take effective actions and actively promote rational distribution and circulation of agricultural products. We also urge that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations on agricultural trade will conclude at an early date with substantial results.

Agricultural development is inter-dependent with the overall social and economic development. Most developing countries have long been bound by unfair treatment under the current world economic order. Thus their economic development has been severely hindered. We can find a full description of their problems in document C 91/2. We believe that only by remedying this situation can we set up a new international economic and agricultural order, lay a sound foundation for the realization of two major goals of humanity at present - peace and development - as well as create the necessary conditions for agricultural development in most developing

countries. Therefore, we actively advocate that international consultation and coordination should be carried out, the international economic situation and relationship should be improved, and rationalization of the international agricultural process should be accelerated under the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

Following the development of world economic integration and interdependence, international exchange and cooperation are more and more important. Economic development in developing countries is no longer a problem of their own, but a problem of whether sustainable development can be achieved for the entire world economy, including that of developed countries. Agricultural economy is no exception. Unfortunately, progress in this respect has not been satisfactory. No breakthrough has been ever achieved in international agricultural assistance. Financial and technical transfer from developed to developing countries has always met with obstacles, and South-South cooperation has seen no active progress. To solve these problems will not only require our humanitarian assistance but our determination to guarantee and promote global prosperity and maintain world stability. I am sure this will be recognized by all far-sighted politicians. We have always held that all countries should take an active part in agricultural cooperation and exchange under the principle of equality and mutual benefit, seeking practical results in diversified forms and achieving common development.

Dialogue between developed countries and developing countries should be strengthened. On the one hand, the scope of assistance should be broadened while unnecessary aid restrictions lifted; on the other hand, efficiency in utilizing assistance should be raised and experience in this regard be extended. Exchange among developing countries should be enhanced through activities of mutual benefit, supplementarity and mutual assistance. International agencies should play a greater role in creating favourable conditions for international agricultural exchange and cooperation.

In spite of its financial crisis FAO has contributed a great deal to the development of world agriculture through its activities over the past two years. But we must face the fact that FAO is facing heavier tasks and more difficulties. In order to well prepare FAO to meet future challenges and make greater contributions to agriculture in developing countries and in the world we hope that all Member Nations will join efforts to vigorously support FAO in its endeavours.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to brief all the distinguished delegates on the recent agricultural development in China.

Over the past two years the Chinese Government has taken a series of effective measures by stressing and strengthening agriculture in an effort to further consolidate and expand the achievements made in the agricultural reforms over the past ten years, as well as to ensure stable and sustainable development of agriculture. We continue to follow the policy of reform and openness to the outside world, and to stabilize and perfect all basic agricultural policies which have proved to be effective in practice and well-received by farmers. We have also made great efforts to improve the circulation of farm products.

Last year some provinces of China were hit by severe natural disasters. However, the major agricultural products such as cereals and cotton will still register a fairly good harvest. The rural economy is active and supplies are sufficient.

China is a large country with a significant agricultural sector and a large population. Our experiences have shown us that China has to stick to its own road and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics which uphold the policy of reform and openness to the outside world.

Strengthening international cooperation will place agriculture as a top priority. The sustained and stable development of agriculture in China is the foundation of national prosperity and people's livelihood, which is also important to the stability and prosperity of the world.

Therefore, we shall make greater efforts and carry out more effectively international cooperation and exchanges.

Agriculture is a material-producing sector of high importance and of international concern because of its irreplaceable role in human existence and development. We are firm in our conviction that with our painstaking cultivation in agriculture this broad field will become even brighter and more colourful. Also, with the effective work of FAO this role will be broader in the future.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to invite Ambassador Khojane of Lesotho to take the Chair.

Gerard Khojane, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

Gerard Khojane, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Gerard Khojane, Vicepresidente del Consejo

**CHAIRMAN:** I have no desire to take any more of your time but please allow me to express my delegation's appreciation for having elected me as a Vice-Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. We wish together to pledge our full time to the Conference.

**Mrs Gunhild OEYANGEN (Norway):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to congratulate you and your Vice-Chairmen upon your elections. It is also with great pleasure that I welcome our close neighbours, the Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia as new members of FAO, and the associate membership of Puerto Rico. This marks another important step towards making FAO a fully universal organization.

During the last years the global food situation has shown great variations. At the same time as some parts of the world are facing problems related to overproduction, hunger, malnutrition and low food security are hampering the development process in other parts of the world. This clearly demonstrates that in the agricultural sector there are important challenges ahead.

One of the main challenges, as clearly stated in the proposed Medium-Term Plan, is poverty alleviation. In sub-Saharan Africa the vast majority of

the population is being robbed of any hope of a decent future. It is intolerable that hundreds of millions of people live on less than a dollar a day and that 40 000 children die each day of malnutrition and disease.

Providing development assistance to poor people is important, but it is even more important to establish more equitable trade systems that would allow poor countries to participate in international trade on more equal terms.

Considerable changes have taken place in the world and in international relations since the last FAO Conference. The notion of reform has taken on a different and more positive connotation than it had before. The need for reform in developing countries is now widely accepted, but also the UN system must adapt to the changing world situation. We need a more dynamic, better focused and more securely financed United Nations system that sets the priorities based on present and future needs.

Norway has always been a strong supporter of the UN system and this is why we together with the other Nordic countries, in 1988 initiated the so-called Nordic/United Nations Project. Through this project the Nordic countries have, based on genuine interest in the multilateral system, presented a number of studies and ideas for improvement. To maintain the support of the United Nations system it is necessary to strengthen the quality and impact of UN development activities and ameliorate the governance and efficiency of the UN organizations.

My delegation has with great interest read the Director-General's report on the implementation of the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations which was adopted at the last FAO Conference. We are pleased to note that the criteria of comparative advantage and selectivity seem to have been adopted as guiding principles for FAO's priority setting. Likewise, for the strengthening of FAO's activities for sustainable development and environment, and higher priority given to policy advice. The main result of the exercise is, however, the re-introduction of the Medium-Term Plan. Through this document we as Member Nations should be able to take an active part in the priority-setting process and thus introduce a sort of permanent review of the Organization's activities.

We regret to note, however, that the Review Resolution has been only partially implemented. The Director General, as stated in the report, is committed to pursue further action. The essential task for this Conference is to decide on how to carry the process further. The progress already achieved must be consolidated and areas not satisfactorily covered should be brought into the process.

Unfortunately, the 1980s have been a discouraging decade for development. The UN system, FAO included, has an important role to play in turning development into a more encouraging direction. We have, however, seen that the United Nations system is suffering from efficiency and coordination problems, and that the support for multilateral development cooperation has weakened in member countries. It is therefore an important task for all of us to do our utmost to re-establish the belief in the multilateral system.

FAO has an important mandate in promoting development of the food sector and is entrusted to implement an extensive field programme. FAO's Field Programme is important for many developing countries. Therefore, the quality of the programme needs to be ensured. Studies conducted by the

Nordic/UN project and others show that there is ample room for improvement in this regard. There is also a need for FAO to better follow up the concept of national execution as the ultimate objective and modality for development assistance. This form of execution should, even if it demands difficult adjustments in some organizations, gradually increase in step with improved capacities and priorities of the recipient countries. Building up capacity to administer its own development activities should be an integral part of any development collaboration.

This session of the Conference will have a chance to discuss thoroughly future priorities when reviewing the first Medium-Term Plan for the Organization. The Medium-Term Plan is well prepared and should be a good basis for a fruitful discussion among member countries on priority setting. Through such discussions, leading to consensus on the main priority areas, the Member Nations can improve the governance of the Organization.

Forward planning is the essence of good management, as the Director-General says in his introduction to the Medium-Term Plan. My delegation can in general adhere to the medium-term challenges he is listing up. In a situation where resources available are likely to continue to be insufficient to meet all demands, an overriding consideration must be to apply the criteria of comparative advantage and selectivity to the extent feasible.

Turning to priorities, I want to emphasize the need to grant top priority to the areas supporting and developing the role of FAO as a center of excellence. This implies concentration of areas and tasks within FAO's mandate where the Organization has clear comparative advantages.

FAO must give higher attention to being the global lead agency within forestry development. The situation facing the Tropical Forestry Action Programme, with protracted discussion on institutional matters, is very unfortunate. The present situation calls for leadership and initiative by FAO, if the Organization is to continue to play a major role through the TFAP. Let me stress, Mr Chairman, that my delegation would not like to see FAO losing ground in this area.

FAO has an important role to play as the leading international organization for conservation and utilization of living aquatic resources. Coming from a major fishery nation, my delegation is well aware that a multilateral approach is the only way of achieving sustainable utilization of these resources. Fisheries and aquaculture are becoming increasingly important in satisfying global nutritional needs, especially with respect to providing a balanced diet. This area must therefore be granted high priority.

The main challenge in the agricultural sector is to modify existing production patterns to become more sustainable. More sustainable practice must be combined with an increase in productivity to enable the sector to satisfy the food requirements of a rapidly increasing world population. This is not an easy task.

We trust that FAO is able, through the opportunity provided by the UNCED process, to focus the world's attention to this challenge. Agricultural issues, including land degradation and freshwater use, need to have a prominent place on the agenda for following-up of the Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil next year. In this follow-up, FAO

should recognize that lack of sustainability is a problem confronting agriculture, in different ways, in all continents.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is pleased to welcome the first progress report from FAO's Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. I must, nevertheless, underline that we still have a long way to go before we can reduce the priority given to these aspects of development. Time has come for a critical view on the organizational aspects of women in development activities in FAO. The Women in Development focal point should, in my view, be given a more prominent location in the organizational hierarchy. It is also important that the recruitment policy is altered to allow for a higher percentage of women professionals, particularly at higher levels in the Organization.

The Director-General presented in his speech the sad fact of FAO's financial situation. A situation which is highly regrettable. In FAO, as in any other organization, all members have committed themselves to pay their contribution in full and on time. It is impossible for the Organization to perform its tasks if resources are not at hand and the day-to-day cash management requires more attention than fulfilling the mandate. My Government intends, also in the future, to pay its contributions punctually, and I am concerned about a situation where the Organization has reverted to considerable external borrowing. As a matter of principle, borrowing without a clear idea of how to cover the repayment and interest is questionable and could jeopardize the confidence in the Organization.

We see in this situation no other realistic alternative for FAO than to accept a no-growth budget for next biennium. This does not mean that my Government believes in any general principle of zero growth for international organizations and for development aid. On the contrary, we will not fail to also use this forum for appealing to all Member Nations to increase their development assistance and my own Government intends also next year to use close to 1.2 percent of Norway's GNP for development assistance.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me conclude by underlining the need for reaching an agreement regarding the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium at this Conference. The Organization can no longer afford the controversies we have seen during the last years, resulting in eroding support to the Organization. My delegation is prepared to do its utmost to contribute to reaching a broad consensus at this Conference, enabling the Organization to promote its important mission.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Her Excellency Mrs Gunhild Oeyangen, the Norwegian Minister for Agriculture, for her statement. I thank her especially for her promise for Norway to pay her contribution to FAO on time.

**Rafael EITAN (Israel) (Original language Hebrew):** With your permission I would like to address you in one of the oldest languages in the world, if not the oldest.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished representatives, the Israeli delegation congratulates the Chairman who has been elected, and we wish him a successful deliberation at the Conference.

The next two years will be crucial in restructuring and reforming the activities of this Organization. The Member States throughout the world will be following closely the steps taken by the Director-General and hoping that his efforts in strengthening and supporting the fundamental principles of universality, objectivity, and cooperation among both large and small nations upon which the FAO is based will bear fruit. Achieving the goals of the Organization is a task of profound importance which requires the full participation of all the Member States and of the Directorate, while overcoming political differences.

As in the past, the State of Israel stands ready and willing today to cooperate and share its experience in the fields of agricultural production.

Half of Israel is arid. Our unique and complex geopolitical position is such that the majority of the desert areas are situated on our borders. As a result, the development of agriculture in these areas is given top national priority, in addition to such issues as food supply, and employment in border regions. These subjects also have international implications since many countries of the Third World are grappling with the same problems.

With your permission, I shall focus my statement on the way in which Israel's agriculture is preparing itself for the year 2000, while facing many of the same problems as those affecting the agricultural sector in other countries around the globe.

Israel's agriculture is in a transition phase stemming from four main factors which are characteristic of many other countries: one, restructuring of the agricultural sector which will require far-reaching changes in the organization of agricultural production, e.g., enlarging the family farm units and its specialization in a small number of high-value income earning branches; two, dramatic changes in international agriculture, with vast stocks of food surpluses piling up in many countries, while other countries are suffering from shortages; three, a significant growth in demand for capital and the financial and economic implications stemming from this situation. It should be taken into consideration that while advanced technologies result in a dramatic rise in productivity and output, they cause the component of capital to be given added weight, thus causing a significant increase in financing expenses and placing stress on the debt burden of the farmer; and four, the shortage of water and the need to make its use more efficient through the recycling of brackish water, the improvement of saline-resistant varieties, and mainly the development of alternative water resources.

Israel is sharing these problems and is making long-range plans, while striving to achieve the following goals:

Obtaining a target-income which will enable the farmer to maintain a standard of living similar to that of those people employed in other branches of the economy, by developing products with a high added value and with an export market potential. The factor is especially important in desert border areas which are remote from the population centres.

The basic concept behind this idea is to exploit research and development for achieving these goals. On the one hand, this means the development of labour-saving technologies, thus reducing the number of people employed in



agriculture in populated areas, and, on the other hand, encouraging labour-intensive and income-generating branches, suitable for arid regions. It will thus be possible to check the negative process of the movement of population from the desert area towards the center of the country, and even to attain an increase in population in these areas.

Formulation of new organizational patterns which will indeed preserve the cooperative framework of the farms, but which will be more suited to the changing conditions and the need to adapt the farming sector to modern technologies. Most of the family farms in Israel are organized in a cooperative framework. This organizational structure assists in applying new agro-technical methods.

For example, the introduction of new varieties to the modern farm requires a close follow-up both by the farmer and by the extension officer and researcher. The situation takes place under the aegis of the cooperative board which is elected by the farmers themselves.

Streamlining the agricultural marketing systems and the rest of the components of the supporting system (such as credit, supply of inputs, etc.), in order to increase its share in the profit of the farmer in the final price of the product.

The share of those products which reflect the relative advantage of the whole country will grow in agriculture in the Twenty-first century. We believe that the share of supports in agriculture will return to a more limited scope and will enable free trade between countries.

Preference will mainly be given to development of agriculture in the countries of the Third World. In the realm of competition between the countries, the advantage that each one has in the field of know-how, natural conditions, and production capacity will find expression.

Development of an infrastructure for agro-technical research will enable increased use of marginal water, streamlining and development of irrigation systems, and an increased variety of agricultural products.

Existence of a high level of research and development will allow for the capacity to compete, on the one hand, and will reduce production costs, on the other, for both covered and open grown crops.

Increasing the impact of agriculture on the national economy (relative percent of GNP) and increasing the added value of agricultural products in relation to others.

The problems related to a shortage of water in the Middle East are fundamental. Their solution may contribute to a reduction of tension between the countries of the area which share the same meagre water resources.

I want to make the point that a joint exploitation and sharing of water resources based on regional agreements will aid in postponing a water crisis in our region for many years to come. But if each country will give thought to its own needs only, without taking into account the needs of the region as a whole, we shall surely find ourselves in a deteriorating water crisis.

Let us stop the arms race in our region and direct our economies and financial resources to a vigorous development of the available water in the entire area.

With the cost of a single tank, we could produce one million cubic meters of desalinated sea water and three times as much by desalinated saline water.

With the cost of a single F-15 jet fighter, we could desalinate 17 million cubic meters of water.

Just imagine how much we could change the face of the Middle East if we could transfer money and investment resources from the arms race to the production of water.

Israel and Jordan are the two countries most affected by the water shortage.

We estimate that by the end of this century the consumption of water in these two countries will increase by more than 30 percent.

Cooperation with Jordan in solving the most immediate problems will postpone but not prevent a water crisis at the beginning of the next century.

We believe that the one and only long-term solution is the development of less expensive technologies for desalinating sea water, while at the same time developing new varieties with a high added value, so the price of desalinated water will represent only a marginal share in the cost calculation of agricultural production.

I hope that this process will enable more people to live in peace and prosperity in other arid areas of the world, also.

In the field of international agricultural cooperation as well, the lessons learned in the past will be applied while planning for the future.

Allow me to elaborate on Israel's activities in this field, which began already as far back as 1959. By 1990, 25 courses for approximately 600 people from overseas were held in Israel, while about 15 mobile, on-the-spot courses were held around the world for about 700 trainees.

We have also adopted a new approach based on the principle of holding intensive workshops in a wide range of basic agricultural subjects for senior professional people from countries in Asia, Africa, Oceania, and South and Central America.

This new approach has proved itself, and the final projects and joint conclusions reached in the workshops may be of interest to the FAO, and they are available for your perusal upon request.

Israel's readiness to make available to the developing countries of the Third World the large amount of knowledge and know-how gained in various agricultural fields, and mainly in the development of arid zones, is the best proof of its desire for peace in our region.

Another important development is the expanded involvement of Israel's agricultural research institutions in programmes for scientific-agricultural cooperation with other donor countries on the basis of joint financing.

The emphasis in these programmes is on applied research for increasing yields and the identification of varieties suitable to the special conditions of the recipient country and I would like to praise the high standard of the researchers from the developing countries and their important contribution to research projects.

It is worth noting that as a result of several workshops held in Israel a new concept has developed both in Israel and the developing countries based on the idea that a more vigorous effort must be made to integrate private initiative in the production system in order to free governments of the need to manage on their own a national agricultural network. One of these ways is organizing small farmers into cooperatives. In this matter, an interesting pattern based on a satellite farming system has been created, and Israel can share its experience in this field.

I hope that my statement has succeeded in relaying the message that time is short, and that we must take speedy and decisive action in order to solve the serious problems we face as we approach the year 2000.

The shortage of water, the lack of capital, the absence of markets, and as a result, the movement of population from the arid areas to urban centers, may result in serious demographic changes and we must already prepare ourselves for them.

Allow me to express my hope that this Conference will mark the beginning of a new era, an era of deeper involvement of all the Member States of the FAO in promoting the agricultural sector and in eliminating world hunger.

I repeat the commitment of my country: Israel is able and willing to share its long experience in pushing back the desert and transforming it into a blooming land.

**John NIBA NGU (Cameroon):** Mr Chairman, the Cameroonian delegation heartily congratulates you and your Bureau on your election at this Twenty-sixth session of our Organization. My delegation wishes you total success in the fulfillment of your delicate and exalting task at the helm of this Conference.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure and duty to extend to all the delegations here present, the warm greetings of the Cameroonian people and the wishes for success in our deliberations, expressed by his Excellency Paul Biya, President of the Republic of Cameroon.

Our Head of State ardently hopes that our discussions, reflections and conclusions will give our respective Governments, our Organization, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the various governmental and non-governmental organizations here represented, the required impetus and greater awareness for revamping the food and agricultural sector of poor nations on a concrete basis.

This is also the right time and place for me to express, on behalf of the Cameroon Government, gratitude for the honour given to my country, the Republic of Cameroon, by the Permanent Representative of African Governments here at the FAO for electing our Ambassador here to preside over their various consultations during this past year. I am sure that our Organization, the FAO, has benefited from the wise ideas of the African Group.

I want also to take this opportunity to welcome all the new countries who have just joined, or will be joining, the great family of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in their capacity as Member States or Associate Members.

Mr Chairman, is there any further need to mention that the Twenty-sixth session of the FAO Conference is being held at a time when the economic situation of developing countries is very disturbing? Among them, the case of Africa south of the Sahara is a cause for concern in all respects, for - as we all know - all facts from the FAO Secretariat, the United Nations Secretariat generally and the World Bank unequivocally show that the current persistent and unfavourable economic situation of Africa is not only unprecedented but is driving our Continent almost permanently into an unending crisis with devastating and tragic consequences, about which much has been spoken and written.

Top on the list of themes to be considered during our current discussions is the World Food and Agricultural Situation. In our opinion, particular attention should be given to this Item, especially as all the facts produced bear on the uneven distribution of food resources throughout the world.

Indeed, we are living in a situation fraught with contradictions and confusion, together with its overwhelming realities. Two different worlds are actually coexisting on earth: a world of plenty and food security living side by side with a world of food shortages, malnutrition, food insecurity and misery.

This is a situation that should and could be overcome if we actually want to face up to the greatest challenge of our time, that is, to free mankind from hunger, misery and malnutrition.

The food crisis in sub-Saharan Africa is a palpable reality and we have always acknowledged that modernizing the agricultural sector is the sine qua non for eradicating hunger from the sub-region.

In a nutshell, we must immediately, and in a dynamic and coordinated manner, eliminate the socioeconomic constraints that hinder the expansion of this sector. This is because the characteristic lack of dynamism by our agriculture is clearly indicative of the insufficient funding it receives.

We should also underscore the poor performance of the African agricultural sector which relies on the obsolete system of water and land use whereby very little use is made of fertilizers, improved seed varieties and other agricultural inputs, and irrigation techniques are very underdeveloped. In this context, agronomic research, farmer organizations and agricultural credit facilities adapted to the small farmer needs are a priority.

Mr Chairman, we do not expect these problems to be solved on their own. When our Governments adopted the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980 and the Harare Declaration in 1984, during the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in Zimbabwe, they solemnly acknowledged that it shall first of all be the prime responsibility of every nation to transform its agricultural sector into a reliable source of food self-sufficiency. Financial and technical assistance from rich countries and the international community would also be essential components to sustain these domestic efforts.

Mr Chairman, permit me to dwell on the case of the African small farmer or, in short, the Third World small farmer. It is he who bears the brunt of food production. The solution to the problem of hunger therefore depends on him. Once he leaves the village for the urban center, he ceases to be a producer; he becomes a consumer and is often unemployed. Rehabilitating the small farmer is therefore avoiding to bring the production machinery to a standstill, and is tantamount to invariably contributing to finding a solution to the food security problem. Whatever the case, Africa's future and well-being are, in many respects, very dependent upon a dynamic and productive agriculture. In other words, it is up to every African country to increase substantially the required resources with a view to enhancing food and agricultural production. The aim here is to enable everyone to have enough food for himself and the money that would enable him to buy the food when necessary. It is, therefore, by launching efficient and realistic agricultural development programmes, and by adopting food security strategies, involving farmers' participation, that we can guarantee our survival. From this perspective, it is imperative to mobilize human and financial resources, given that the success of any agricultural development policy depends on the degree of active participation of the local population concerned, who must be considered as both actors and beneficiaries. At this level, the training of agricultural practitioners and extension technical staff is of immense importance and everything should be done to sustain and reinforce existing training institutions, the training of basic practising farmers on the job, and the specialization of staff and extension facilities at all levels.

Mr Chairman, in the light of the tragic food situation facing Africa, and the level of balance of payments deficits of many of the countries affected by drought, food aid has been a happy alternative because it permits immediate relief to the populations affected. On behalf of my Government, I hereby express the sincere gratitude of Cameroon to all donors for their generosity. The Director-General of the FAO, Dr Saouma, merits special mention for the untiring efforts which he made to sensitize at short notice donor countries on this situation. His efforts enabled the gathering of important food supplies which benefited our countries, and which continue to benefit our countries, during this period of crisis.

The efficiency with which this aid was managed by the World Food Programme must also be underscored. We are satisfied with the impetus given by its Executive Director, Mr Ingram, both in emergency situations and in the form of assistance to development projects, as well as the direction of this Programme whose primary objective is to assist development programmes and those aimed at increasing agricultural production. In this context, special tribute is to be paid to the development of the policy of triangular operations.

The Cameroon Government is convinced that, in order to achieve real food security in countries with food shortages, the implementation of specific programmes, centered on increasing food crop production, remains a priority. Yet sustaining such a strategy requires the mobilization of a considerable amount of financial and technical resources which unfortunately are lacking in the developing countries. In addition to the national effort, the assistance of developed countries and international cooperation will forever remain a necessity in this respect.

The Cameroon Government wishes to take this opportunity to express its gratitude to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and its President, His Excellency Mr Idriss Jazairy, for much appreciated loan funds that are contributing to the realization of specific projects in the agricultural sector in Cameroon. At this level, the problem of reconstituting the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development should be given a lot of attention by the world family of nations.

Mr Chairman, the FAO is our Organization and, as such, it deserves our wholehearted attention. We are convinced that the fight against hunger, misery and malnutrition can be won if one considers the extraordinary scientific and technological breakthroughs that have been achieved. But this objective can only be attained with the cooperation of all men of goodwill.

Long live the FAO! Long live international cooperation!

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to thank His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture of the Cameroon for his statement. Mr Minister, I can assure you that His Excellency Mr Kimo Tabong has made a significant contribution as Chairman of the African Group at FAO.

Perhaps at this stage I could warn you that it would appear that we shall have some time to our credit and it is possible to add an additional speaker to our list of speakers. I am told that His Excellency the Minister of Benin would be prepared to speak this morning and I would therefore ask him to be patient but be present in the room so that when the time comes I will be able to call him to the platform.

I now invite His Excellency Issa Kalantari, Minister for Agriculture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and President of the World Food Council, to come to the rostrum to make his statement.

**Issa KALANTARI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of myself and the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to extend my cordial congratulations to you on your Presidency and wish you success in chairing this outstanding Conference. I hope that this Conference attains its valuable goals and objectives.

I would also like to state the total support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and wish this great Organization ever-increasing success in adopting efficient policies and methods for helping its Member States to improve their production levels in agriculture.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, a glance over the world food situation and the existence of more than hundreds of millions of hungry and poor people are the best witness to this claim that despite the large volume of international aids, the calamity of poverty and hunger still threatens the life of millions of deprived people.

Past experiences reveal the fact that the eradication of hunger can only be achieved through the elimination of poverty.

It is obvious that the campaign against poverty cannot be restricted to the domain of only one organization. It is a great responsibility for everyone, and the activities of international organizations and the developed countries could contribute to its success.

Here I would like to state the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the joint Conference of the FAO and the WHO, which will be convened in the near future, and hope they can make fundamental progress in finding new solutions and forming a consensus for the eradication of poverty.

Excellency, as you are fully aware, the number of deprived countries and the domain of hunger in these countries are critically expanding.

In these countries, agriculture is the foremost economic sector and, unfortunately, is severely affected by natural disasters and internal skirmishes. While appreciating the work carried through by the World Food Programme and the investments made by it, it is expected that the FAO should help these countries to establish sustainable agriculture and gradually move toward self-sufficiency in producing their own food.

Since last year, in a joint effort with the FAO, we have started a study for a sustainable agriculture programme in our Bakhtaran Province which we hope could serve as a case study for the Conference.

Mr Chairman, you are fully aware that many regions of the world, especially the Near East, are facing great difficulties in preserving and developing their soil and water resources: At the same time, the problem of feeding the growing population of the world, which is estimated to reach 8 billion by the year 2020, should be tackled. While highly appreciating the efforts of all the scientists and research centres and networks of the CGIAR system. I would like to ask the FAO and all the other responsible organizations to put more emphasis, especially in financial terms, on strengthening the existing research centres and establishing highly equipped new ones in sufficient numbers. Here I propose the establishment of a new research centre for soil and water conservation for the Near East Region. We are ready to accommodate such a centre in our country which could serve as a foundation for the exchange of new information and extension of advanced technology and know-how to member countries.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, unfortunately, in spite of national activities and international support for the expansion and revitalization of natural resources, we are still witnessing the destruction and degradation of these God-given blessings. This trend would bring about a threatening aftermath in the developing countries. While wishing success for the coming Summit on Environment, I would like to emphasize the need to study the interaction and close connection with environmental protection and food production.

Mr Chairman, as the newly-elected President of the United Nations World Food Council, I look forward to seeing the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the work of this forum and I ask all Member States to support the work of the World Food Council.

Mr Chairman, you are aware that agricultural products are the main exports of the developing countries, through which they can finance their infrastructural requirements to achieve sustainability in their agricultural sectors. But trade figures and trends of the 1980s depict a very gloomy picture contrary to the Third World expectations. It is imperative that the FAO should intervene and urge the negotiators of the Uruguay Round of GATT to work for a successful outcome which could be beneficial to the developing countries.

Finally, while supporting the FAO Information System, I would like to ask the esteemed management of this great institution to increase the budget for technical cooperation projects which could be very helpful for developing countries to benefit from different programmes.

In the first half of our first Five-year national development plan, we have achieved some improvement in our agricultural sector. Herewith, I would like to mention some of our attainments:

Infrastructural operations for preservation of soil and water in approximately 260 000 hectares; adopting the policy of increasing the production and reducing the cereal import; during the present year the amount of cereal import has been decreased by 1.3 million tonnes; different projects in our forestry and rangeland sub-sector including preservation, afforestation, reforestation, sand dune fixation and watershed management, have been executed in about 450 000 hectares; extension of our crop insurance and minimum guaranteed price policies to some other agricultural products.

A general campaign against parasitic diseases in 100 million heads of livestock; milk powder importation which amounted to 30 000 tonnes per year was suspended two years ago and all requirements are provided domestically.

In conclusion, while wishing success for the Session in the realization of its goals, and thanking the organizers, I do hope that each and every one of us shall draw the greatest possible benefits from this valuable opportunity.

**Laurits TORNAES (Denmark):** Mr Chairman, may I congratulate you and the other Members of the Bureau on your election.

I can assure you that the Danish delegation will cooperate with you in bringing this Conference to a successful conclusion.

May I also congratulate and welcome very warmly the newly elected Member States to FAO: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - also Puerto Rico as an Associate Member.

Since the last FAO Conference two years ago, radical changes have taken place on the political and economic scene and the world has become even more interdependent.



The problems of the developing countries remain very serious indeed. In some cases, notably in Africa, they seem almost without solution, and call for considerable efforts both by the countries concerned and by the international community.

The Danish Government is following very closely developments in East and Central Europe: developments which are giving us inspiration to new optimism for our common future.

We have a special obligation to support new democracies in their struggle to establish a solid foundation for their freedom.

We cannot do this merely by declarations. We must provide economic and technical support and we must also be willing to open our markets.

The Danish Government is of the opinion that this great international challenge must be met by FAO.

Variations in harvest from year to year and from one region of the world to another is a reminder to us that agriculture is very dependent on climatic conditions. Even in technologically advanced countries, the climate is an important factor in agriculture.

Agricultural production prospects differ considerably from one country to another. There seems little doubt that at the global level, production can expand to meet effective demand. In spite of this we have started a new decade by having more people than ever hungry. There are an estimated 450 million hungry people living in the developing countries.

Never before have forests all over the world been threatened more than now. Clearance for agriculture, over-cuttings for fuelwood, uncontrolled commercial exploitation, overgrazing, collecting of fodder and degradation and decline from air pollution, fires, pests and diseases are all crucial factors.

There is a great need for fighting these serious problems in a coordinated manner. Especially, integrated agricultural and forestry activities are required.

The last few decades have seen a major change in the orientation of the work of the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. FAO is the UN system's lead agency for food and agriculture and I would like here to underline the importance of FAO expanding its cooperation with other UN agencies and interested parties of the world community.

The Multilateral Trade Negotiations are now entering the decisive phase. After five years of preparation the moment for decision has come. Denmark is fully committed to the objectives of the Punta del Este Declaration. In particular the negotiations must result in further liberalization and expansion of trade through progressive improvements of market access and stronger disciplines on measures affecting trade. The conclusions of the GATT negotiations should also imply that agricultural policies will be more responsive to international market signals and that account will be taken of the interests of the developing countries.

The Danish Government underlines the mutual responsibility we all share to reach a fast and successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations.

In my view migration is a topic which in many respects is closely linked to food security. The magnitude of the migration problem is not fully realized today and the risk of large and accelerated migration will be a problem of still increasing importance.

I raised this issue during the Seventeenth Ministerial session of the United Nations World Food Council, held earlier this year in Elsinore, Denmark, because I am convinced that the importance of this problem, unfortunately, will increase dramatically during the next decade or two.

Many of the millions of men, women and children who are currently facing starvation are refugees or otherwise displaced by war or famine. Migration is becoming an important factor and as a strong, potential influence on the food security situation and on the developmental process in general.

I believe that the UN system - respecting the mandates of the various bodies - should address the relationship between migration and increased agricultural production and food security.

The application from the EC for membership of FAO is one of the most important Items of this Conference. With the transfer of competence in substantial areas within the purview of FAO, it will be a great benefit for FAO to have EC as a member. I hope this issue can be satisfactorily concluded and with a positive impact on other parts of the UN System.

Let me now turn to some of the issues which are on the Agenda for this Conference, and start by referring to the Medium-Term Plan.

In the past, Member Governments have been advocating more influence in the formulation of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget and a sharper setting of priority, coupled with the fading-out of activities which perhaps are no longer of the highest priority.

In the past many of us have been frustrated when the draft Programmes of Work were first seen, because it was then already too late to make any new proposals for substantial changes. Now we see clear improvements in the budget process of this year.

The necessity to have a better focus on priority-setting is related to the economy measures which are being imposed on all national administrations, and which certainly also will have to be applied to international organizations like FAO.

Therefore, the Danish Government very much appreciates the efforts made by FAO to introduce a Medium-Term Plan. The focus of the Organization's work over the next six-year period is now emerging, and Member Governments, in making their comments, can have a much greater influence on the preparation of future work programmes and future priority-setting of the Organization.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the way in which the proposed Programme of Work and Budget has been prepared by the Director-General.

The proposed Programme of Work and Budget has been examined by my Government and, although we would have liked to see an even sharper priority-setting, we are in favour of having this approved by consensus.

The environmental issue in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is a problem which concerns not only individual nations. It is an international issue which does not respect national frontiers.

The fight to ensure freedom from hunger cannot be won unless the planet's natural resources and environment are safeguarded. This is an issue we must solve together through international action.

Denmark is looking toward the UN system, including FAO, for providing the best possible framework for the required cooperation and action.

The improved international political climate provides a unique chance for reforming the UN system. It is imperative that we improve the efficiency and the economic and social impact of UN programmes and give them more focus and greater cohesion.

The Nordic/UN Project, which was submitted in May this year, contains a number of ideas which will hopefully be studied carefully. Furthermore, a DANIDA study on the Effectiveness of Multilateral Agencies at Country Level was published in April. It includes FAO and recommends a more stringent division of labour between the various UN bodies.

The Review process initiated in FAO has contributed to improvements. The Danish Government is, however, of the opinion that a review and reform process should be of an ongoing nature. There is never room for sitting back and relaxing.

Denmark is one of the major contributors to the World Food Programme. In endorsing the new pledging target of US\$1.5 billion, I would like to express my Government's gratitude to the Executive Director, James Ingram, who will retire early next year after 10 years of service to the Programme. During this time a reform of the whole Programme has taken place and WFP is starting in 1992 with a new, strengthened and expanded Governing Body in which we are looking forward to participate.

The Executive Director has played a major role in readjusting the Programme's general regulation to better correspond to the great challenges which are related to the Programme's involvement in food for work and emergency situations. I wish to pay tribute to the leadership Mr Ingram has given to the Programme, and to wish him well in his retirement. I would like also to draw the attention of delegates to the fact that my Government has put forward a competent candidate, Ambassador Ole Lønsmann Poulsen, for the post of Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

Lasting peace can only be achieved if we tackle the growing gap between the rich and the poor nations and the rich and the poor peoples within nations. Agriculture and forestry play together a major role in meeting the basic needs of rural peoples, in reducing poverty and especially in securing the requirements for food and energy. For years we have had lengthy and unproductive debates on who is responsible for the lack of progress in developing countries. It is encouraging to note that recently these debates have been replaced by a much more constructive dialogue, which underlines our shared responsibility.

It is of the utmost importance that there is a growing recognition that development of democratic systems, good governments and respect for human rights are essential for ensuring sustainable development of our common future.

**CHAIRMAN:** I am sure that the Conference will join His Excellency Tornaes in thanking Mr James Ingram for his service as Director of the World Food Programme during the last few years.

**Mama ADAMOU-N'DIAYE (Bénin):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord, de vous féliciter pour votre brillante nomination pour diriger les travaux de la vingt-sixième session de notre Conférence.

Je voudrais dire ma joie et celle de ma délégation de prendre part à cette session et vous prie de transmettre à Son Excellence, M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, et à travers lui à toute la FAO, le satisfecit du Gouvernement du Bénin que préside Son Excellence, M. Nicéphore Soglo, pour le travail réalisé au cours de ces deux dernières années.

Les thèmes variés sur lesquels se penchera notre conférence et au nombre desquels ma délégation retient essentiellement: La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, les activités de la forêt en matière d'environnement et de développement durable, l'aide aux pays les moins avancés en vue de définir une stratégie du développement agricole, le plan d'action pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement agricole, et j'en passe, me donne une occasion toute particulière, de faire part ici des préoccupations avec l'aide de la FAO et d'autres partenaires au développement, bilatéraux ou multilatéraux.

Après 30 ans et plus d'indépendance, de tâtonnement d'espoir, mais surtout d'échec réitérés dans la définition et la mise en oeuvre de stratégies de développement, beaucoup de pays africains et particulièrement ceux au Sud du Sahara se trouvent dans une situation critique. En effet, après la période de 1960 à 1972 où l'Afrique a connu une certaine prospérité qui s'est matérialisée notamment dans une élévation de revenu par habitant, la période de 1973 à 1980 a été, quant à elle, marquée par la stagnation de l'économie de nombre d'Etats.

Depuis 1981, le déclin s'est accentué et, en dehors de certaines zones, l'africain est généralement moins loti qu'avant les années 1960.

Le cas de mon pays constitue un exemple édifiant. Sans trop vouloir m'étendre outre mesure sur les causes de cette situation, je dois citer cependant: la baisse vertigineuse des cours des matières premières; la dégradation des structures économiques et financières; la confiscation du pouvoir politique, de tous les pouvoirs politiques par une minorité de citoyens sous la bannière d'un parti unique; dans le secteur agricole considéré à juste titre comme la base du développement économique, on s'est plutôt contenté de déclarations d'intention sans apporter les appuis nécessaires à un réel décollage économique.

Aussi, le secteur rural souffre-t-il aujourd'hui de nombreux maux dont les plus marquants sont: la faible productivité du secteur liée aux techniques et aux conditions de production; la faible performance des structures d'encadrement; la dégradation du patrimoine naturel par les feux de brousse

et par des systèmes de production peu appropriés qui engendrent les pertes de forêts de plus de cent mille hectares par an contre un reboisement de 3 000 ha sur la même période; la non-intégration des diverses spéculations ou actions et les conflits permanents et parfois violents entre les différents producteurs; la marginalisation des producteurs dans la conception des programmes de développement et la préparation généralement insuffisante pour la prise en charge par eux-mêmes dans un avenir raisonnable, de leurs propres affaires; les difficultés d'écoulement des produits agricoles à cause du mauvais état des voies de communication et de la mauvaise organisation des marchés intérieurs, à la méconnaissance des marchés extérieurs et à l'absence de transformation; la faiblesse des revenus agricoles liée essentiellement à des techniques agricoles peu performantes, à l'inexistence de technologies appropriées pour la transformation et la conservation et à une diversification agricole insuffisante.

Mais depuis le début d'année 1990 et plus particulièrement depuis l'historique Conférence des Forces Vives de la Nation tenue à Cotonou du 19 au 28 février 1990, la nécessité d'un changement nouveau en vue de redresser l'économie en donnant force et vigueur à l'agriculture qui représente aujourd'hui 40 pour cent de produit intérieur brut et qui procure des revenus à plus de 70 pour cent des ménages, a été réaffirmée.

C'est pourquoi dans ce secteur vital, le Programme d'Action du Gouvernement vise à: relever le niveau de vie des populations rurales en accroissant les revenus et en améliorant les services; accroître les recettes d'exportation en améliorant la capacité de production et la diversification des produits; redéfinir le rôle de l'Etat dans le développement rural afin de rendre les ruraux et leurs organisations suffisamment maîtres de leur destinée; rationaliser la gestion des ressources naturelles dans l'esprit d'un contrat de solidarité avec les générations futures; améliorer la capacité de gestion des exploitations et favoriser l'organisation des producteurs en structures autonomes grâce à leur alphabétisation fonctionnelle; encourager la transformation des produits agricoles en milieu rural et élargir le rôle du secteur privé dans la commercialisation des produits; accroître les stocks alimentaires dans les zones rurales en améliorant les systèmes de stockage en vue de limiter la détérioration et les pertes des produits; renforcer le système de détection rapide de déficits éventuels et lutter ainsi contre l'insécurité alimentaire; et dynamiser la recherche agricole en la rendant plus opérationnelle et plus proche des producteurs.

C'est le lieu de dire toute la gratitude du peuple béninois à l'endroit de la FAO et de tous les partenaires au développement dont je ne voudrais pas ici citer les noms tant la liste est longue et qui ont permis au Bénin de mettre en chantier des actions qui façonnent son devenir. Il s'agit de: la nouvelle stratégie de développement rural dont les objectifs principaux visent à élever le niveau de vie des populations rurales par le biais d'une conquête des marchés et d'une amélioration de la compétitivité du paysan béninois plutôt que la recherche d'une simple autosuffisance régionale ou nationale; la restructuration des services agricoles afin de les rendre plus opérationnels avec les coûts de fonctionnement plus réduits; la préparation d'un plan d'action environnemental, d'un plan d'action forestier et d'un programme de gestion de ressources naturelles dans le cadre d'un développement durable et participatif des communautés rurales; la mise en place de système d'information et d'alerte rapide et l'amélioration des infrastructures de stockage villageois, comme moyens de prévenir les famines et les pénuries alimentaires.

Je voudrais aborder deux autres questions préoccupantes de l'heure auxquelles s'attèle le Gouvernement de mon pays grâce au soutien des institutions internationales concernant les femmes et les jeunes.

Les femmes au Bénin dépassent du point de vue de leur effectif, plus de 51 pour cent de la population. Elles sont prédominantes dans tous les secteurs d'activité de la vie économique, aussi bien dans le secteur primaire que tertiaire.

La femme rurale en particulier reste le pilier de l'agriculture béninoise, depuis l'amont jusqu'en aval de la production en passant par les activités domestiques et surtout les corvées d'eau qui sont les plus importantes.

La femme rurale béninoise, en assurant ainsi ses fonctions de mère, de ménagère et de productrice doit travailler de manière rude au moins pendant quatorze heures par jour. Ce qui est loin de l'ennoblir, et l'avilit plutôt. C'est pourquoi, les efforts du gouvernement au cours des prochaines années, viseront à réduire la pénibilité des activités de la femme surtout rurale en vue de sa meilleure intégration au processus de développement, à sa promotion sociale et à son épanouissement.

Il est souhaitable que l'attention particulière que la FAO et les autres partenaires ont manifesté à l'égard de la femme rurale béninoise ces derniers temps soit plus soutenue au cours des années à venir.

De la même façon, le délabrement économique et social de mon pays a eu pour conséquence sur la jeunesse les difficultés d'insertion dans la vie active, faute d'emplois. Ici encore, l'attention spéciale qui sera accordée à cette couche sociale ne sera effective, du moins à court et moyen termes que si les conditions de leur retour aux activités du secteur primaire sont réunies étant entendu que c'est le secteur à coefficient d'emplois le plus élevé sur lequel il faut avant tout compter pour régler la crise de l'emploi au Bénin.

En attendant que les programmes de formation plus adaptés et en adéquation avec le contexte social, culturel et économique soient mis en oeuvre, certaines mesures sont prises pour la création de centres de promotion rurale, véritable creuset où se forment, au contact de la réalité vivante, des jeunes diplômés sans emplois et jeunes déscolarisés qu'il faut à tout prix récupérer dans le tissu économique.

La résolution de ce problème d'emploi et ceux qui se posent à l'agriculture d'une manière générale, passe nécessairement par celle de la réforme agraire et foncière qui en 1991, revêt un caractère plus pressant après les inondations que le Bénin vient de connaître et qui n'ont apporté aux braves populations de toutes les régions du pays que la désolation, la famine et la misère.

Il est évident que le Bénin, qui est un petit pays, ne peut rebâtir durablement son économie et développer correctement son agriculture sans l'appui de toute la communauté internationale.

C'est pourquoi, du haut de cette tribune, je voudrais une fois encore remercier à travers la FAO tous les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux qui, aujourd'hui plus qu'hier et demain mieux qu'aujourd'hui, sont et

seront aux côtés du Bénin solidement engagés dans la démocratie, le développement et la paix, pour le relèvement du défi de son économie et notamment de son agriculture.

**Dansala BAMBE (Tchad):** Les présentes assises auxquelles mon pays à l'honneur de participer se tiennent à peine un mois après que nous ayons célébré la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation et le 40ème Anniversaire de notre organisation.

C'est dans un contexte mondial particulièrement prometteur, tant du point de vue de la paix que de la liberté retrouvée que s'inscrit cette vingt-sixième Session. L'espoir qui nous anime est à la dimension de l'enjeu que représente un monde débarrassé de toute crainte dans lequel les peuples oeuvreront enfin à concrétiser les maîtres-mots que sont la coopération, l'interdépendance, la solidarité.

Mon pays qui a vécu, comme vous le savez, une longue période de dictature retrouve, à la faveur du nouveau régime intervenu le 1er décembre de l'année dernière, un nouveau souffle que le Gouvernement et le Mouvement patriotique du salut mettent à profit pour redonner au peuple tchadien la joie de la liberté, le goût du travail et la confiance en l'avenir.

C'est dire en d'autres termes que les préoccupations qui sont celles de notre Organisation depuis sa création et dont on ne peut souligner assez la noblesse, puisque vouées au service de l'honneur, retrouvent ainsi leur caractère prioritaire dans la politique de mon pays.

L'autosuffisance alimentaire ne doit pas être seulement une vaine expression comme l'ont été pendant longtemps les mots de liberté et de démocratie. Qui peut imaginer qu'en 1991 elles deviendraient réalité?

La misère est grande et la famine est partout dans le tiers monde. Le défi est de taille mais le contexte mondial est favorable. Les peuples affamés nous interpellent. Aurons-nous un jour la volonté politique de faire en sorte que la famine ne soit plus qu'un épisode dans l'histoire de l'humanité?

Mon pays rencontre les difficultés qui sont celles de la plupart des pays du Sahel, menacés par l'avancée du désert mais continuant à utiliser des moyens rudimentaires qui appauvrissent davantage le sol et détruisent l'environnement. Mais c'est notre seule arme pour continuer à assurer notre économie de subsistance.

Vous comprenez qu'il nous faut redoubler, voire multiplier d'imagination pour trouver de nouvelles voies en-dehors des sentiers battus.

De profondes mutations sont en train de s'opérer sous nos yeux entraînant une atmosphère de liberté et de démocratie partout dans le monde. Mais rien de tout cela ne peut être pleinement réussi tant que le fléau de la faim continuera à sévir dans l'immense partie de notre planète.

Nous sommes de l'opinion que l'Alimentaire restera toujours la pierre angulaire du passage à cet ordre nouveau.

Paradoxalement, et peut être par négligence ou par souci d'autres intérêts, les ressources que nous consacrons à cet idéal sont des plus réduites. La FAO qui est l'Organisation mondiale au service de cette grande cause humaine, traverse une crise de ressources sans précédent. Mon pays est très sensible à cette dégradation et souhaite vivement un redressement rapide de la situation.

Nous avons besoin d'une FAO forte pour appuyer les ambitions des pays qui s'activent à mettre en place les programmes d'autosuffisance alimentaire respectueux de l'environnement en même temps que générateurs d'emploi, de revenus et de synergies tant à l'échelon local que régional.

Le Gouvernement du Tchad souscrit entièrement à une telle politique et maintient résolument son engagement à instituer un ordre juridico-politique basé sur le multipartisme pour permettre toutes les formes d'expression.

Cela va imposer un processus soutenu d'ajustement de tout genre, le monde rural qui porte, presque à lui seul le poids de notre économie jouera pleinement et librement son rôle, avec sans doute plus d'efficacité que par le passé. Le Gouvernement pour sa part, est confiant de pouvoir compter comme d'habitude sur la présence à ses côtés de la FAO afin de soutenir avec les moyens appropriés l'effort de notre peuple pour assurer son alimentation et promouvoir son développement.

La route est longue et dure. Nous ne nous faisons pas d'illusions, mais nous croyons en notre Organisation. Tant qu'un enfant pleurera de faim, tant qu'une seule mère pleurera ses espoirs déçus nous devons conjuguer et poursuivre nos efforts afin de balayer la misère de ce monde une fois pour toute.

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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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(12 November 1991)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES  
(continuación)

Greece, Liban, France, Korea (Republic of), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Latvia, Czechoslovakia, India, Estonia, Hungary, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, the House is brought to order. Our first speaker this afternoon is His Excellency, Mr Sotiris Hadzigakis, the Minister of Agriculture of Greece.

**Sotiris HADZIGAKIS (Greece):** May I offer you, Sir, my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Conference. My congratulations also go to the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

The radical political, economic and social developments which occurred in the late '80s and early '90s, produced severe economic shocks and disturbances, shaping future developments.

In that respect, two of the most important events could be underlined:

First, the rapid socio-political and economic developments, together with the reform efforts occurred in the Eastern European Countries and the Soviet Union.

Second, the equally important evolutions in the European Communities, that is, the developments toward the integration of internal market, the monetary, economic (and lastly political) union, as well as the recently concluded agreement on the European Economic Space.

In my opinion, the most striking characteristics of the current decade could be summarized into the increasing interdependence among the various national economies on the one hand and the entering into a period of increased instability and uncertainty on the other.

The climate of the reduced confrontation and of political dialogue between the two Super-Powers gives a very promising message. New and broader perspectives are open to the achievement of better and closer international relations based upon the respect of international law and of human rights.

We welcome the initiative of the Director-General in submitting to the Conference a very comprehensive and excellent document on the Medium-Term Plan, concerning the strategic orientations of the Organization during the next six-year period, a work worthy to receive our congratulations.

However, the persistence of problems in the agricultural sector and the need to strengthen the role of FAO toward the promotion and the achievement of sustainable agricultural development leads us to the budgetary question.

We support the proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93.

Let us face the present situation with realism and in particular with political will. We appreciate and welcome the efforts of the Director-General aiming at reconciling various positions in order to permit the fulfilment of the main objective. This objective should lead to a consensus approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

I have also noted the concern of various Member States favouring a higher growth, and we understand their disappointment and frustration. However, let us take into account the efforts of the Director-General, showing at the same time a spirit of solidarity which will enable this Conference to give its final approval to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

In the same context, may I underline our collective responsibility toward providing FAO with the necessary means to accomplish its mission.

Although in 1990 and 1991 the overall economic activity slowed down in all regions, the prospects for 1992 seem to be more promising. The rate of growth is expected to recover in both industrialized and developing countries. However, the economic performance continues to vary significantly among the countries. The situation is still far from being satisfactory and there are not any sound prospects toward a radical improvement. This is true especially for the weakest national economies.

Inevitably, this situation has profound impacts on agriculture. In this respect, I should like to draw your attention to three inter-related general issues, which, in our view, will be of top priority during the current decade.

First, the poverty alleviation and, thus, the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

Second, the promotion of structural agricultural adjustment toward more market-oriented agricultural policies.

And third, the achievement of sustainable agricultural development and the conservation of the environment.

On the above points, special attention should be given to the needs and problems of the Least Developed Countries, where poverty and underdevelopment continue to be the most acute problem. Although there is an ample food supply at global level, the problem of hunger and malnutrition affects already 500 million people. Furthermore, it is estimated that, at the end of the decade, the number of undernourished people will be increased.

Concerted action at national and international level is needed. At national level, there is a need to define and implement policies favouring agriculture, aiming at promoting structural adjustment and economic growth with equity and developing human resources and institutions.

At international level, action should be undertaken to resolve the problem of indebtedness, improve the market access of LDCs products to developed countries, and effect the transfer of resources and technical assistance.

To this end, we would like to point out that any relevant strategy to be followed has to be adapted to the specific conditions prevailing in various countries.

Of course, structural adjustment in agricultural policies has to be promoted not only through the developing countries but also through the developed ones. Several countries have already proceeded in that direction. It is well-known for instance, that EEC is, at present, under way in reforming the CAP.

In that respect, we think that the promotion of the necessary changes could be facilitated by a balanced conclusion of the GATT negotiations.

In the framework of the Uruguay Round, agriculture constitutes one of the most important and difficult issues. But we should underline the fact that it is not the only issue where the views and the aims of the participants differ substantially.

Despite the difficulties faced at various levels, we hope that the negotiations will be concluded successfully, and undoubtedly this will be an important landmark. In the medium-term, it will determine not only the future of agricultural trade, but it will also shape the framework of implementing agricultural policies and the way that the following objectives might be achieved: support of the agricultural income; contribution of agriculture to the general economic development; protection of consumers, regarding the supply and other economic matters on one side and public health on the other; protection of the environment, etc.

Let me turn to the third important and relatively new issue: the need for environmental conservation, which is under consideration in international agenda more and more often.

Obviously, agricultural activities are mostly dependent upon environmental conditions and, conversely, may cause certain impacts on environment. The problem of environmental protection and rational management of natural resources should be considered in the light of the degradation caused to the environment, as well as of the despoiling exploitation of natural productive resources. Increasingly, agricultural forestry and environmental objectives must be pursued simultaneously in the context of integrated policy approaches.

In this respect, we welcome the work already done by the FAO Secretariat and we are fully convinced that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, now under preparation for 1992, will proceed to useful recommendations.

It has been recognized that the role of women in the development of society is imperative and of the utmost importance.

Therefore, the stimulation of rural women for action is of particular importance. The social and cultural activities of rural women must be promoted side by side with the cultural development of the rural areas. This is very important because rural women must realize that they belong to the society of the community in which they live.

Having the above in mind, we believe that it should be recommended that specific measures should be introduced for, among others:

Drawing up new programmes and re-adaptation of their control concerning women.

Adaptation and transfer of the appropriate technology to the farm household which will enable women to have free time.

Application of social supporting measures, such as nurseries, education, health centres, etc.

Our ability to respond positively to the severe problems we are facing depends critically on our willingness to reinforce the existing international institutions and the multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

In this regard, FAO, as one of the major international organizations specializing in the promotion of agricultural development and cooperation, continues to play an important role. Therefore, the support, encouragement and enhancement of FAO activities and orientation are, in our view, indispensable.

**Mohsen DALLOUL (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Permettez-moi, M. le Président, au début de mon intervention de vous présenter au nom du Gouvernement libanais mes félicitations les plus sincères pour votre élection à la présidence de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, et de vous souhaiter le succès dans votre mission et la réussite des travaux de la Conférence.

Je suis heureux également d'exprimer mon appréciation et ma reconnaissance à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de l'Organisation, pour les efforts déployés au service de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde, particulièrement dans les pays en développement, et pour son action visant à rassembler les pays membres autour des projets vitaux pour l'Organisation.

Nous apprécions la réalisation importante des organes de la FAO au cours des deux dernières années, où ils ont aidé de nombreux pays en développement, dont le Liban, à faire face aux difficultés et aux catastrophes naturelles qui les ont frappés.

Vous êtes sans doute conscients qu'il est de plus en plus pressant de développer les services de l'Organisation.

Cependant, ce qui a attiré notre attention dans le programme proposé pour les deux prochaines années est l'absence de toute augmentation du budget. Nous sommes convaincus qu'une croissance zéro du budget réduira le champ d'action de la FAO et ne pourra satisfaire les besoins urgents des pays en développement.

Nul doute que l'Organisation traverse la crise financière la plus grave depuis sa création. Cela est dû en premier lieu au fait que certains pays ne s'acquittent pas à temps de leurs contributions. Je profite donc de cette occasion pour inviter tous les pays qui ne se sont pas encore acquittés de leurs obligations financières à le faire, afin que l'Organisation puisse exécuter les programmes.

J'aimerais dire, et j'en suis fier, que le Liban, malgré la crise qu'il traverse, a réglé toutes les contributions à la FAO, y compris celle due au titre de l'année 1991.

Cette situation financière a obligé l'Organisation à puiser dans les fonds de roulement et le Compte de réserve spécial, et à emprunter auprès des institutions financières, supportant ainsi des intérêts qu'elle ne pouvait éviter. A cet égard, il me paraît important d'exprimer notre accord avec les propositions du Directeur général portant sur l'augmentation du Fonds de roulement et du Compte de réserve spécial pour lui permettre de poursuivre l'exécution des programmes prévus en attendant que les pays membres règlent leurs arriérés.

Le PCT, créé il y a 15 ans, a prouvé son utilité et son efficacité. Ce programme a permis à l'Organisation d'agir rapidement afin d'aider de nombreux pays victimes de catastrophes naturelles, ou se trouvant dans des situations urgentes non prévues dans le budget. Nous réaffirmons notre appui à ce programme et la nécessité d'augmenter les fonds qui lui sont affectés et de lui donner la priorité dans les programmes de l'Organisation et son nouveau budget.

Des facilités financières, le règlement des arriérés, le maintien du facteur d'abattement pour mouvements de personnel tel que proposé par le Directeur général et le développement des capacités matérielles de l'Organisation sont nécessaires et vitaux si l'on veut que la FAO continue d'attirer les compétences dans les domaines scientifiques, garde ses techniciens et limite leur migration vers des institutions plus généreuses. Car la compétence scientifique du personnel est le souffle de vie qui anime l'Organisation, sans lequel il n'y a point de vie.

Ma participation aux travaux de cette Conférence et la contribution libanaise continue aux réalisations de la FAO confirment notre respect des principes suivants:

L'engagement du Liban envers les Organisations des Nations Unies, dont il a été un des membres fondateurs, tout comme il a été membre fondateur de nombreuses organisations internationales qui en ont émané. Le Liban est un pays épris de paix, respectueux de la légalité internationale qu'il a toujours oeuvré à soutenir et à promouvoir.

L'engagement continu envers la FAO, la foi en son rôle dans le développement de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement et la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire ainsi que la protection de l'environnement. Nous sommes convaincus que la meilleure voie reste la coopération internationale et l'aide basée sur les principes humanitaires, pour plus de justice dans la communauté internationale. La FAO doit jouer un rôle de pionnier pour affirmer cette réalité et garantir sa pérennité.

Le Liban et la Région arabe vivent un moment historique qui pourrait déboucher sur la paix et la prospérité si Israël abandonnera position intransigeante dans l'occupation des territoires arabes et son ignorance des droits légitimes des peuples de la région et tout particulièrement du peuple palestinien. Si le monde arabe parvient à sortir de l'état de confrontation, de guerre et d'oppression qui prévaut actuellement, les efforts et les moyens matériels énormes consacrés depuis 45 ans à l'effort militaire seraient utilisés à des fins de développement. Mon pays pourra

mieux soutenir les efforts de développement dans des pays frères qui ont besoin d'aide.

Je viens du Liban, qui sort de l'enfer d'une guerre destructrice qui a ravagé son territoire, et qui a payé pendant 16 ans le prix exorbitant des conflits internationaux et régionaux qui l'ont déchiré, ont dilapidé ses richesses et détruit son infrastructure. Depuis l'accord de Taef qui a annoncé la fin de la guerre au Liban et jeté les bases de la constitution de la deuxième République, le Gouvernement d'union nationale a entrepris de réhabiliter les secteurs des services et des productions de base. L'agriculture était en tête de ces préoccupations, même si les moyens existants restent en deçà des ambitions et des besoins.

Les conséquences de la guerre ont imposé à l'agriculture libanaise de nouvelles orientations. Il est de plus en plus urgent de combler le fossé entre la production locale et les besoins alimentaires. Nous ne pouvons accepter de continuer à être obligés d'importer 85 pour cent de nos besoins alimentaires alors qu'une partie importante de notre production agricole s'entasse faute de marchés extérieurs. L'infrastructure de l'agriculture libanaise a subi des dommages très graves. Les libanais désertent le secteur de l'agriculture, car il a perdu de sa viabilité économique.

Le chômage a aussi augmenté. Les besoins alimentaires sont de plus en plus pressants, et nous en sommes arrivés à une situation dramatique où nous voyons des exploitations agricoles sans ouvriers, et des ouvriers sans exploitations agricoles.

L'agriculteur libanais a été abandonné faisant face, seul, aux exigences de son activité et aux besoins en alimentation. L'agriculteur libanais a dû combattre l'inflation, importer les matières premières en devises, et se contenter de vendre sa production en monnaie nationale. Il a été exposé aux dangers de l'occupation et de la destruction, il a souffert de l'absence de projets d'irrigation, de l'inexistence de crédits agricoles, de la concurrence des produits importés sans contrôle, et il a été tenté de se tourner vers des cultures prohibées, qui promettaient de meilleurs revenus même si elles étaient en totale contradiction avec son histoire, sa foi et ses engagements sociaux et humains.

Le Gouvernement libanais tente de faire face à cette réalité difficile dont les effets néfastes dépassent les frontières du Liban, en coopération avec les organisations internationales spécialisées, auxquelles nous fournissons le soutien nécessaire, et dont nous attendons une aide efficace pour la réhabilitation du secteur agricole et de son infrastructure.

Nous plaçons nos espoirs dans le Fonds arabe et international pour la reconstruction du Liban, et dans le soutien direct des pays amis ayant les moyens de nous aider.

Notre vision du développement agricole au Liban est centrée sur le développement des capacités des petits agriculteurs, l'amélioration de leur niveau de vie, et les conseils que nous leur fournissons pour une exploitation planifiée des richesses de leur milieu naturel. Les agriculteurs dans le besoin constituent près du quart de la population du Liban. Il est nécessaire de dépasser l'aide immédiate pour exécuter des projets de développement seuls capables d'assurer une agriculture durable, de protéger l'agriculteur contre toute forme d'exploitation commerciale, de le maintenir dans ses terres et d'éviter l'exode vers les ceintures de



misère qui s'étendent à la périphérie des villes et se transforment en foyers de troubles et en terrain propice aux politiques et aux idéologies extrémistes qui laissent leur empreinte sur l'ensemble de la communauté internationale. Ce problème n'est plus une affaire purement locale. Les préoccupations sont complexes et complémentaires. Il est nécessaire d'entreprendre un effort international pour assurer la stabilité de la société rurale au Liban. Nous nous adressons à la FAO et à tous les pays qui le peuvent, pour nous fournir une aide et soutenir ces orientations humanitaires.

Notre participation aux travaux de cette Conférence confirme que le Liban a dépassé la crise, et contrairement à ce que beaucoup ont pensé au cours de ces années noires, le destin du Liban est de vivre, et son message de durer.

Que la paix soit sur vous.

**Louis MERMAZ (France):** La Conférence générale est donc l'occasion, tous les deux ans, pour les Ministres de l'agriculture des Etats Membres de l'Organisation de faire le point sur l'évolution de la situation agricole et alimentaire dans le monde et d'échanger bien sûr informations et expériences pour tenter d'améliorer la situation générale.

Le rapport présenté à ce sujet par le Secrétariat de la FAO pour cette vingt-sixième Conférence générale contient, hélas, plus de motifs d'inquiétude que de satisfaction.

La croissance de la production alimentaire et agricole mondiale s'est ralentie en 1990 et cette tendance risque de se confirmer pour 1991, et dans ce tableau d'ensemble c'est dans les pays en développement que le tassement a été le plus sensible.

Dans un même temps, si les échanges de produits agricoles sont restés soutenus dans les pays développés, ils ont été plutôt déprimés dans les autres. Et des situations de grave pénurie alimentaire se prolongent dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique mais également d'Asie et d'Amérique du Sud.

Le ralentissement de l'économie mondiale explique pour une part cette situation. Depuis le milieu de 1989, il a touché tous les continents avant d'être aggravé par la guerre du Golfe. Les pays en développement en ont souffert plus que d'autres car, tandis que les prix de l'énergie et des produits manufacturés ont augmenté, le cours des matières premières, notamment alimentaires, s'est effondré et, comme on le voit, les seules voies du marché ne sauraient faire le bonheur de l'humanité.

Le cours mondial du blé a chuté de plus de moitié en 16 mois, celui de nombreux produits tropicaux a poursuivi son mouvement à la baisse.

Les termes de l'échange se dégradent encore, la dette des pays en développement loin de s'alléger pèse plus lourdement encore sur leur possibilité d'investissements, donc de croissance.

Mais au-delà de la situation économique et de l'évolution des échanges, nous savons bien que le problème de fond réside aujourd'hui dans le face-à-face entre les agricultures des pays développés soutenues par des concours publics et agriculture exportatrice d'excédents et les

agricultures des pays en développement qui non seulement ne bénéficient pas de soutiens financiers publics, mais bien souvent sont soumises à des prélèvements sous des formes diverses en vue de financer le développement des autres secteurs de l'économie. Sans compter les déséquilibres dans les termes des échanges internationaux qui tendent à se développer dangereusement.

Alors comment passer du constat, sur lequel nous pourrions être largement d'accord, à des propositions de solution et à l'action?

Nous entendons beaucoup dire que la solution aux problèmes du développement serait dans la libéralisation complète des échanges et que les entraves existantes seraient la cause de tous nos maux, particulièrement celles qui résultent des soutiens publics à l'agriculture dans les pays dits développés.

Mais comment ne pas songer au fait que l'argent investi en agriculture rapporte infiniment moins que l'argent investi dans les autres activités humaines et que, s'il n'y avait pas dans les pays dits développés ce soutien là, l'activité agricole risquerait là aussi de régresser rapidement. Oui, nous sommes pour la libéralisation des échanges et une plus grande ouverture des marchés mondiaux. Pas seulement ceux des produits agricoles, bien entendu. Mais nous voulons nous méfier des panacées universelles. Je rappellerai en particulier que le commerce mondial des produits agricoles ne représente qu'une partie, somme toute modeste, de la production agricole mondiale.

Il représente, ce commerce international, selon les produits concernés, de 5 à 20 pour cent de la production, le reste étant consommé dans les régions de production même.

De plus, le commerce mondial est extrêmement concentré aujourd'hui. Il est réalisé, pour les principaux produits exportés, par un petit nombre de pays exportateurs et par un petit nombre de sociétés de négoce. Il faut donc s'interroger sur ce que nous voulons libéraliser. S'il s'agit de donner une plus large place aux produits des pays en développement et, j'insiste, aux produits des pays en développement, alors là, je serai d'accord.

La Communauté économique européenne est d'ailleurs le premier importateur au monde de produits agro-alimentaires. Elle fait des efforts pour assurer des conditions d'accès préférentielles aux produits des pays en développement sur le marché communautaire. Le Commissaire Mac Sharry aura sans doute l'occasion d'y revenir; aussi me contenterai-je de rappeler que nous sommes fiers d'avoir signé les accords de Lomé et de les avoir renouvelés. Nous sommes fiers d'avoir signé les accords avec les pays ACP (Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique), les accords avec les pays méditerranéens. C'est insuffisant, me direz-vous et c'est vrai, mais la CEE importe deux fois plus de produits agricoles en provenance des pays en développement qu'elle ne leur en vend, ce qui est loin d'être la vérité pour l'ensemble des pays dits industrialisés.

Notre attitude constructive dans les négociations du GATT prouve que nous sommes d'ailleurs prêts à améliorer encore les choses. Mais nous sommes aussi persuadés que ce ne serait pas en ruinant les agriculteurs d'Europe que l'on assurerait le salut de ceux des pays en développement. Le libéralisme économique qu'on appelle sauvage, a conduit à la ruine de secteurs entiers de l'agriculture, et dans certains pays développés et dans

les pays en développement. Nous devons tous ensemble réfléchir à ce phénomène. Mon collègue libanais l'évoquait il y a quelques instants devant moi.

La lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim passe par un effort concerté entre pays riches et pauvres, notamment au sein de la FAO pour mobiliser les moyens nécessaires et assurer leur bonne utilisation.

S'agissant des moyens, il faut naturellement, en premier lieu, alléger le poids de l'endettement extérieur sur les économies des pays les plus pauvres. De ce point de vue, la France a réalisé un effort et cet effort n'aura de sens que s'il a valeur d'entraînement pour les autres. La France a réalisé, en effet, un effort considérable en 1990 en annulant 3,3 milliards de dollars de créances sur les pays les plus endettés, sur un total de 4,9 milliards de dollars de remises de dettes consenties par l'ensemble des pays créditeurs au cours de cette même année.

En même temps, la France a décidé, lors du Sommet franco-africain de la Baule, d'intervenir uniquement sous forme de dons et non plus de prêts, au bénéfice des pays les plus pauvres, et d'augmenter d'ici à l'an 2000 la part de son produit national brut consacré à l'aide publique au développement. Beaucoup d'autres pays européens, d'ailleurs, entendent s'engager dans la même voie. Autant que l'importance des moyens mis en oeuvre comptent le cadre et la méthode avec lesquels on agit. C'est pourquoi mon pays, certain que le laissez-faire, laissez-aller n'est pas une réponse satisfaisante aux problèmes du développement, - il y a des valeurs communes et des valeurs communautaires qu'il faut préserver et promouvoir - apporte son soutien à la coopération régionale mise en oeuvre par certains Etats. C'est le cas, par exemple, du Programme de coopération lancé à Dakar en mars 1991, programme qui regroupe 14 Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre avec lesquels nous entendons travailler activement.

C'est dans la même perspective que nous avons organisé, en septembre de cette année, à Paris, avec le concours actif de la FAO, le Congrès forestier mondial qui a placé au centre de ses travaux la question du développement.

Je voudrais enfin indiquer que, si les raisons d'être inquiet ne manquent pas, les motifs d'un optimisme raisonné et la volonté de dynamisme ne sont pas absents de notre réflexion collective. Les progrès de la démocratie à travers le monde, à l'Est de l'Europe, bien sûr, mais aussi en Afrique ou en Amérique du Sud, constituent une raison majeure de croire que les problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté pourront être peu à peu surmontés. Plus encore que les perspectives de reprise économique annoncée pour 1992, la mobilisation des peuples pour prendre en main leurs affaires contribuera à l'émergence des solutions. De ce point de vue, les bouleversements en Europe centrale et en Europe orientale ne doivent pas être perçus comme une menace par les pays du Sud; ceux-ci ne doivent pas craindre une perte d'intérêt des pays du Nord ou une réorientation des moyens. Cette crainte n'est pas fondée et c'est au contraire la possibilité de fonder un nouvel ordre international, échappant à la logique des blocs, qui nous permettra de faire des économies et de faire plus pour le développement des pays du monde entier.

Dans le domaine qui est le sien, la FAO constitue un lieu d'échanges et d'action fort utile pour mener à bien cette vaste tâche. C'est pourquoi je me félicite de la volonté de la FAO d'élargir l'horizon de ses actions en

mettant en place une programmation pluriannuelle, et de sa volonté de rénover ses méthodes de travail en favorisant la pluridisciplinarité. Je veux rendre hommage à l'action de M. Saouma, le Directeur général. Je souhaite donc que la proposition de budget correspondant à ces orientations puisse être adoptée par consensus.

La FAO constitue pour nous un instrument irremplaçable de coopération multilatérale dans les domaines de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. La France se félicite tout particulièrement de l'organisation, en 1992, par la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, d'une Conférence sur la nutrition car cela me semble aller dans le sens de ce que doivent faire ensemble les organisations internationales.

Je voudrais également réaffirmer au Secrétariat de la FAO que nous appuierons tous les efforts qu'il fera pour que soient prises en compte les politiques forestières développées à travers le monde et les recommandations adoptées lors du dernier Congrès forestier mondial.

Enfin, je souhaite - et mon pays souhaite - qu'une solution soit trouvée permettant de donner à la Communauté européenne en tant que telle la place qu'elle mérite au sein de notre Organisation où elle peut constituer un élément d'équilibre. Je souhaite qu'elle puisse être membre de la FAO à hauteur des compétences internationales qui sont les siennes. Les problèmes de la pauvreté et de la faim dans le monde, pour nous, démocrates, ne sont pas une fatalité; ils pourront être résolus mais ils ne le seront, si nous le voulons tous ensemble, que par une action volontaire et concertée de la communauté internationale.

**Cho KYONG-SHIK (Korea, Republic of):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure and privilege to address this august body and to share my delegation's views on some of the important issues facing us in the field of world food and agriculture on the occasion of the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference.

At the outset I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your three Vice-Chairmen on your unanimous election to steer the deliberations of this important Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able guidance this session will produce fruitful and rewarding achievements.

Prospects for world food and agriculture are currently facing a serious challenge. First of all the political changes in Eastern European countries raise new food problems and many Asian and African countries are still experiencing food shortages. In addition many delegations from food importing developing countries are concerned about their food security because it is becoming more difficult to secure basic foodstuffs due to external debts and the new international political environment. On the other hand, developed countries are critical of soil destruction from the massive chemical uses. They are also more concerned about the environment and the sustainability of agriculture. Under these conflicting problems of surplus and hunger as well as the problems of productivity and environment, the Uruguay Round of negotiations on agricultural reform has been under way for the last five years. My delegation sincerely hopes that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations should be successfully completed. We also hope that it could provide new international standards in dealing with food and agricultural problems. We all know that there have been

distortions and inefficiencies in world agriculture markets. Excessive export subsidies and various support measures imposed by some developed countries have been incurring distortions in resource allocation.

In the long run, market principles should prevail in world agriculture and the Uruguay Round negotiations should be based on these principles.

Mr Chairman, however, we should not overlook the inherent features of agriculture while we discuss the fundamental reform of the world agricultural system.

Agricultural producers face uncertainties from both production and price since agriculture, by nature, is an industry which depends on biological production processes and volatile climatic conditions.

Furthermore, agriculture performs the very important roles of conserving the environment, maintaining rural society, and providing national food security.

I believe that these various non-trade concerns characterize agriculture as fundamentally different from other industries.

My delegation firmly believes that these concerns of agriculture should be fully taken into consideration in order to successfully conclude the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiation.

In addition, many experts estimate that the on-going discussion of the Uruguay Round negotiations would have negative effects on the food security situation by increasing world prices and reducing world stocks.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize that agricultural reform should not interrupt the efforts of each country to achieve food security.

More specifically, my delegation believes that the uniform reduction of subsidies and the tariffication without exceptions do not fully consider the different levels of agricultural development and socio-political realities of food problems for many countries. It may result in various short-run negative effects and may aggravate the current unstable world food situation.

In this context, it is necessary for a deep understanding of world food problems to be integrated into the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations.

Mr Chairman, I would like to ask how FAO will adjust itself to facilitate the new world agricultural order after the successful completion of the Uruguay Round.

In this regard, the Conference should examine the direction of world agricultural reform discussed in the Uruguay Round negotiations. The Conference also should intensively discuss effective ways for FAO to lead the new international agricultural system.

Certainly, Conference Agenda Items such as reviewing the world food situation and designing the direction of world agricultural adjustment are very important and timely.

Throughout the Conference we will be able to examine the views expressed in the Uruguay Round negotiations in terms of world food security and strategies to develop each country's agriculture.

Mr Chairman, I believe that FAO should find ways to achieve mutual benefits of member countries in this period of worldwide agricultural reform.

It cannot be overemphasized that FAO should take a leading role in the establishment of a new international agricultural order.

My delegation firmly believes that FAO should strengthen its ability to coordinate member countries' interests and to assist their agricultural development.

Specifically, helping the Least Developed Countries should have the top priority. FAO and the cooperation of other international organizations are required to assist the food-importing developing countries to increase their production of traditional staple food.

In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our willingness to extend support to the development efforts in all parts of the world. We wish to offer them our assistance to the best of our ability, even though the Republic of Korea is neither a wealthy nor an advanced country.

My delegation believes that FAO will have an expanded role in the global efforts aimed at controlling, managing and even reversing environmental degradation.

Mr Chairman, with your permission, I would like to express my view on more specific FAO projects.

I believe it is very important to the future of FAO that the medium- to long-term plan of 1992 through 1997 be properly linked to the annual budget and plans. This plan should also be prepared so that it can be applied to the planning of domestic development strategies of developing countries.

Basically, I support the proposed budget of 1992-93. It is regrettable, however, that financial difficulties limited the budget increase. I sincerely hope that budget situation will improve in the next years.

Many important FAO projects, including the development of sustainable agriculture, the application of state-of-the-art technologies, the agricultural information services and the promotion of women's participation in agricultural development, deserve the special attention of member countries.

Moreover, I hope that the TCP projects should be equitably distributed to Asian countries taking into account their populations and the necessity for the TCP projects.

In addition, I am pleased to mention that we have been exchanging our experiences in agricultural development with developing countries through the TCDC projects.

In closing, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and people of Italy for the hospitality extended to us and also to the Director-General and FAO Secretariat for the very excellent arrangements which have been made for the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference.

**Allan CRUICKSHANK (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines):** His Excellency, Malik Abdul Majid, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Pakistan, and Conference Chairman; Mr Edouard Saouma, FAO Director-General; CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture and other Delegates and Representatives from the Caribbean Region; Ministers of Agriculture from Latin America and their delegations, Delegates to this Conference from other Regions of the world; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great honour to have been afforded the opportunity once again, as Minister of Agriculture for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, to address this very distinguished and influential gathering on the critical and still very pressing subject of food and agriculture, and also to be able to participate in the processes through which the course of this extremely relevant United Nations Organization will be charted.

Mr Chairman, in addition to speaking on this occasion for my country, my CARICOM colleagues have delegated to me the tasks of presenting to this Conference our collective concerns and interests as a sub-region within the wider Latin American and Caribbean Region.

Since our last meeting two years ago at the Twenty-fifth Conference, the world has witnessed many sweeping and far-reaching changes. On the political front, our welcoming into the FAO fold yesterday of the Republics of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania is but one indication of just how far things have moved in only a few years. In another sphere, the trend towards economic regionalism and trade liberalization continues at a quickening pace. Technologically, we have also entered a new revolutionary period with the emergence of biotechnology.

Mr Chairman, no country represented here today has been, or will remain, unaffected by these changes that are taking place, and I am certain that we would all be in agreement that the unfolding situation presents many problems but also great challenges.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines economy is still heavily dependent on the performance of the agricultural sector, and within this sector one crop dominates - that is, bananas.

The movement towards a European Common Market, projected for 1993, and the uncertainty surrounding the continuation of existing favourable arrangements for our banana exports, have spurred on efforts at diversification within the sector as well as within the economy as a whole.

Given the similarities in agricultural sector dependence between several CARICOM countries, and the overall need for adjustments in the light of changed and changing world economic circumstances, both the CARICOM Secretariat and the sub-regional OECS Secretariat have been strengthened to promote and further the agricultural diversification process in the subregion.

In this regard, efforts at coordinating and deepening the development assistance to the Region have escalated.

Mr Chairman, the mission in the CARICOM Region is... to increase significantly and improve the level of production, productivity and profitability of agricultural enterprises; to provide increasing levels and a better distribution of real per capita income for the Region's producers and traders; and to increase the flow of high-quality competitively priced food and non-food commodities to regional consumers, the tourist trade and to extra-regional markets.

The need to maintain environmental balance and to ensure sustainability into the future for the generations yet unborn has not been ignored in the planning process by any of our Governments or by the Region as a whole. In fact, such concerns have featured quite prominently in the individual and collective activity of our countries in the drive to promote agricultural development and with it a better quality of life for all of our people.

In some countries of the Region, Mr Chairman, Guyana for example, the forest resource is such that it would be unwise, if not impossible, not to exploit it in the interest of furthering the development of the people of these countries.

Guyana has gone the route of the TFAP, Mr Chairman, and is still waiting for the concrete assistance which was expected to follow such an exercise. How long must Guyana wait, Mr Chairman? How long can Guyana wait?

Most of the CARICOM Member States are at varied stages in the TFAP process and we stand with countries, such as Guyana, in hoping that the funding required to move effectively from the thinking stage on sustainability to the doing stage will soon be forthcoming.

Mr Chairman, the CARICOM States, recognizing the prevailing economic difficulties throughout the world, and the need for consensus on the FAO budget, have agreed with the proposal that there be a zero-based budget.

However, it is to be expected that those major contributors within the Organization now in arrears running into millions of dollars would take urgent steps to liquidate these amounts from their records.

The CARICOM States would also like to see an increase in the TCP resources, in spite of zero budgeting. The TCP is of vital importance to the Region as it fits very nicely with our type of need, and it is the main window through which the FAO can be of any assistance to countries such as ours. Any cursory examination of the record will show that, in the main, assistance to the Caribbean over the years from the FAO came through TCP funding. Not to prioritize this, Mr Chairman, in the budgeting for the Organization could seriously affect the pace at which adjustments can take place in the Region in response to the march of political and economic change the world over. It would also quite possibly leave us somewhat short of an appropriate response in times of natural disasters to which the Region is somewhat prone. In the past, TCP funding has helped in the rehabilitation of agricultural sectors around the Region in the wake of hurricanes.



Beyond the budget and on the question of membership, Mr Chairman, we would like to express our support for the decision to allow Puerto Rico associate membership in this Organization. It should be pointed out that this type of status should be available to countries in the Region such as Anguilla, Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands should it be sought.

CARICOM States also have no base difficulty with the EEC bid for membership, but there must be adequate discussion and a clear understanding of the criteria and conditions under which membership for such organizations would be granted, since other Regional Economic Groupings, for example our own CARICOM, may in the future wish to seek similar arrangements with FAO.

Mr Chairman, there is a matter which is of great immediate concern to CARICOM countries. It has to do with the spread of the tropical bont tick, *Amblyoma Variegatum*, southward through the Eastern Caribbean. Countries in the Region such as Antigua, Guadeloupe, Saint Kitts and Nevis are already heavily infected, and foci have been observed at Saint Lucia and Barbados. The cattle egrets from Guadeloupe and Antigua have been sighted more frequently in Grenada and Saint Vincent, and have the capability of spreading adequate numbers of immature ticks. The Region is committed to launching a full-scale programme to check and eradicate this tick which has the gramme capacity to destroy our whole livestock sector.

In our efforts so far, the FAO has played a very significant coordinating and supportive role, through the same TCP which I earlier referred to, and we are now convening a meeting of the *Amblyoma* Steering Committee on Thursday, at 10.30 hours in the Ethiopian Room to discuss implementation of a long-term project designed to eradicate the tick from the Region and to halt its spread southward to Latin America where, once it gets there, the chance of eradication would be lost.

We would like to invite all those countries and organizations which may have an interest to join the countries and organizations already involved to ensure the immediate implementation of the eradication programme.

In closing Mr Chairman, it would be very remiss of me if I did not express my country's, as well as the Region's, appreciation for the very valuable assistance rendered by the Organization in recent years. It is indeed a tribute to the ability and experience of Mr Saouma and his staff that in spite of very difficult financial problems the Organization has performed acceptably.

We sincerely hope that the FAO's capacity to address the developmental needs of countries such as ours will improve in the years to come, and we expect to be able to play a much larger role as a region in ensuring that this is in fact so.

Mr Chairman, let there be bread.

Thank you very much.

**Timothy LANKESTER (United Kingdom):** Mr Chairman, two years ago Britain's Aid Minister, Lynda Chalker - who unfortunately is unable to be here today because of inescapable Parliamentary commitments - addressed this Conference. She referred then to the need for a wide-ranging restructuring

of FAO in order to meet its future challenges. Subsequent events on the world scene, not least a resurgence of interest in the UN system itself, reconfirm today the validity of the concerns Mrs Chalker expressed then.

The London Economic Summit in July called for the UN system to be strengthened. The ending of the cold war has made possible a re-birth of its political role. Equally important is to revive the specialized agencies and the UN development system. The FAO stands prominent among them, concerned as it is to meet the fundamental needs of mankind. Against the background of this potential UN renaissance, it is vital that FAO be flexible and responsive to the demands of the international community in this new situation.

As the Constitution of FAO makes clear, the ultimate responsibility for food security, agricultural planning and development rests with us, the Member States. The role of FAO is thus to act as a catalyst, as a focal point of technical expertise and as a facilitator of increasing national execution of projects and programmes. We see the strength of FAO in the future as based on its ability to apply its particular range of technical expertise to global problems of food security and better use of natural resources in support of sustainable development. Because of the importance we attach to the technical and developmental role of the Organization, the United Kingdom has consistently urged FAO to set clear priorities. I am delighted, therefore that the Director-General endorsed this approach in his opening statement to the Conference yesterday. This means identifying and focusing on those areas which FAO alone is best equipped to tackle. Some examples are the highly successful Screwworm Eradication Programme in North Africa, the Codex Alimentarius and the excellent Global Information and Early Warning System. It is clear to us from these activities that, with appropriate support from member countries and other agencies, FAO can achieve a great deal when it has clear, well-focused objectives and well-managed resources.

FAO cannot, of course, do everything, or will its expertise be applied successfully in isolation. Individual projects do not succeed if policy in the overall sector or the overall economy is misguided. That is why FAO needs to work closely and cooperatively with other UN and non-UN development agencies.

The review of FAO's procedures, undertaken by the last Conference, is not an end in itself. It is a means to achieve the objectives. FAO is faced with overwhelming challenges in areas which it is uniquely equipped to address. It simply cannot afford to disperse its considerable technical, financial and human resources over too wide a range of activities, possibly duplicating the efforts of other agencies. Priority setting and appropriate inter-agency coordination are thus of the utmost importance.

These comments apply more widely than the FAO alone. We support the general approach to reform of the UN development system proposed by the Nordic countries. For FAO, as elsewhere, this means improving its governance. Action by the Secretariat - a more open approach, greater accountability, a clear setting of priorities - needs to be matched with action by the members. We too have obligations as well as rights. Perhaps the time has come for us to sit down together and agree how best to fulfil them; how best to balance the essentially multilateral nature of our institution with

the reality of differing national needs and contributions. My delegation will pursue these issues in the specific subjects covered during this Conference in its three Commissions.

Mr Chairman, it is vital that Member States of FAO work hard to reach a consensus on the setting of budget levels as well as on the priorities of the Organization.

It would be unfortunate indeed if the debate over budget levels were to obscure the community of interests of all Member Governments. Contributions to FAO are, after all, proportionately as burdensome for the developing as for the developed nations. More fundamentally still, it is in the interest of all developing countries who are the prime beneficiaries of FAO's development activities that these activities should be carried out as efficiently, as effectively and as economically as possible within the limits of available resources. Efficient aid delivery and priorities which are correctly set to achieve maximum results in development with social justice must surely be common goals both of aid donors and recipients.

The national execution of projects is another key ingredient in achieving the kind of self-reliant development which countries themselves require. This is a natural complement to the participatory approach which FAO is now incorporating in its programmes through the Plan of Action for People's Participation. We welcome this. Of course, developing countries will continue to need and have access to the technical expertise of FAO - its prime normative function. Again, it is in the interests of both aid donors and recipients that the capacity for national execution be steadily strengthened and enlarged.

FAO, Mr Chairman, has made commendable steps towards the decentralization of functions and the strengthening of its country offices to meet the new demands for country-focused policy advice. However, we believe that there is still more that could be done to strengthen this process and thus to enhance the role of country offices. This will put increasing demands on FAO in those areas where its real strengths lie: in technical and managerial backstopping of field projects rather than in the implementation per se of these projects. Again, we would like to see more progress in the development of these activities.

Then there are a number of key cross-cutting issues which any development organization must address. Perhaps uppermost is the environment and the need for sustainable development policies which protect the environment while at the same time enabling peoples to realize their legitimate aspirations to improve their material standard of living.

I want to single out forestry in particular because there is enormous and justified public concern about tropical deforestation and its impact on such crucial matters as climate change and the loss of biological diversity and livelihoods of forest dependent people.

FAO estimates that tropical forests are disappearing at the rate of 20 million hectares a year - put another way, the size of a soccer pitch vanishing every second. Once gone, these valuable forest resources can never be restored to what they were. The donor community and the timber trade must work with developing country Governments to resolve the complex problem of deforestation and to help achieve sustainable forest management. It must be a genuine partnership based on mutual understanding of

development needs of countries with tropical forest resources. Programmes of action must address causes and not the symptoms. Bans on tropical timber will not help as they will deprive the forests of their value and reduce incentives to manage the forest.

There have been some encouraging developments recently. The third UNCED PrepCom meeting in Geneva, for example, agreed on a draft Statement of Principles for sound management for the world's forests. We hope this will be endorsed by world leaders at the meeting in Rio de Janeiro next June and that it will eventually form the basis for agreement on a Forest Convention.

It has been two years since we asked the Director-General to review and improve the TFAP. The report by Ambassador Ulsten's team made several clear recommendations. A year ago Council asked the Director-General, together with the other co-founders, to take matters forward. However, despite ad hoc group and contact group meetings in Geneva and Paris, there has been very little progress.

We must resolve the problems and rejuvenate the TFAP before we go to Rio next year. The TFAP should become the principal mechanism by which actions agreed in Agenda 21 will be implemented and countries will be helped to achieve the ITTO goal of Sustainability 2000.

This issue is too important for governments to abdicate their responsibilities to agencies, sponsors or consultative groups, however wise or representative they may be. We cannot expect ad hoc or contact groups to solve these problems for us, though they can and have helped to take us forward - but too slowly.

It is our strong view that this work could best be done by a group similar to that which met in Paris, but with wider membership and meeting for longer. I am pleased that last week's Council endorsed this approach. Tight though its time-table may be, we believe that the conclusions of this group should be ready for UNCED PrepCom IV, so that they inform its discussion of Agenda 21. It is clearly the case that this important work which FAO is taking forward is set firmly in the context of the UNCED process and the Rio Conference which my Prime Minister plans to attend.

Looking more widely at environmental matters, FAO is indeed playing an active part in the preparatory activities leading up to UNCED. We should now consider what role the Organization might play afterwards. Whatever specific role falls to FAO, it is vital that the Organization is seen to concentrate on its areas of comparative advantage. Above all, this means data collection, and monitoring changes in the world's agricultural and other natural resources. Deforestation is a prime example.

As I said earlier, coordination with other agencies is important. We congratulate FAO and the Government of the Netherlands for the jointly sponsored and successful Conference on Agriculture and the Environment held in the Netherlands this year.

Just as the environment is a key cross-cutting issue, I might mention also the equally important areas of population and the role of women in agriculture. We welcome therefore the fact that FAO recognizes these issues as priorities in its Medium-Term Plan. FAO has an important role to play in fostering women's participation in agricultural development. We hope,

therefore, that FAO's practice will match the laudable aims which are expressed in the Medium-Term Plan for gender, social development and people's participation.

In conclusion, I have attempted to address today the main challenges which already face us in the 1990s. How FAO and indeed other members of the UN family tackle these challenges will determine the shape of these organizations as they enter the Twenty-first century. They are challenges which offer unprecedented opportunities for international cooperation and for a renewed and strengthened United Nations to play to the full its role in guiding a concerted international response.

Much has been done but much remains to be done. I hope that this important Conference will result in more progress and prepare the Organization for its future tasks. In doing so I wish you, Mr Chairman, the Director-General and all the staff of FAO every success in these crucial endeavours.

**Anat ARBHABHIRAMA (Thailand):** It is a great pleasure and honour for me to have the opportunity to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. At the outset, I wish, on behalf of my delegation and myself, to extend to you, Mr Chairman, and to the Vice-Chairmen, our congratulations on your elections to the high office of this august Conference. I am confident we are in capable hands. We also wish to welcome the new Members of our family, namely the Republic of Latvia, Republic of Lithuania and Republic of Estonia, and an Associate Member, Puerto Rico, and sincerely hope their membership will be of mutual benefit to the respective countries as well as to this Organization.

According to initial indications, overall food and agricultural production in 1991 will fall below last year's growth rate from 2 percent to 0.3 percent. This, unfortunately, will be the first global decline since 1983.

I would like to share my observation that the food and agricultural situation, particularly in developing countries, is deteriorating. The production in developing countries has fallen alarmingly. This would mean the decline of per caput food production in developing countries, particularly in Africa and Latin America. The expected agricultural production growth at 0.7 percent in the Far East would be the lowest in the last two decades. We would like to encourage the international community to assist those affected countries, especially the most adversely affected populations.

Also of concern is the bleak situation in world agricultural trade. The value of agricultural trade expanded in developed countries but remained generally depressed in developing countries, including Thailand.

I would like to stress that the increase in producer subsidy and protection in world agricultural trade, especially in certain developed countries, have put further pressure on declining prices of output and on the volumes of export. Such circumstances represented disincentives to farmers in developing countries to efficiently increase their farm production and income.

In this connection, the Thai delegation wishes to address the developing countries' agricultural trade in relation to the world trade body. The export developing countries did not play a major role in the formulation of the GATT rules, because they have less bargaining power. However, as Thai agriculture has been oriented to the world trade and the crop subsector is expected to continue to produce exportable surplus over the local demand, our basic trade strategy is to maintain and improve its competitiveness. As a result it has to take more action at both unilateral and multilateral levels. Regarding the unilateral actions, Thailand has been relaxing its border measures, including reduction in some protective rates, in farm export taxes and in import duties of capital goods, and also eliminating non-tariff measures.

Thailand, along with other countries, has for several years been playing an active role in focusing world attention on the international trade in agriculture. While we have succeeded in identifying the principal causes which continue to distort agricultural trade, stifle competition and hamper liberalization in this highly critical sector of international trade, our efforts to summon the political will of those who have resisted the major changes in their agricultural policy have so far not been successful. Despite the renewed attempts in the Uruguay Round, especially by the Director-General of the GATT last week, there is no clear indication that the dismal failure of the Ministerial Meeting in Brussels one year ago will not be repeated.

Certainly other areas of the multilateral trade negotiations are very important to Thailand, which depends greatly on its ability to export for its sustained growth and development. However, agriculture remains a key sector and Thailand's standing in international trade in agriculture is well known. It is the hope of my Government, therefore, that all those countries and groups of countries which have so far not shown their readiness to address the principal causes of agricultural trade problems will change their position and join in the world-wide efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round by the end of this year.

Hence, we once again urge the FAO to continue its support for the Uruguay Round to the utmost extent possible.

As far as sustainable agriculture and rural development are concerned, the essential goals have been aimed at ensuring food security, eradicating rural poverty, conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Hence, the important role of agriculture should not be underestimated. In Thailand, as the economy has successfully transformed from a subsistence agrarian economy into an agricultural exporting country, its natural resources, namely land, water and forests, have been excessively exploited in fueling the diversification and sustained growth of the economy. Due to growth and structural change of the economy, resource conflicts and scarcity occur and are becoming a threat to sustainability of the agricultural sector in Thailand. Over 25 years of economic development, Thailand has reached an exceptional performance that led to a rapid growth in industrialization, urbanization, commercial and tourist industries. All these activities give rise to competing demands for resource uses, especially land, water and forests. As a consequence, land prices have been pushed up tremendously high, inducing a rapid conversion of agricultural land to non-farm sector uses in many areas. As for water resources, the growing demand for water by both the agricultural and non-agricultural

sectors is no less dramatic. Whereas only 20 percent of Thai agricultural land is irrigable, water irrigation use is in competition with the remarkable growth of the tourist resort industry.

The problem of resource conflicts and scarcity, for which I share with you my deep concern, is one among many other problems challenging the sustainability of agriculture and environmental development. In this regard we fully recognize the FAO's initiative and efforts to resolve these problems: however, the achievement apparently takes lengthy time at tremendously high costs. The Thai Government, in recognition of the problems, has put emphasis on the consistency of both sustainability and conservation objectives. These policy objectives have been clearly underlined and implemented in the current Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1992-1996). My Government, therefore, is particularly pleased to endorse the United Nations General Assembly, in Resolution 44/228, which has set important goals for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992. We believe and hope that the outcome of this meeting will benefit all countries and mankind.

Forestry, both inland and mangrove forest, is another major area of concern to the international community, as much of it has been improperly managed. In Thailand we are taking a major step towards ensuring a proper balance between sustainable forest use and conservation. To achieve this end, we are demarcating areas for conservation and for economic uses. We are also promoting the concept of community forest. In simple terms, it is the local community which is responsible for reforestation, maintenance and achieving a wise use of this resource. We are expecting to come up with a working plan to save the forest, watershed area, and its ecological balance, which will lead to a better environment as well as better living standards for the people.

Turning now to fishery: while the crucial role of fisheries has been noted by many countries as a supplier of food for domestic consumption, a source of foreign exchange earnings and a generator of employment and income, there is also a widespread recognition of the important role played by small-scale fisheries in providing food for local consumption and employment in disadvantaged areas, and of the need to improve the welfare of marine and inland fishing communities. Consequently, my country has given a high priority in the national fisheries development plans to protect small-scale fisheries and to improve not only their efficiency but also the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities. With increases in population and the rapidly-changing society, the need to utilize, especially, marine resources has increased dramatically. Therefore, Thailand will continue its firm intention to utilize those marine resources with proper actions on management, conservation and sustainable development of fisheries. In this connection, it should be noted that the Thai Government has promulgated a Fishery Act. Under this Act, all populations of marine mammals, such as turtles, seacows and dolphins, are completely protected by listing them as either threatened or endangered species, and trading in these species is prohibited.

On this aspect, may I now draw your attention to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/225, which requested that the FAO study the adverse effects of large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas on the depletion of the living marine resources. It is widely understood that this resolution is intended to ban only large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing

activities. However, small-scale driftnet fishing, traditionally conducted in coastal waters by artisanal fishermen of developing countries can be continued if the fishing nets used are less than 2.5 kilometres long, the size specified by the Wellington Convention in November 1989. In this regard, Thailand is of the opinion that the small-scale pelagic driftnet fisheries should be allowed to operate legitimately in countries where proper management actions are taken.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, please allow me to recall the statement made by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Mr Anand Panyarachun, to the World Bank/IMF meeting in Bangkok a few weeks ago. In his opening statement, among other things, he said: Today, I shall find it difficult to understand why it is harder to help the poor, to feed the hungry and to make the world cleaner, than it is to make war. I shall not try to elaborate on his statement, since it is clear and precise in itself. We only wish to state that we fully realize the difficulties involved in the tasks to reach the final goals of the FAO, and Thailand will continue to give the FAO our fullest cooperation.

In conclusion, with a lowering of global political tension, as well as an ending of the arms race, my delegation would invite all countries, rich or poor, to invest more in instruments of peace rather than in instruments of war. I refer in particular to poverty eradication, increasing food production and environmental conservation.

**R.M. DHARMADASA BANDA (Sri Lanka):** Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me at the very outset congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on being elected as the Chairman of this important Conference. I am quite confident that with your wealth of experience you will be able to steer this Conference toward reaching definite conclusions on important issues which would undoubtedly influence the future directions of FAO.

I do not propose to weary this august assembly by presenting in detail Sri Lanka's agricultural programme. I would, however, place before you the new direction of Sri Lanka's agriculture policy and invite your attention to the possible areas where FAO could lend more support and continue to reinforce FAO's commitment to develop and sustain agricultural programmes in our country.

Under the able guidance of our President, His Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa, Sri Lanka has a new vision and a new deal for its people. Restoration of peace, enforcement of discipline, and the alleviation of poverty are the cornerstones of this new vision. This would be achieved through the restructuring of the political, economic, social and administrative machinery of the country.

Sri Lanka has given highest priority to programmes of investing in the human resource base. The people are provided direct access to resources with the aim of transforming the passive, the inert and the excluded population into productive creators and owners of assets. The aim of this basic policy is growth with equity.

During the past decade or so the agricultural policy of Sri Lanka was directed towards achieving self reliance in the requirement of food and increasing farmer income. The two-pronged strategy adopted focused on



developing large-scale irrigated settlements and commodity-oriented development programmes emphasizing rice and a few other crops. The realization that farmer income needs to be enhanced has led to policies with a conscious effort to diversify rural activities to the extent possible in order to provide farmers more opportunities to maximize the use of their resources and thereby maximize incomes.

During the post-independence period the national policies of the country have been focused primarily on increasing the supply of food and improving the standard of living, particularly of the rural population, through a combined effort on agricultural and rural development. Developing and transferring the technology on regionally appropriate crops, cropping and farming systems with the required technical knowledge and the provision of production inputs at reasonable prices was one aspect that received attention. This enabled the farmers to increase the productivity per unit area of land. To support and sustain this process the Government continued to strengthen the irrigation base of the country. Developing additional water resources, renovating, rehabilitating and maintaining the existing large and small tank irrigation systems, systematic harnessing of shallow and deep-groundwater resources through agro-wells and tube wells, training farmers on water management, and farmer organization on proper maintenance of irrigation infrastructure constitute the package to maximize the use of this scarce resource. Creation of an institutional base to build up a vibrant and well articulated people's organization, which would be harnessed for nation building, was followed up as a strong policy measure.

While marketing and determination of prices for agricultural produce has been left largely to the market forces, the Government has ensured a reasonable price to farmers through a floor-price scheme which is subjected to periodic revision and strategic intervention in pricing through taxes, tariffs and other fiscal policy measures. The Government also intervenes and facilitates the marketing of agricultural produce and thereby ensures that farmers are protected.

During the recent past special attention has been given to systematic land development and allocation of land to the landless. Marginalized farmers and landless agricultural labourers are given a parcel of land for cultivation and several programmes are designed to assist those engaged in production pursuits.

To attain sustainable growth with equity through a continuous process of development a conscious effort has been made by the Government to decentralize the administrative power structure to the lowest possible operational level and to harmoniously blend the political leadership with the administrative mechanism so as to enable the people's representative to enter the arena of decision making on resources allocation, monitoring programmes, implementation, etc.

Despite all these efforts the pace of development in the desired direction has been slower than expected. The process is further slowed by the constraints faced by the producers and market participants. I wish to take this opportunity to explain for the active consideration of the FAO that many of these constraints are linked to the inadequate capacity and efficiency of the rural financial markets. To move away from traditional commodity sectors and to engage in diversification and small-scale industry, as envisaged in a rural diversification strategy, requires development of an effective rural financial system that is strong enough to

absorb the shocks associated with the new developments, and one that can also mobilize rural savings. This cannot be achieved without a mechanism to infuse the needed capital into the rural areas. The approach of the Government to assist in this situation has been to strengthen formal rural lending agencies, such as rural banks and agricultural credit programmes. Despite improvements, as in many other developing economies, the state and institutional lending is not easily accessible to the small farmers who constitute a majority of the rural population.

Improvement of marketing institutions and participation remains another aspect that is often neglected in the agricultural production programmes. The rural market intermediaries and small-time traders perform the role of assembling produce from a large number of farmers scattered over a wide area. The marketing operations by these small traders do not qualify them for formal credit facilities, thereby forcing them to operate on their own resources. As a result, the volumes that can be handled by these traders are quite small and the ability to hold stocks is quite limited. These limitations increase marketing costs and constrain the possibilities for the producers to receive the best possible prices. Therefore, along with production credit, a scheme for marketing credit to those involved in these activities would be required. In the case of diversified crop production, marketing credit would be essential.

The FAO has been remarkably sensitive to the emerging needs and the aspirations of countries such as Sri Lanka, and I must express our appreciation for the support extended to us by the FAO in facilitating the access to the farming community, particularly those with poor production resources.

My delegation wholeheartedly supports the approach of FAO where increasing attention is now being directed towards environmental considerations in programmes aimed toward poverty alleviation. I must take this opportunity to bring to the notice of this august assembly that we too have captured this important aspect in our lead project, the Janasaviya, the poverty alleviation programme which seeks to invest in the poor and make them equipped to move away from the poverty trap and be partners in development. We too have recognized that any programme designed for those groups will necessarily have to be environmentally sustainable. I am greatly encouraged to note this aspect included in the agenda for discussion. I am sure these deliberations will result in developing new dimensions in this very important area of development.

In view of the mixed results of the past policies, Sri Lanka is now embarking on an innovative, forward-looking, aggressive policy in agricultural development. Consequently, in the medium-term the overriding goal of agricultural development for Sri Lanka will continue to be directed towards achieving food self-reliance, giving rice a place of importance within the entire basket of commodities to be promoted. The principle aim of agricultural development programmes will be to contribute to raising rural household income to levels comparable to at least those of families in other sectors of the economy. The main instruments to be used will be deepening and widening the use of modern production and marketing techniques, diversification of the portfolio of crops and facilitating the expansion of off-farm sources of income.

The land-man ratio in Sri Lanka is on the decline. Furthermore, resource-poor farmers at present generally produce to meet family consumption needs and consequently continue to be at subsistence levels. An interesting feature is that, in the past mid-size and commercially oriented agricultural and livestock production units have generally been ignored in the mainstream of agricultural development programmes. This segment has the resources and reliance to fully participate in efforts to modernize the agricultural sector. The present resource availability and administrative capacity in the Government sector is inadequate to cater to all areas with equal emphasis. Therefore, the harnessing of a critical mass of development support with unlimited geographic programme priorities is a requirement for the future development of the agricultural sector.

Having recognized the changing scenarios in this dominant sector, and the need to meet the challenges of providing adequate food and improving the standard of living of the population, the conceptual framework for agricultural development in the medium term has been redefined. Let me elaborate briefly.

Firstly, on a sector-wide basis, future development programmes will be focused in a manner that will differentiate between the resource-poor farmers (small farm units) and better-endowed farmers (medium- to large-scale units). Specific programmes will be developed to bring about a harmonious integration of the two categories of farmers into sustainable production and marketing systems. The market development programme and production enhancement programme will be given equal emphasis.

Secondly, the new directions would embrace the diversification of the portfolio of crops produced by agricultural entrepreneurs in order to maximize the income generation potential. It would also involve the active participation of the private sector in cash-crop oriented export agriculture, particularly for fruits, vegetables, horticulture and ornamental plants. While providing the necessary support to increase the productivity in existing small holdings of spice and beverage crops, emphasis will be given to the establishment of commercial cultivation to create a new generation of professional spice and beverage farmers who would use improved technologies and through this process increase the foreign exchange earnings.

Thirdly, in livestock sub-sector the emphasis would be to develop the dairy sector to achieve a higher target. Besides dairying, the development and promotion of non-traditional livestock species will be undertaken with private sector participation.

I hope these new directions will help create a new environment in the agricultural sector, which will ultimately lead to greater farmer prosperity and an equitable distribution of incomes.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that the path and the direction that is set out during the deliberations of this Conference will undoubtedly pave the way for a much more comprehensive and sympathetic understanding of the complexities of agrarian problems of the developing countries, particularly in the regions, so that these countries would be able to solicit assistance from the FAO to improve the standard of living of the people.

Uldis **BENIKIS (Latvia)**: Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to thank you for your congratulations and good wishes which you have offered to us, Latvia, and other new members of FAO.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Latvia and on my personal behalf I express gratitude for the possibility given to our delegation to participate in the work of one of the most widely represented organizations of the United Nations, FAO.

I shall characterize briefly the present political and economic situation in the Republic of Latvia.

Our sovereignty has been recognized by the majority of states in the world. We express our gratitude to the representatives of these States here for this recognition.

In the sphere of economics the Republic of Latvia, consistently carries out the basic principles of economic independence which were accepted already in 1988 at a meeting of the Baltic republics. According to these principles the cornerstone of transformation of Latvia's national economy is a transition to market economy liquidating the centralized planning system.

The Government of Latvia has determined that private property will form the basis of market economy in Latvia. The sector of private property in the economics of Latvia will grow under the influence of the following conditions:

- by privatizing the existing state and collective enterprises, decentralizing and splitting large enterprises during the process of privatization;
- by forming new private enterprises (especially small and middle size enterprises), stimulating and developing this process;
- by forming an infrastructure for the support of private entrepreneurship, by the help of corresponding crediting, insurance and production technology system;
- by creating a bank system for the promotion of economic activities of private sector;
- by envisaging favours in the tax system for newly-formed enterprises;
- by making foreign investors interested in the development of different type entrepreneurship, joint ventures, 100 percent foreign capital enterprises, etc.;
- by forming customs politics favourable for entrepreneurship;
- by counteracting to any monopolization of domestic market.

Our price formation politics is based on gradual price liberalization adopted by the Government accepted by the Parliament of Latvia in July 1990.

At present the level of free prices in the total production of goods is 62 percent, but without food products - 90 percent. The level of these prices has grown at an average of 3.2 times. The most important factor influencing the price level this year was the change of prices for raw materials, materials, machinery, equipment, etc., bought from the USSR.

During the remaining period of this year the presently regulated prices for agricultural products will be changed to free prices.

In a short time in the second half of 1990 there were developed and adopted new tax laws. This system started to function on 1 January 1991.

A definite result of the functioning of the new tax system is the budget of the Latvia State without deficit. We have a positive trade balance with other former republics of the USSR. Among these only in Latvia no money emission takes place.

We are gradually improving also the Government structure which is caused by the necessity to separate the state and enterprise functions.

Our new legislation defines that the state does not interfere in production.

The state property monopoly in the Soviet Union and the priority of industrial development also on the territory of Latvia have gradually formed an asymmetric model of industrial and agricultural development.

Thus during the years of Soviet rule the volume of industrial production in the republic grew 61 times, but of agricultural production - only 1.8 times. Compared with 1939 the area of agriculturally used land has diminished by 1.1 million hectares, that is nearly by one third. A half of this reduction is constituted by the most valuable part of land, fields.

As a result the total amount produced per one inhabitant is 1.5 - two times smaller than the level achieved by our closest neighbours - the Nordic countries, and this backwardness grows from year to year.

As a most serious heritage of this absurd economic politics is a disbalanced production and consumption of feed amount necessary for the preservation of the present number of livestock and poultry. In the past the development of cattle-breeding and poultry raising were based on imported concentrated feed.

This factor is especially perceptible now when in the majority of the former or present Soviet Republics the harvests of cereals are low. For this reason the amounts of imported grain by our Eastern neighbours for their own use in the next year will be even greater than in the previous years. And their interest in grain selling to Latvia even previously agreed amounts is rather indefinite.

The amount of imported grains of 1.2 - 1.5 million tons which should be purchased for local consumption in Latvia will be one of the most important problems also during the next few years. Alongside with economic, technological and plant cultivation culture structural reorganization which is carried out in the republic to liquidate the deficiency of home grown

grains in the next 5-7 years, we shall still need the help of foreign countries, for the supply of unavailable grain. We envisage that the amount of this help will be diminishing from year to year.

The reason of our next most important problem - insufficiency of sugar - is the same as for the reduction of grain production.

In pre-war Latvia the produced amount of sugar was completely satisfied by the local sugar market. During and after the war period when the sugar consumption per one inhabitant gradually grew it was compensated by the importing and processing of the Cuban raw sugar and simultaneously the local areas of sugar beet growing were diminished.

As a result of such activities in Latvia at present they produce only one-third of sugar beets necessary for processing. Therefore we need cooperating partners which could help us in this sphere not only by offering new technologies for grain and sugar beet growing and processing, but who would also be ready to invest in the formation of joint ventures for the introduction of these technologies, thus promoting the solution of these problems in Latvia.

We offer cooperation on mutually advantageous basis also to possible investors in the production, processing and trading of ecologically pure agricultural produce.

The soil of Latvia in comparison with the Western part of Europe is less polluted. Therefore it is potentially more profitable for the production of clean produce.

The Government of the Republic of Latvia supports this course of agricultural development. We regard our task to reduce the pollution of the Baltic sea in the result of agricultural activities.

Now about the formation of individual farms. Today we have about

11 000 private farms. Also we have about 45 000 applications for setting new private individual farms.

The land reform and formation of individual farms in the republic proceed in accordance with the adopted laws and the programme for the realization of agrarian reform. According to these documents we have set the following main tasks:

- to reorganize property relations in agriculture, simultaneously restoring legal rights of former owners to land;
- to develop people's managing abilities and possibilities;
- to promote the production increase of qualitative agricultural products;
- to use rationally and multiply national resources of rural areas;
- to preserve and raise soil fertility.

Secondly - technical provision of individual farms. To provide individual farms with qualitative technical equipment for work or to provide a possibility to use this equipment - this is regarded as a vital task today

as some time ago restoration of Latvia's independence. If we do not manage to achieve this task we shall not manage to attain economic independence from our large Eastern neighbour. But in our concrete situation it would mean also only the illusion of political independence.

For that reason we have developed a system of machinery corresponding to our production technologies and we try to implement it within the framework of regional engineering industry programme.

There is already being formed and in the near future will expand even more swiftly both the cooperation of our engineering industry specialists and foreign partners in the formation of productions for definite machinery, and cooperation between foreign and Latvian scientists in the development and introduction of new production technologies.

I want to remark here that we do not hope and expect charity from the governments of other countries. The question is about direct mutual partner relations with the producers of agricultural machinery and designers of technologies of other countries, based on market conditions.

Please pay attention to the just mentioned facts and inform your Governments about our willingness to cooperate in this sphere on a possibly wider scale on mutually advantageous conditions the execution of which is guaranteed by the Government of the Republic of Latvia according to the accepted developed programme of regional engineering industry.

The Government of Latvia has stated that processes of land reform and property conversion that at present are going on in the country cannot be turned back. The Government declares that all types of financial and material assistance should be directed first of all to the privatized sector, among this in the countryside only and solely to individual farms.

Unfortunately the Government lacks means, so do private farms for the production stabilization and intensification. Therefore I apply to FAO and its Member States and hope for your help the agriculture of my native land, Latvia.

Thank you for your attention!

**Vladimir DLOUHY (Czechoslovakia):** Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic let me express the honour I feel to address the audience of this most important Conference.

The world development during the past two years has not been very favourable as regards improving agriculture and nutrition. The unfavourable impact of the reduced economic growth in the industrialized countries multiplied by the Persian Gulf crisis has had a considerable impact on the economy of the developing countries. The slow down in the increase in the demand for the decisive commodities and higher energy prices have primarily affected weak economies and deepened their chronic problems with the lack of hard currency, foreign indebtedness, sale of domestic raw materials and products on foreign markets, currency instability, etc. At the same time, the economic, political and social framework of the agriculture production

of the developed countries, especially in the European Communities, faces the difficult period as well and there is no doubt that it faces deep changes.

The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, after the substantial political changes in November 1989, has entered into the period of the radical economic reform, aiming at the transformation from the central planning to the market economy. This reform is characterized by massive liberalization of the price system and trade, the introduction of the convertibility of the currency, removal of the major part of existing subsidies, macro-economic restrictions of both fiscal and monetary nature and privatization. The economic policy of the Federal Government has been in this initial period concentrated on the problems of the macro-economic stabilization and this goal has been achieved: today inflation is stabilized as is the exchange rate, the foreign indebtedness increases very modestly and all the basic macro-economic performance criteria, followed by international institutions, are fulfilled.

This success, however, is mirrored in the deep fall of the industrial and agriculture production, increasing unemployment and bankruptcies and the fall of real wages and incomes. The general situation is worsened by the adverse development of the external condition, as has been mentioned already above, which in our case is multiplied by the immense problems on the former COMECON markets, especially in the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovak economic reform, consequently, is behind a successful start, the basic task in the nearest future is the massive privatization, but the formation of government policies vis-à-vis the most important sectors is also one of the top priorities. Needless to say that agriculture is one of these sectors.

The present situation of the Czechoslovak agriculture can be characterized as follows: the urgent need for the change of the structure of the ownership in agriculture. At present about 25 percent of agricultural land have been managed by state farms, about 74 percent by agricultural cooperatives and there are only less than one percent of farmers. However, the existing cooperatives in many cases are disguised state enterprises as well. The transformation of the property rights in agriculture, namely the privatization and restitution of the land, are thus the main issues. The whole process will respect the basic principles of the cooperativism as well as the returns to scale conditions and the long-term comparative advantages of the Czechoslovak agriculture. The newly emerging group of private farmers will enjoy the support of the Government.

We have inherited the structure of agriculture as it has been generated by forty years of central planning and the autarky. The existing structure of production does not fulfil any comparative advantages, neither would it be able to withhold the foreign competition. It is the agricultural production with high investment, energy, material and labour intensity, with low productivity and high ecological burden.

The general economic reform removed the bulk of subsidies both from the consumer food prices and from the production and opened the market to the competition. This on one side lowered the demand for the agriculture products substantially, on the other side revealed the extremely high costs of the domestic agricultural production.



Consequently, a high number of agriculture cooperatives and firms are in a difficult financial position, facing virtual bankruptcies. We do not consider this process as fatal, the general fall of agriculture production in Czechoslovakia must become a reality and only the change of property rights may improve the situation.

The governmental policy sees the agriculture as a standard part of the economy, where the standard rules of the economic reform apply. In this respect, the Government considers the production of reasonably priced, good quality and competitive food products of the international standard in the conditions of the open market as the main strategic aim. However, we do not want to repeat the mistakes of some developed countries, especially of the Common Agriculture Policy of the European Communities, in the long-term subsidizing of the agricultural production. We do not intend to see the farmers as a very aggressive political group of our society. We intend, however, to accept the general comparative advantages and open our agriculture to foreign competition. We did not accept the idea of quotation and for the next year we guarantee the prices of three basic agricultural products only, namely wheat, beef and milk.

There is no doubt in this respect but a question of the access to the markets of developed countries is essential for us as is essential the final set-up of the talks in the framework of the Uruguay Round of the GATT. This process will not be socially painful. This forces us to accept some temporary measures. The restructuring of the Czechoslovak tariff system, in general liberalizing the trade, takes into account some very temporary protectionist measures with a clearly limited time horizon. We set up the institution aimed at the intervention on the domestic agriculture market, subsidized from the state budget, to ease the possible structural disequilibria on the market with agricultural products. However, the remaining subsidies may not be targeted to the support of the agricultural production, but to solve the social implications, to the job creation processes and, to some extent, to fulfilling mainly the ecological function and that of settlements and forming the landscape.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Czechoslovakia as a founding member of FAO pays great attention to the activity of the Organization, especially to the main orientations of its development, contained in the Medium-Term Plan for the period from 1992 to 1997. Its implementation will be a very complicated process and will demand an active and flexible attitude to rapid political, economic and social development in the world. It will be possible to achieve the main goals of FAO only by making its activity more efficient and carrying out the necessary reforms. At the same time, it will be necessary to proceed from the fact that the main activity of FAO is too great an extent oriented at the developing countries. We believe that the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will benefit from the joint activities as well. We are conscious of the fact that financial possibilities are limited and that the Organization is in the deepest financial crisis since its foundation. This state can to a great extent threaten the professional activity of the Organization and have considerable negative impact on the further development of world agriculture. It is necessary to speed up the started reform steps of FAO and to search for internal as well as external reserves, related to the activity of the Organization.

Czechoslovakia supports the principle of the highest economy in the Organization and a zero actual budget growth, which makes it possible for the member countries to fulfil their financial obligations, that is membership fees. However, the need for increasing the efficiency is essential and must have the highest priority. If that is not the case, the positive effects of the activities of FAO will diminish for all the Member Nations, including the underdeveloped ones, and the membership for some countries may become obsolete.

Affiliation of new countries, including three European, proves the importance and worldwide significance of FAO. Czechoslovakia supports and actively participates in drawing clear rules, which will make possible the affiliation of regional economic organizations to FAO. We regard the affiliation of EC as the first regional integration economic organization to FAO as a qualitatively new step in the whole United Nations with a positive effect on the future activity of the Organization.

Czechoslovakia, as the host country to the Eighteenth FAO Regional Conference and a coordinator of the European member countries, expects FAO to intensify its activities in Europe, particularly in Central and Eastern European countries, while continuing to be overwhelmingly oriented in the developing world. These countries face economic problems in transition to a market economy, which I have described in a nutshell above. Recently, we have welcomed a certain activation of FAO in Central and Eastern Europe which, however, is not in keeping both with its possibilities and its potential. I am convinced that it is in the interests of FAO to resolve the problems of the agrarian sector of Central and Eastern countries resulting from the transition to a market economy so that these countries could use their economic potential to participate more increasingly in solving critical problems of developing countries.

I appreciate the approach and willingness of FAO to give assistance to finding solutions to the problems of the Czechoslovak agrarian sector. As requested by the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic several joint programmes have been launched recently which are aimed at dealing with problems of importance. In the future, I expect increased participation of FAO in Czechoslovakia, primarily in agricultural policy advice, restructuring of agricultural production, consultancy, marketing, development of rural areas and selected technical problems. In return, we would make available our highly skilled experts and manufacturing and research facilities of quality to be used to provide technological assistance to other FAO members. I am of the opinion that FAO must take various measures to ensure appropriate representation of its member countries. The participation of skilled experts both in the headquarters and field programmes will further enhance FAO's efficiency and more appropriately involve the Member States in the implementation of goals pursued by this largest specialized agency within the UN framework.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much for your attention.

**Balram JAKHAR (India):** Mr Chairman, it is a matter of great pleasure for me to be here today and address this august assembly. First of all, at the outset, let me again, Mr Chairman, congratulate you on your unanimous election and I hope with your wisdom you will be so successful that it will

be a pleasure for all. I also extend my felicitations to the Vice-Chairmen who will also be there to assist you in conducting the affairs of this Assembly.

Since the last Session of the Conference significant changes have taken place in the international, political, economic and social situation. Many developing countries are increasingly facing chronic difficulties in the shape of heavy indebtedness, mounting inflation, deteriorating terms of trade and low agricultural growth rates. A number of low and middle income developing countries are still struggling to recover from the setback received as a result of the Gulf War. Besides, the contemporary developments in Europe may have negative consequences for developing countries by way of diversion of resources, including development assistance and food aid, and access to markets. Protectionist policies followed by developed countries continue to prevent developing countries from realizing their true potential. The Uruguay Round of GATT Negotiations are yet to be brought to a successful conclusion.

When we survey the global agricultural scene, developments therein are also not particularly encouraging. The world food and agriculture production slowed down in the year 1990 from the relatively high growth registered in 1989. In 1991 a further deterioration is feared. FAO's forecast of world cereal production for 1991 has been lowered by a further 20 million tonnes to 1 894 million tonnes, which is some 3 percentage points down from last year. An equally disturbing sign is that the safety-net provided for the food security by the world stock holdings is threatening to decline to its lowest level since 1976. With the likely higher imports of foodgrains by some major food importing countries, export prices of most cereals are further expected to rise, adversely affecting the volume of food aid to meet the emergency needs in low-income food deficit countries. Regional food problems in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia may worsen if the current cereal production forecasts do not materialize due to adverse weather for crops on the ground. Countries undergoing reforms, particularly those related to price liberalization and land tenures, are also experiencing serious economic and food security difficulties. We have just listened to our friends here. They were expressing the same fear and we have to share that with them.

However, largely due to the technological changes introduced in the Indian agriculture during the Green Revolution, India has continued to achieve higher levels of foodgrains production. In the decade of the 80s, the emphasis was essentially on creating sounder marketing facilities and an institutional framework to minimize the disadvantages of the small and marginal farmers. We have also designed programmes to build on the success already achieved during the Green Revolution period with the overall objective of ensuring more balanced growth amongst different regions of the country.

It has been an achievement in India. In the fifties we were short. Only 340 million people were there and we had to import millions of tons. Now, when we are 850 million people or more, we have the capacity to sustain ourselves quite well.

The percentage increase of food grains production during the year 1990 was 3.5 percent over 1989 levels in India. In the current year, despite the somewhat unfavourable monsoon, the level of agricultural production may not be very different from that of last year. Having reached a stage of near

self-sufficiency in the cereals and crops like cotton and sugarcane, the thrust is now on diversification of agriculture of enhancement of farmers' incomes.

We have not been planning for self-sustenance so far but now we want to plan and we have been planning for the prosperity of the farmers' community.

The successes achieved in applying the fruits of science and technology and its spread amongst the farmers will have to be carried further and made farmer specific. We believe that in order to respond to future food security challenges, agriculture must be supported by effective research and technology. These receive high priority in terms of basic and applied research in the field of crop sciences, animal sciences, fisheries and horticulture. Hybrid research in cereals, oil seeds, vegetables and forages, sustainable farming systems, watershed management and genetic engineering and bio-technology have been identified as areas requiring national and cooperative efforts. Research and extension linkages with greater emphasis on integrated farming systems, the role of women in agriculture and peoples' participation are some of the highlights in the agriculture sector.

Similarly, it is my view that governments, donors and international research organizations like the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research should provide resources and long-term support to agricultural research and technology in the developing countries to meet the escalating food demand. There is need for greater spread of the Green Revolution to cover a wider range of food and fodder crops, agro-ecological zones, livestock and fisheries. India has been advocating the need for diffusion of technologies to promote close linkages amongst developing countries. India has a long-standing commitment to South-South Cooperation and has been willing to share with all those interested whatever lessons we have learnt in our agricultural development. In line with this emphasis, we hosted during the last month a Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries that is, TCDC-Programming Exercise in the agriculture sector in collaboration with UNDP and FAO, during which 375 bilateral activity proposals were finalised to the mutual advantage of the 32 participating countries from all parts of the world. I would like to thank the FAO for the support we received from the Organization in the preparation as well as in conducting this Exercise and look forward to FAO's continued support during the implementation phase of the TCDC projects.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, calling for concerted international action for reducing the occurrence and minimising the adverse effects of natural calamities. Its specific goals are addressed to improving the capabilities of countries to face the challenges of natural disaster, to devise strategies for natural disaster reduction and to take measures for mitigation of natural disasters. India has attained self-reliance in coping with the situations created by natural disasters. India's management of the 1987 drought, one of the worst droughts of the century, has been widely acclaimed. India has also been a pioneer in dovetailing mitigation efforts with developing programmes and has considerable experience to share in this vital area with other similarly placed developing countries. We are willing to extend cooperation for strengthening disaster preparedness and management strategies of other developing countries.

May I just remind my friends here that natural disasters are unpredictable. We have to cope with them on an on-the-spot situation. We have seen three years of continuous drought which brought something terrific for the mind even to imagine, have coped with them in an unparalleled way. We all have to share in this for future calamities anywhere in the world.

India, like other Member Nations celebrated the Eleventh World Food Day on the 16th October, 1991 which is also the anniversary day of the FAO. In the context of the unacceptably high rates of land degradation, deforestation and loss of cultivable land in many countries the theme of the World Food Day this year aptly emphasised the importance of trees for achieving long-term global ecological and food security.

This is one of the most important subjects we have to face. It has to be seen from two aspects: one for the developing and one for the developed countries. Both have to realize what they have to offer to the world. As a natural effect we have to care for mother nature. If we do not care for mother nature, she gets angry and you have to suffer. It is born between the Creator and man himself. Naturally it is to our own advantage that we safeguard the natural resources which are at our command otherwise future generations might say that we were so negligent in our responsibilities and in meetings those responsibilities that we just said goodbye to them. Let us not be termed as those who gave way to the exigencies of the situation and did not wake up to the realities which were looking us right in the face.

The Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference had adopted Resolution 3/89 calling for increased awareness and concern amongst the Member Nations for promoting and strengthening efforts for sustainable development, the protection of environment and proper management of natural resources in the interests of future generations. It also called upon the Director-General of FAO to make these concerns an integral part of the goals and priorities of FAO. We are happy that as a sequel to the Conference discussion and the Den Bosch Conference held in April 1991, an overall international Cooperative Programme Framework for meeting the needs of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development at national and international levels is being evolved. It is also commendable that besides various measures taken by the Director-General of FAO to strengthen and integrate sustainable development activities in the Organization, the FAO has also made significant contribution towards the preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

The third Report in the four-year cycle of reporting on the progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development with particular focus on the rural poor, is on the Agenda of this Conference. It is gratifying to note that significant strides have been made in several developing countries towards rural development, alleviation of poverty, providing rural employment and wages, granting access to land markets and to inputs, as also human resource development. With the adoption of the Den Bosch Declaration and the SARD policy objectives these efforts will get a further boost, ensuring greater sustainability to development.

These concerns are also reflected in India's strategy for agricultural development in the 1990s which will endeavour to provide a framework for increasing agricultural productivity and production, generating a faster rate of rural employment, removal of regional disparities and imbalances in

growth, especially of the rainfed areas, and for amelioration of life support systems including land, water and vegetation to ensure sustainable agricultural development. We trust our new approach will substantially improve the quality of life of the farmers and the rural poor at an accelerating pace and meet the growing demand for agricultural commodities and capital formation for deployment in the agrarian sector, simultaneously ensuring resources recoveries and enrichment.

Today there are more than 500 million people in the world who are undernourished. Furthermore, there will be over one billion more people to feed by the turn of the century. The not-too-bright economic prospects for many developing countries during the early 1990s, massive unemployment and increasing threats to agricultural production from the potential impact of climate change, loss of biodiversity and land degradation, call for concerted international action to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition and to foster economic growth with equity in the world.

In this context, the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97 presented by the Director-General of FAO, to the Conference in compliance with the Conference Resolution 10/89 succinctly brings out the challenges facing the international community. The document also discusses the policies, priorities and strategies that are required to be forged to meet the challenges. I congratulate the Director-General for this bold attempt, and hope that this document will generate a constructive discussion in the Conference leading to the finalization of a medium-term approach through the next three biennia to the chronic problems defying solution, besides uniting the Member Nations in their resolve to strengthen FAO action.

It is, however, a matter of great concern that at a time when FAO action needs to be strengthened, persisting financial crisis is threatening to seriously impair its programmes and activities. Not only that, larger resources are not being made available for implementation of some of the measures arising out of the recommendations of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, particularly in the context of the review of FAO's goals and objectives, sustainable development, women in development, etc. The normal assessed contributions have also not been paid by a number of governments. Resources constraint has reduced the Organization to a hand-to-mouth existence which has deleterious implications for the services it renders. We urge all Member Nations to spare no efforts to honour their commitments and pay their assessed contributions, thereby assisting in making FAO more effective and efficient in addressing the needs of the developing countries. We need to resolve to commit ourselves once again to the goal and objectives of FAO, and to provide it with the means to globally address the well-being of farmers and agricultural workers.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the great honour that it has been for me to address this prestigious body. Let me also express my sincere thanks for your patient hearing. I fervently hope that deliberations of this Conference will assist us in shaping an appropriate response to the challenges of the future.

Finally, Mr Chairman and friends, the thought that I would like to leave with you is that history has revealed that the future of humanity lies in cooperation, not confrontation. On the occasion of this FAO Conference in Rome almost on the eve of Christmas, it would be well for us to be mindful of the message of Jesus Christ, Peace on earth and goodwill towards all.

**Maido PAJO (Estonia):** Please allow me once more to express deep appreciation and gratitude towards all the countries and nations who actively supported us during our difficult pursuit of independence, and who have helped us in becoming affiliated with the United Nations and FAO. Please also allow me to express what a significant day was yesterday for Estonia, its people and its agriculture.

Once again the Republic of Estonia is following the pathway of political and economic self-determination under complicated circumstances. For fifty years we have been part of the planned Soviet economy. This has seriously hindered the democratic development of our society and has caused backwardness in our economy.

But we have firmly decided to restore a democratically organized way of life and once again integrate with the European and world economy.

The aim of our political reforms is to create stable and democratic mechanisms. We have set ourselves the task of a quick transformation to private property and structures based on the principles of a market economy. This year we have set free prices on our agricultural products. We have adapted our laws on property and land reforms as well as on favouring foreign investments and their state guarantees.

Traditionally Estonia has been an agricultural country. Even in 1939, the meat and milk produced in Estonia held high value on the European market. During the last years, the total agricultural output has covered 15 percent to 20 percent of our total economic production. For many years we have exported 30 percent to 40 percent of our meat and mild output. Purposeless utilization of resources and technological backwardness, caused by the planned economy, have hindered the quality of work and production and have given rise to complicated social and environmental problems.

Because we are still dependent on the Soviet economy, the process of reorganizing our own economy is very complicated and needs big resources. We have started to restore the family farms based on private property over a year ago.

We have also begun to privatize state agricultural property. The economic situation in the transfer period, and for the duration of it, depends on how quickly we can carry out the privatization of the land and the capital involved in agriculture.

The assistance of democratic forces in gaining the independence of Estonia provides us with a sure basis for hoping that cooperation with FAO and its member states will give us the possibility to carry out the necessary reforms in our agriculture and ensure the stability of the democratic processes so that the Estonian farmer can again take an active part in the integration of Europe and the world.

**Elemér GERGATZ (Hungary):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen! On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary it is my honour to welcome the Conference and to wish every success in its work. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman and to the Vice-Chairmen upon their election. It is my pleasant

duty to welcome the newly admitted full and associate Member States. I am convinced that their presence and activity will contribute to the integrity of the Organization and to the long-sought after global feature of FAO.

It was with satisfaction that my delegation has studied the documents of this Conference and I should like to commend the Director-General and his staff for their preparation. The documents suit the double purpose of the Conference, namely to give a forum to ministers and other senior officers to exchange their views on the issues of world agricultural development and to provide the Organization with proper guidance.

The Hungarian Government has always looked upon the Conference as an agricultural world summit and I therefore feel it is my special privilege to share with you some of my thoughts.

The United Nations has recently introduced a new term, economies in transition instead of centrally planned economies which has applied so far. I find this term most appropriate as far as both my country and, especially, Hungarian agriculture is concerned. The former system of agricultural policy has fallen to pieces and no new one has yet fully replaced it. You may be aware of the fact that among all Hungarian economic branches most market elements had been pursued in agriculture. This might have been responsible for the ability of Hungarian agriculture to meet its main objectives. That is, a full food supply to consumers and a mighty contribution to national export performances in spite of the changes in socio-political systems and all the troubles around the country.

The document, C 91/2, before us offers a fair description of some of the most important problems of Hungarian agriculture. I should only like to make some complementary remarks.

Our integration into world-scale economic processes and the full application of a more market-oriented approach called for price and other subsidies, which had so far distorted real economic relations, to be discontinued. This, as a matter of fact, resulted in significant price increases and the collapse of the CMEA market.

The price increases have resulted in a far-fetching negative development on the one hand and a relatively positive one on the other. It has been a negative development that consequent to the dwindling domestic purchasing power agricultural GDP decreased both in 1990 and in 1991, and rather hard work will be needed to stop this trend in 1992. The relative advantage derived from this development was the increase in our exports to Western markets brought about by the changes in our market-structure.

Besides the problems of structural transformation Hungarian agriculture is facing the transformation of land tenure policies and the assertion of environmental issues, which, I have to admit, have rather been neglected so far.

My Government is working hard on a package of bills in order to keep the productive potential of the large-scale farms and to establish cooperatives fully respecting the principle of voluntary cooperation and with a third partner, namely, the family farms, to create a symbiotic agriculture resting on three pillars, including farms of various ownership and management types.



I set great store in touching upon some problems of agricultural trade, since even under changed conditions we are selling approximately 30 percent of our agricultural output on external markets. Protectionism prevailing on international agro-markets is a fact, and we have to grudgingly admit that there is nothing left for us but to adjust to this fact for we cannot afford to follow suit. May I elaborate on some thoughts of mine in this respect.

I have already mentioned the new situation the Hungarian agriculture find itself in following the collapse of the CMEA markets and the consequent changes needed to raise the quality of the production, and to sign contracts with the independent states which have seceded and will secede from the USSR.

The Hungarian Government still attaches hope to the GATT talks. Positive results of these talks would offer advantageous opportunities to Hungarian agricultural products, though at the same time would call for a full and unconditional openness of our domestic markets. Consequently my country endorses the liberalization of agricultural trade and a full removal of protectionist barriers. It is known that my Government has taken initiatives to gain an associated status in the European Economic Community. This would require our production and marketing policies to be further adjusted to international requirements.

The many-sided and active cooperation with FAO has always been given great importance by my Government. We consider FAO to be no doubt primus inter pares in the flow of agricultural information and technical assistance to be given to countries in the field of agriculture in its broad sense. Our cooperation with FAO may in the future become even more open and without problems through the application of new policies. As a characteristic example I may mention that after many years of unofficial cooperation with the Global Information and Early Warning System we have formally joined a few months ago.

I should state that we deem the potential of the Hungarian economy and that of agriculture as appropriate to find the way out of the actual recession. In spite of this, we reckon with the assistance of the international community. The President, the Prime Minister and other senior officials of Hungary have already and repeatedly stated that we are not striving for aid but for working capital and smaller technical assistance which could exercise a catalytic effect in the stabilization and later upward trend of our economy.

Mention must be made at this forum of how very much my Government appreciates the technical assistance received so far in this field. In the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme the Director-General approved a project under which we have recently held a regional workshop on remote sensing, which proved to be a success. FAO is assisting us in streamlining the structure of our food quality control, veterinary and plant protection services.

I should also like to touch upon the PHARE programme of the European Community, which is efficiently participating in forming the new Hungarian agricultural structure. My Government would not object to amalgamating in some fields the financial resources of the EC and the human ones of FAO in order to reach an even higher grade of efficiency. We are looking forward

to other low cost-intensive projects to be implemented in Hungary to assist us in spreading and teaching appropriate know-how in agricultural modernization.

For approximately two decades Hungary has been the only country in the European region, formerly called eastern Europe, participating in a donor capacity, although with modest means, in food aid to least developed countries through the World Food Programme. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to announce that, in spite of our rather heavy economic problems, we would like to keep up this contribution. Pledges will be made accordingly at proper fora. For good measure I would like to point out that my Government would greatly appreciate it if WFP would consider the purchase of Hungarian products for aid supplies directed to other countries of the region.

Finally, I am going to mention some agenda items of the Conference. We think that the priorities set out in the Programme of Work and Budget, in the report on the State of Food and Agriculture, and in the Medium-Term Plan are correct, and my delegation supports these. We are pleased that the Director-General has formulated the principles and practical measures that the Organization will be working on in the coming six years, and has put these on the Conference's Agenda. The emphasis put by some delegations on cost-conscious management is not alien from our endeavours. What I am going to stress, however, is that there are no priorities recommended with which we disagree.

Without contradicting our statement on cost-conscious management, however, I would like to draw, Mr Chairman, your attention to an important point.

Hungarian delegations to the Conference sessions have never failed to point out the outstanding importance of the cooperation between European Member Nations, and I would like to do so even now.

I hope it is absolutely clear that my Government fully endorses FAO allocating its financial and human resources nearly fully to developing, and mainly to least developed, countries. At the same time we are not quite happy with the decrease in funds earmarked in the 1992-93 programme for the operations of the European Regional Office.

The cooperation of European countries in research and other fields have so far yielded good results also with FAO assistance, and I trust the indirect but positive impact of this successful cooperation by all FAO member countries does not need detailed explanation.

I hope that the Director-General will consider my remarks, with special thoughts to the actual situation where a number of countries, among them new member countries, are looking forward to promoting their agriculture and looking upon FAO as a major vehicle of this know-how.

To end, I would like to ask you, and through you all countries, to be assured of the importance Hungary attaches to FAO and to the cooperation with the Organization. We deem that FAO has pursued devotedly since its foundation its main objective, i.e. the alleviation and eradication of the great paradox of our times, hunger.

That is what we wish every delegate to this Conference will work for successfully.

**Abdullah AL-MUSAED (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, it is a pleasure for the delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the deliberations of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO General Conference. We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen on their election.

We would like to affirm our cooperation to reach positive resolutions that will reinforce the work and activities of the Organization in carrying out its task.

The world has witnessed in the last few years important developments which will certainly have far-reaching effects on the international order as a whole, and we look forward to the adaptation of this new order with the new developments in our world. We hope that it will be more in harmony with the changing international relations, and more sensitive and responsive to the tragic conditions of the people in many countries.

The 1980s have witnessed great harm done to the social and economic conditions of many developing countries still suffering from a burden of external debt which exceeds US\$ 1.29 trillion, accompanied by a weak infrastructure and a decrease in national income.

The United Nations General Assembly in its Eighteenth Special Session has referred to these deteriorating economic conditions of the developing countries and has called the attention of the world to their poverty and hunger, and the need to grant these issues priority among the preoccupations of the international community.

No doubt the efforts of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies in calling the attention to the problems of development in their different aspects, in many developing countries will lead to an increase in world awareness of the problems and difficulties faced in order to find a solution to overcome these problems. The UNCTAD Annual Report for 1990 has referred to the sufferings of the developing countries and to the deterioration of their general production.

We all know that sound economic development in today's complex environment is based on setting up a sound international order that takes into account the factors which affect the economies of the developing countries in order that their commodities find access to international markets in a climate of fair competition and enable these countries to have access to the means of development such as science and technology, which are necessary to improve their production and economies, and to reduce the transfer of their resources to developed countries.

We do not say that all the harm done to the economies and the standards of living in the developing countries is the responsibility of the developed countries alone. There is no doubt that the unfair economic relations and other external conditions have played an important role in the conditions prevailing in these countries. However, it is up to each developing country to work within its capacity and the means at its disposal to set up economic development policies which are efficient, since national policies are the solid basis for development.

The developed and industrialized countries should consider their economic conditions in the light of the international economic situation, and deal with their problems, whether they are budget deficits or production surplus, in a way that will not harm the international and economic relations between the North and the South.

On the other hand, trade relations should undergo effective reforms so that they lead to general economic recovery. Therefore, we have followed with interest the negotiations concerning the world trade system, and the Uruguay Round of GATT. We hope that these negotiations will lead to positive results that will ensure for the world a new liberalized trade system leading to economic recovery in the 1990s.

We are all aware that agricultural development and the increase of food production in developing countries are a necessity not only to improve the national income and the standards of living of the people, but also to protect the environment, the problems of which now occupy a very important place in the concerns of the international community.

There is no doubt that hunger is one of the basic reasons for the sufferings of countries as a result of desertification and deforestation which will cost the world economy a lot and for generations to come as the world population will reach eight and a half billion people in 2025. Therefore, as the Director-General said, we should have long-term solutions for the problems of food from which 15 children die every minute according to estimates by the Organization's experts.

The expansion of agricultural development as a result of international cooperation in all the fields of technology and science, in addition to sound national policies, will certainly enable developing countries to solve the problems of food and the environment, and thus protect the environment and our planet from the risks to which it is exposed.

The Organization has warned us in its reports and publications that the world cereal production in 1991 will witness a reduction of 20 million tons, that is to say, 3 percent less than last year, and that this will lead to a large draw upon the world reserve, which will reach its lowest limit necessary for world food security. Moreover, the food aid that will be provided by the donor countries in 1991-92 will reach 8.7 million tons, i.e. 4 percent less than last year, which will affect world emergency reserve for assistance.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has achieved a lot in agrarian reform and agricultural rural development in spite of limited natural resources at our disposal. We have been able with our continuous efforts and with the help of God Almighty to attain our objective of self-reliance, as well as to become an exporter of basic food commodities. The agriculture of Saudi Arabia, which is one of the basic elements of the success of our development process in the Kingdom, makes us proud today. We also receive the appreciation of many of our friends.

Indeed, from the beginning, and contrary to what happened in other countries, we were aware of the importance of establishing an agricultural sector that could be self-sustainable development in the long term. We have been able to attain this objective. As a result, we have been able to increase agricultural production and improve efficiency, as well as expand rural development. Therefore, we have been able to obtain population

balance in the Kingdom. In addition, the development process has been achieved within a liberal economic system without the State being obliged to resort to any monopoly in production or marketing. We have left the door open for all competition, internal or external alike. The Kingdom has been keen through its development and environmental institutions to protect the environmental balance. We have taken necessary measures to improve the environment and fight desertification. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, together with the authorities concerned, have been planting large areas of forests that have been cleared in different areas of the country.

The achievements made by Saudi Arabia in the agricultural sector have enabled the Kingdom to be responsive and to extend humanitarian aid in the form of food aid to countries suffering from hunger. Our assistance was either direct or through the World Food Programme and IFAD. The Kingdom has also participated in developing the agricultural sector in a large number of developing countries through bilateral cooperation, through the Saudi Development Fund, through its participation in the other regional development funds, through the Islamic Bank, and through the international financial institutions and UN Specialized Agencies.

The delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appreciates the enormous efforts made by FAO in its assistance activities and technical programmes that extend assistance directly and indirectly in order to increase international agricultural production, fight hunger and the tragic conditions of many people, in an effort to ensure food and decent living for all people in the world in conformity with the Organization's Constitution and objectives.

Our delegation would also like to express appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Director-General in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93, which has come up to the hopes and aspirations of the Member States and which we find, after reviewing its various aspects, to be suitable and copes with the prevailing conditions.

We hope that the Conference will reach positive results which will further reinforce the objectives of the Organization and enable it to pursue its noble mandate. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

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

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEXTA SESION PLENARIA (13 November 1991)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)  
Turkey, Germany, Myanmar, European Economic Community (EEC), Tunisie, Bolivia, España, New Zealand, Argentina, Sweden, Japan, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Lithuania

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for arriving on time. We will start with our normal business of general discussion.

In the first instance I have the honour to invite His Excellency Ilker Tuncay of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Department of Turkey.

**Ilker TUNCAY (Turkey):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Ministers and Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen: It gives me great pleasure to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. These conferences have proved to be a very useful forum since 1945 for reviewing world food and agricultural situations, their problems and their solutions.

In my presentation, I would first like to share with you some of my thoughts on the main features of the world economy as it relates to the food and agricultural situation prevailing today.

The political and economic reforms taking place in Central and Eastern Europe and in many developing countries make it evident that the traditional rifts among countries or groups of countries are gradually closing. Values such as market economy are becoming a common denominator for most of them.

While the process of these reforms in the national economies incurs certain level of cost for their societies, the governments stand determined to complete this process in order not to remain behind in a growing competitive environment in the world.

In this respect, it is in the common interest of all countries to build new forms of partnerships.

Turning to the world food and agricultural situation, I believe that our traditional challenge to reduce poverty and hunger maintains its highest priority. As is mentioned in the Conference document, growth in world agricultural production has fallen below the medium-term trend during the last two years.

On the trade side, international prices of the main traded agricultural commodities fell significantly in 1990 and the first months of 1991. Analysis of world agricultural situations indicates that continuing debt problems, high interest rates and unfavourable terms of trade still hamper the efforts of developing countries in reaching their development targets.

Agriculture remains to be the sector which is most affected by the adversities of world economic environment. In addition, people dependent on agriculture are expected to bear the heaviest burden of today's national economic reforms. Therefore, under the circumstances it is unfortunate to see that world hunger and malnutrition has not abated.

In our opinion, this can only be solved when agricultural cooperation has been chosen as the focal point of international efforts.

Distinguished Delegates, at this point I would like to touch briefly on the recent developments in Turkish agriculture.

Agriculture has long been an important sector in the Turkish economy which is mainly due to rich natural resources. Our recent policies towards market economy have added to the above advantages leading us to obtain satisfactory growth in agricultural production. In fact, this sector realized an annual average growth rate of 4 percent in the last seven years reaching a peak of 7.9 percent in 1986. It is indeed true that my country has a successful record in keeping her agricultural output in pace with population growth. The success achieved in this respect is the result of sustained self-help efforts of the farmers and the promotion of private enterprises for the production and distribution of inputs as well as marketing of the commodities. In this direction, the Government has intensified its efforts on research and extension to support this evolution.

Forestry development programmes also have been intensified throughout the country in recent years. Re-establishment of the Ministry of Forestry this year is expected to contribute to further expansion of these programmes.

Our agenda for the future comprises programmes to further raise productivity and improve the quality of products and facilitate access into the world markets.

I am pleased to point out that our overall agricultural cooperation with other countries has rapidly grown in recent years. It is worth mentioning that the technical cooperation and assistance extended to other developing countries by Turkey has been expanded through various channels including T CDC arrangements established with FAO. Under these arrangements about 500 technicians from various countries were trained at varying levels in Turkey in 1990. In order to facilitate and better coordinate such efforts, which are currently exerted by individual institutes, we are now in the process of establishing an international agricultural forestry training centre in Turkey.

Likewise, we are willing to share our facilities and capacity of forestry with other FAO member countries, particularly in the Mediterranean area.

Our recent initiative to shape Black Sea Economic Cooperation is another example for Turkey's determination and commitment to regional and global cooperation.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, at this point, I would like to praise FAO for its tremendous efforts in assisting the developing countries and contributing to technical and economic cooperation among these countries.



The recent orientation in the roles and functions of FAO under the able leadership of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, deserves particular commendation.

I will conclude my remarks by hoping that this Conference will have a positive impact for the achievement of our common objectives in the field of agricultural development. Let me assure you that my country is ready to play her part towards this end.

Thank you.

**Ignaz KIECHLE (Germany) (Original language German):** Since our last meeting at the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference two years ago, the world political climate has fundamentally changed. In almost all countries, the people have turned their backs on the communist system and declared their belief in freedom, self-determination and democracy, as well as in the principles of the market economy. With the change in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the Soviet Union, an end was brought to the East-West confrontation, and the German partition was overcome.

I am very happy to be able to speak to you now for the first time as representative of the reunified Germany. I take this opportunity to thank our friends from around the world who have given us support on the road to state unity. I should like to assure you that we shall also continue to assume our greater responsibility within the international community.

The new worldwide political realities open up opportunities for more intensive cooperation between the industrialized countries and the developing countries which now, without ideological ballast, can be focused more strongly on the real needs of the people. In this respect, the basic conditions have improved to solve the really decisive problems that we face at the threshold of the Twenty-first Century. I am thinking in this respect, above all, of the need to overcome the prosperity divide between north and south as the basis for peaceful coexistence of all peoples. It should not be a matter of indifference to us that we see worldwide 550 million people suffering from hunger and malnutrition and 1.1 billion people living beneath the absolute poverty line. The combat against hunger, poverty and underdevelopment must, therefore, have the highest priority. This calls for an intensification of international cooperation. However, the improvement of the economic situation in the Third World countries must not take place at the cost of the ecological balance because an intact environment is also part of a dignified life. Therefore, increasing importance is attached to the maintenance of the natural bases of life in the framework of development aid. I am aware that the increasing rapprochement between east and west in the developing countries is followed with mixed feelings. There is apprehension that the problems of the Third World could be pushed into the background by the radical changes in the former east block countries.

On behalf of the Federal Government, I should like to say this: The extremely difficult economic and ecological consequences of communist economic policy cannot be overcome by the affected countries alone. Therefore, the western industrialized countries have declared their readiness to provide financial support to the countries in the process of reform. Although Germany assumes a pioneer role here, it will intensify its development aid efforts for the countries of the south. Furthermore,

Germany has cancelled the public debts of all least developed countries, with one exception. From 1978 until today, we have forgiven all developing countries about DM 9 billion. The main focuses of German development aid are relieving poverty, promotion of training, creation of jobs, rural development, and the protection of the natural bases of life. The countries of the Third World will rely also in the coming years on the provision of know-how, technology and capital from the industrialized countries and Germany will be happy to make an appropriate contribution. However, we will make the allocation of funds contingent more strongly than so far on the creation of an environment which is based on democracy, rule of the law and market economy in the countries concerned. An important part in development policy cooperation is also played by the non-governmental organizations whose activities are primarily financed from private donations. The German citizens in 1990 donated almost US\$620 million, about a billion Deutsch marks, for humanitarian purposes in the Third World. This demonstrates once again that the citizens of our country recognize the need of people in other parts of the world and do their best to contribute to their relief.

The magnitude of the development policy challenges calls for determined concerted action on the part of the international community. This fact is taken into account by FAO under the leadership of its Director-General, Edouard Saouma, with the Programme of Work for the next two years and with its medium-term planning for 1992-97. It trusts in this respect in coordinated action and close cooperation with its Member States, with the other UN specialized agencies and programmes and the NGOs. At the two previous Conferences, the work of FAO was subjected to critical review. The documents that Director-General Saouma submitted to this year's Conference demonstrate that the efforts to reform FAO's activities have been successful. Thus, the policy advice of FAO to the developing countries in agricultural, food, environmental and population issues has become more efficient. Servicing and coordinating of projects has also been improved. More than in the past, important cross-sectoral activities are taken into consideration in FAO's work, such as the protection of the natural bases of life, the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources and the efforts to improve the situation of women within the framework of rural development. Considering the continuously difficult financial situation of FAO, this deserves special appreciation.

I welcome the fact that FAO has succeeded in effectively limiting the increase in costs. I hope that despite some still open issues concerning the calculation of personnel costs and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, the budget for 1992-93 will be adopted by consensus. With regard to the difficult financial situation the budget for 1992-93 should not be increased in real terms against the level of 1990-91.

The new Programme of Work had to be adjusted to the limited financial possibilities, and in this respect it cannot be avoided that justified expectations and concerns of Member States in need of help must be left out of account.

That it has nonetheless been possible to draw up a balanced Programme of Work for the solution of the pressing problems, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all those who took an active part in it. FAO could achieve its short- and longer-term tasks even much better if all Member States were fully to meet their obligation to pay the contributions. The European Community, whose Member States are already members of FAO, seeks to join our Organization as a whole. I welcome the basically positive

assessment of these efforts since the EC has already demonstrated its commitment to development policy on many occasions inter alia through the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Fourth Lome Convention. This Convention gives certain developing countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific Regions easier access to the European market for important agricultural products. At the same time, the financial and technical promotion of agriculture and rural development in these countries is an important component of the Convention.

I hope that the membership of the EC in FAO will still be possible in the course of the present Conference. The EC has also repeatedly stated its readiness within the framework of the GATT negotiations on a further liberalization of world trade to take account of the interests of the developing countries. Here, however, one has to differentiate: on the one hand, there are developing countries which have to rely on the world market to cover their own food requirements as cheaply as possible, while other developing countries try to promote their economic development through increased agricultural exports. We are ready to intensify our efforts to restrict subsidized agricultural exports. In this way the disturbances on the world market would be generally diminished. This would be to the benefit of all developing countries.

But we cannot export less and at the same time import more. I appeal to all GATT members to show flexibility in the further negotiations, and thus to contribute to a fair overall compromise with which our peasant European agriculture can also live.

The current world food and agricultural problems are also again in the foreground of the discussions at this Conference session. And here I should like to refer to the growing importance of world forestry.

This subject was also dealt with on the occasion of this year's World Food Day under the motto "Trees for Life".

In the coming year this will also stand in the forefront of the World Conference on Environment Development in Rio de Janeiro. Due to its great expert competence we expect from FAO important approaches to solutions.

This especially applies to the tropical forest problems. And here we are also prepared to engage in active cooperation, because for us there is no doubt about it: mankind needs healthy trees and healthy forests to survive just as air to breathe.

The awareness of the close connection between food security and the protection of the natural bases of life must be sharpened further worldwide.

During his recent visit to several countries in Latin America, Federal Chancellor Dr Kohl has also referred to the importance of the forests, in particular tropical forests, for the future of the whole of mankind.

I hope that the discussion about a greater consideration of environmental issues at this Conference will have a signal effect for many Member States.

I take this opportunity of wishing this year's FAO Conference every success.

Lieutenant-General CHIT SWE (Myanmar): Mr Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates. May I on behalf of myself and the Union of Myanmar Delegation convey my warm and sincere congratulations to Malik Abdul Majid on his election as Chairman of this important Conference. The unanimous consensus is a tribute to his esteem and stature, and we are fully confident that his wisdom, coupled with his experience, will steer this Conference to a fruitful conclusion.

The world has witnessed considerable historical changes during the past biennium. The transformations have recast the political and economic structures of many countries, that have led in shifts towards market economies in various forms. Meanwhile new economic agreements have come into force in different regions of the world, while the countdown for the Single European Market in 1992 moves forward unabated. It is our hope that the new trends and patterns in global trade that are to emerge do not adversely affect the aspirations of the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, the Food and Agriculture Organization has indicated that, for the current year, the outlook for world cereal production has deteriorated in several major growing countries due to unfavourable climatic conditions. Consequently, it has been estimated that world cereal production in 1991 is forecast to be below trend and sharply less than last year's record. We hope it would not deteriorate further.

The unusual conditions of the south-west monsoon during the year also set in motion severe floods in Bangladesh, China, Viet Nam, Cambodia and in Myanmar. Myanmar was subject to both sporadic drought and floods, the floods being the severest in the past decades. The floods affected over 400 000 acres of crops, mostly paddy, rendered more than 280 000 people homeless, and led to a highly considerable loss in public and private property and infrastructure. Measures have been taken to recultivate damaged areas, with crops appropriate to post-flood growing conditions, and we are glad to report that national food requirements and our normal potential surpluses will not be unduly affected.

The measures of assistance rendered by UN Agencies, international organizations and numerous donor countries towards the relief efforts are highly contributive, and we remain deeply appreciative.

The national economy of Myanmar is still predominantly reliant on agriculture. The arable land to population ratio is very favourable. The country is richly endowed with forest and marine resources; and minerals, gas and petroleum deposits. The pace of economic growth and development, however, had not been comparatively satisfactory. The Government of Myanmar, in recognition of the negative environments, instituted drastic changes to its economic structure in recent years. Significant steps were taken for the shift towards a market economy and with a view to maximize private domestic participation, attract foreign investment and accelerate growth and development. Emphasis has been given to creating profit incentives for farmers as well as small entrepreneurs and to infrastructure development.

The measures were followed by the promulgation of a new Foreign Investment Law. The Law, containing favourable returns on investment has provided equitable conditions for foreign ventures in production, trade and service

sectors. The responses have been encouraging and currently a considerable number of enterprises in forestry, fisheries, oil and mineral exploration, industries and for hotel and tourism are in operation.

Measures were also taken for relaxing controls in international trade, and with mechanisms for exporters to retain the full amount of their foreign exchange earnings, for purchase of appropriate imports. The incentives have generated favourable private sector response, and has led to an increase in the volume of agricultural exports. Similarly, the legislation of the inland border trades with the neighbouring countries have further given a surge to Myanmar's exports in numerous agricultural products. The absolute and ultimate overall effects of the various measures still remain to be fully realized. But early indications signal that the agriculture sector has responded well to the increasing demand and higher prices of agricultural produce.

We also recognize and welcome the long-standing work of FAO on biological diversity and its efforts on strengthening of national capabilities in developing countries in accordance with the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference Resolution 5/89 on Farmers' Rights. The conservation of genetic resources remains extremely essential for the ensurance of an assured supply of basic material for plant and animal breeding; and importantly also for future biotechnology advances. The collection and exchange of plant germplasm continue to be built up in Myanmar, and we hope that our efforts in these spheres will be further strengthened through the enlarging scope of the Special Action Programme on Biological Diversity.

We also appreciate the efforts that FAO contemplates in the livestock and fisheries sectors. The direct contribution of the livestock sector to Myanmar's GDP still remains nominal. However, it has contributed comparatively towards animal protein requirements and is the major source of draft power for cropping and transport. The fisheries sector also remains an important economic component in our national growth. The potential for further development in these sectors remains considerable.

The 2 800 kilometre coast line of Myanmar supports a vast reservoir of varied fish resources and accounts for 80 percent of the total national fish production. The marine resources, however, still remain under-exploited. The total harvest in 1990 amounted to only about half a million metric tons against an estimated sustainable yield of one million metric tons. Our national fishing fleet still lacks the capacity to accommodate the potential; and as an interim bridging measure and in conformity to the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Seas, for sharing surpluses, a number of fishing rights, associated with development programmes, have been granted. The rights are for one year with options for extension and are meant to serve as prelude to more economically viable Joint Ventures under our Foreign Investment Law. I wish to take the opportunity of assuring the Conference that the operations will be controlled under strict legal and administrative mechanisms, so as to prevent over-exploitation or damage to the environment. The inshore fisheries, however, still remain the domain of small-scale and artisanal fishermen, and in apparent need of further support and development. The Law Relating to Aquaculture enacted in 1989, has accelerated the process, and large tracts of suitable areas have been identified, demarcated and reserved for aquaculture.

Mr Chairman, environmental problems and sustainable development have, in the meantime, assumed high prominence on the international fora. In the case of the industrialized countries, the growing use of fossil fuels and chlorofluorocarbons, associated acid rains and effluents have been the principal causes of environmental damage and pollution. On the other hand, the factors instrumental for such problems in most developing countries have been the pressure of population, expansion of agriculture and grazing and the high dependence on biofuel for energy. Therefore, the primary motivation creating environmental problems in developed industrial nations is profit, whereas in the least developed and developing countries it is a matter for survival.

We remain deeply concerned about the current environmental problems that have emerged. In spite of our financial resource constraints, we have taken firm measures to integrate environmental considerations into the various facets of national development. And in support of these measures, the Government has also set up a National Commission for Environmental Affairs, with competency over all environmental affairs and to coordinate efforts in the field of environment in Myanmar.

Perceivably, many standards will emerge from the forthcoming 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The problems of the developing countries, however, already remain overwhelming and it might be illusory to assume, they will be able to shoulder the responsibilities of the environment issues within their financial resources. The problems at the same time remain global, and it is hoped an equitable approach could be evolved.

Fortunately Myanmar's natural environment has not been unduly impaired. It has incidentally been due to the relatively limited population pressure, the still low level of industrialization and the limited use of polluting agricultural chemicals. Moreover, a large proportion of the country is still under forests, mostly natural. The forest resources continue to be managed under sound silvicultural systems.

As an agricultural country we attach extreme importance to the protection of the tropical forest ecosystems. We continue to subscribe to the activities of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, and the tenets of the declaration adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific held in 1990. We also fully endorse the Paris Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress and will effectively cooperate with the international community in this vital area.

Our campaign to combat and eradicate opium poppy cultivation and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, is also being waged relentlessly. The Government, at the same time, has been according high priority to the development of the border areas, with a view to improving the rural infrastructure, agricultural development and socio-economic conditions of the region. It is perceived that the measures will be highly complimentary to the poppy eradication programme. The support rendered in the efforts, by FAO, UNDP and UNDCP, among others, has been invaluable and we remain indebted to them. Tangible results have been attained, and information and access have been regularly provided to the UN bodies, diplomatic communities and international news agencies in Myanmar. Myanmar has, at the same time, entered into bilateral cooperation with the People's Republic of China, Thailand and Laos, at the sub-regional level, with a view to

strengthening the war against drugs. Our earnest endeavours in this sphere has also been reported to the world community at the recent Forty-sixth United Nations General Assembly.

The problem of agricultural, food security and economic growth of the developing countries has become more complex. Almost a third of humanity still lack the basic necessities of life, while over one billion people live in absolute poverty. The accomplishment in all other walks of life will remain irrelevant if we fail to address these problems. We firmly believe in all sincerity that the international community will be able to rise to the occasion.

Ray MacSHARRY (EEC): Mr President, Director-General, Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to speak to you again at this most prestigious forum. Since we met two years ago there have been major political developments in the world, and in particular in the Soviet Union and the Central and Eastern Europe. There has been increased need for food aid throughout the world. FAO has kept up with the challenges which these changes present, and I therefore would like to congratulate Mr Saouma and his staff for their continued contribution to improving living standards throughout the world, and to alleviating the plight of the peoples most in need.

It is in recognition of the importance of FAO's work that the Community has strengthened its institutional links with FAO earlier this year. The Community now hopes to become a member of FAO during the present Conference and I will return, Mr President, to this aspect later on.

Among the many important items on the agenda the subject of the world food and agriculture situation is of particular importance. At the FAO Conference two years ago we had an opportunity to review the situation including world market prices and stock levels for major commodities. It has become abundantly clear since then that the Community and many other countries needed to undertake important reforms in the agricultural sector to achieve lasting improvements on the world market.

The European Community has taken up the challenge of agricultural reform with great vigour. On the basis of proposals put forward by the Commission this year, the European Council and the European Parliament have started an in-depth debate on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. The main features of the Commission's proposals are that there will be major reductions in prices, as high as 36 percent in cereals, 10 percent in milk, butter 15 percent, and skimmed milk powder 5 percent, and beef as high as 15 percent. There will be supply control measures. For example in the cereal sector we will have set aside, and we will have, in the milk sector, lower milk quotas, tobacco quotas, and upper limits on sheep premia.

There will also be substantial compensation for price reductions and the supply control measures through payments to the farmers, measures better to direct support towards small and medium sized farmers such as extension of small cereal producers from set-aside requirements and mechanisms, and to allow the small milk producers to avoid quota cuts.

The emphasis will be, as I have said, on greater support towards the small and medium sized farmers, of which we have the greatest majority. There will also be accompanying measures dealing with special environmental issues. There will be an accelerated programme to encourage afforestation of agricultural land and new measures to facilitate earlier retirement.

The proposals will be of benefit to Europe's farmers through greater stability of earnings and competitiveness, more balanced markets domestically and internationally, and a more equitable distribution of support.

They will also benefit consumers through reduced prices and, of course, make a contribution to the environment by encouraging less intensive methods of production and better care of the countryside. From the point of view of the delegations represented here, it is important to the contribution they will make in the international trading environment.

I would like to stress that the Commission, Council and the European Parliament all agree on the need for far-reaching reforms. There has been a surge of support for the Commission's approach. I am hopeful that the main elements of the reform will be agreed by the end of this year.

In our inter-dependent world no single country can determine the state of world markets. The Uruguay Round, therefore, plays a key role in underpinning reform throughout the world. The Community has stressed on numerous occasions its determination to play an active role in bringing the Round to a successful conclusion, hopefully by the end of this year.

I am sure that the FAO will continue to assist the developing countries participating in the negotiations in ensuring that their well-recognized needs are reflected in the final outcome.

The Community has from the start of the negotiations recognized the need for special and differential treatment for the developing countries. We are very much aware, for example, of the specific concerns of the net food importing countries, which could face difficulties when world market prices increase as a result of a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. The Community has recognized the need for continuing food aid.

Obviously agriculture is only one of a number of key sectors in the Uruguay Round. Others include textiles, services, and intellectual property.

I am now more optimistic about a successful, balanced outcome before the end of the year, in which all participants will find advantages.

The Community's concern for the developing countries extends, of course, well beyond the Uruguay Round.

The Community notes with concern that productivity in Africa and Latin America has recently declined, reversing a previously encouraging trend.

The Community will continue to assist structural development in the developing countries, and will continue to provide food aid to alleviate major hardship in the short term.



We have heard fears expressed that our important efforts in assisting Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Soviet Union could lead to a reduction in our assistance to developing countries but this is clearly not the case. Not only have we kept up earlier assistance levels but in the case of food aid we have this year even increased the level of emergency assistance to Africa.

Furthermore, I believe that the recent emergence of democracy and more market-oriented economies in Eastern and Central Europe, combined with the recent developments in the Soviet Union, are in the interests of global peace and stability, which will be of benefit to all.

In this difficult period of transition there have been real humanitarian needs, including food aid, to which the Community has responded with vigour.

The recently negotiated agreement with the EFTA countries setting up a European economic area, as well as the negotiations underway on association agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, show that the European Community is responding in a constructive manner to new challenges and new responsibilities.

It is in this spirit that on 6 June 1991 the Commission of the European Communities and FAO have signed a framework agreement in order to step up their cooperation in the food and agricultural sectors, including fisheries and forestry. The agreement establishes expanded cooperation in both the area of policy review and field activities. Mechanisms are provided which ensure not only regular consultations between both institutions and their services but also between their representatives in the field.

This expanded cooperation will maximize the skills and efforts of the two organizations to the benefit of developing countries with whom the FAO and the Community are working together. This cooperation is not only a commitment for the future but a reality. In fact, already during 1991 quite a number of actions have been successfully undertaken with important contributions from the EC Commission under this framework agreement.

The Community wishes to further deepen this dialogue by becoming a member of FAO during the present Conference, as you all know.

This would allow us to play a more active part in the life of FAO, an irreplaceable institution, the aims of which the Community fully supports. At the same time, the Community's accession would strengthen FAO and I am convinced that all of you share this objective with us. I am, therefore, looking forward to the work of this Conference as it proceeds on this important issue. I would like to say again that it is a great honour and privilege for me to share my thoughts with you and I wish, as it always has had, this Conference every success.

**Mouldi ZOUAOUI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe):** En mon nom propre et au nom de la délégation tunisienne, je voudrais exprimer mes félicitations sincères à M. Malik Abdul Majid à l'occasion de son élection pour présider aux travaux de cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale, je suis persuadé que ses qualités personnelles de sagesse et de compétence lui permettront de mener à bon port les travaux de cette Conférence.

Le Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali m'a chargé de vous exprimer la grande estime et la profonde considération que la Tunisie témoigne à l'égard de ce forum international devant lequel il a prononcé une allocution il y a quelques semaines à peine. C'est une estimation et une considération des efforts insignes que la FAO n'a cessé de consentir pour étendre son action bienfaitrice et sécurisante dans les régions les plus démunies du monde.

Je me prévaux de cette occasion pour saluer tous les fonctionnaires de la FAO et à leur tête M. Edouard Saouma, son Directeur général, en exprimant la haute considération dans laquelle nous tenons leurs efforts fructueux en vue de développer le secteur agricole dans toutes les régions du monde. Ces efforts vont au-delà de l'unique aspect alimentaire pour en assurer les sources d'approvisionnement dans le monde et ce par le biais du soutien aux projets de conservation des sols, face aux périls de l'érosion et de la dégradation, parallèlement au soutien apporté aux Etats Membres dans leurs efforts pour encadrer les agriculteurs et jeter les bases d'un développement durable.

L'humanité, ayant déjà entamé la dernière décennie du vingtième siècle, se doit de saisir cette occasion pour instaurer un dialogue sincère afin de consacrer toute sa disponibilité et tout son esprit de solidarité dont elle peut faire montre afin de préserver l'ensemble des nations du monde des dangers de famine et d'extinction.

N'est-il pas honteux pour une civilisation humaine qui a atteint son apogée en cette époque, que des millions d'enfants des zones démunies meurent de sous-alimentation et du poids de l'oubli?

Toutefois, ce qui met du baume au coeur dans le feu de ces contradictions, c'est que l'humanité dispose d'un trésor de consciences vives telles que celles que réunit aujourd'hui cette vénérable instance qui s'inspire de hautes valeurs civilisationnelles dont la traduction dans les faits constitue le gage de la pérennité de tout être humain, sans discrimination ni exclusion.

La FAO a apporté son soutien à la grande marche du développement agricole d'un grand nombre de pays; elle y a participé par l'expérience qu'elle mettait au service de ces derniers dans le transfert technologique, dans la conception des stratégies de développement et dans la mise des ressources phytogénétiques nationales à la disposition de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Elle a également participé activement aux campagnes de lutte contre les divers fléaux tels que le criquet pèlerin ou encore la lucilie bouchère qui a menacé les ressources animales de la région d'Afrique du nord, du continent africain et même du sud de l'Europe. Il s'agit là d'un acte de solidarité qui mérite l'estime de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

De même, nous saluons le rôle de pionnier que joue la FAO dans le développement des politiques agricoles dans les pays en développement ainsi que son assistance pour que l'agriculture extensive ne se fasse pas au détriment de l'équilibre de l'environnement. La meilleure preuve en est que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation cette année a eu pour thème: l'Arbre, source de vie, étant donné le rôle essentiel de l'arbre dans la conservation de l'équilibre écologique et par voie de conséquence la nécessité d'un développement agricole durable.

Nous voudrions souligner ici l'importance des projets pilotes que l'Organisation contribue à mettre à exécution dans nos pays et qui allient la dimension emploi à celle de l'utilisation des technologies modernes appropriées.

Nous souhaitons également souligner l'importance du soutien aux programmes axés sur des politiques de développement et l'adhésion au concept d'un développement agricole durable qui sauvegarde à la fois les richesses naturelles et l'environnement.

La Tunisie a trouvé auprès de la FAO et de ses organes directeurs un écho favorable à ses aspirations et nous avons la plus grande estime pour les efforts de l'Organisation dans le soutien apporté aux divers projets dont le PNUD a participé au financement. Ces projets ont tous consacré la priorité absolue que la Tunisie ne cesse d'accorder à l'agriculture depuis le 7 décembre 1987 avec pour ambition, comme l'a affirmé le Président Ben Ali que la Tunisie recouvre ses mérites historiques qui l'ont fait surnommer la verte Tunisie sans parler bien entendu de l'objectif de sécurité alimentaire pour tous les Tunisiens.

Pour ce faire, nous avons mis en place une politique agricole qui se fonde sur l'utilisation de nos ressources en eaux pour accroître la production, dans le cadre d'une stratégie décennale de mobilisation des ressources en eau, à la fois souterraines et de surface. Cette mobilisation permettra la bonification de nouvelles zones irriguées qui ne manqueront pas de consolider et d'accroître la production agricole dans une dépendance moins aiguë vis-à-vis des changements climatiques.

Parallèlement à cela, un plan a été élaboré pour la conservation des eaux et du sol sur une superficie de près d'un million d'hectares, ce qui ne manquera pas de permettre une meilleure exploitation des terres agricoles.

Nous avons développé une politique volontaire de reboisement qui a permis au cours des trente dernières années de doubler la couverture forestière et ainsi le pourcentage des forêts est passé de 4 à 7 pour cent de l'ensemble des terres non désertiques du pays. Nous avons pour objectif de doubler de nouveau ce taux au cours de la prochaine décennie pour atteindre l'objectif de 15 pour cent, ce qui démontre le degré de priorité accordé par la Tunisie à la sauvegarde de l'équilibre écologique et à la protection de l'environnement.

A cet égard, un ministère de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire vient d'être institué. Nous avons également oeuvré pour organiser les structures du secteur agricole et en particulier les services techniques, les unions d'agriculteurs telles que les coopératives de service, les associations coopératives, l'investissement et le crédit agricole afin de lever tous les obstacles qui entravent le développement agricole tels que le régime foncier et la complexité des démarches administratives.

Conjointement, nous avons oeuvré pour améliorer la qualité de vie des agriculteurs dans les zones rurales grâce à l'adduction d'eau potable, à l'électrification des campagnes et à la construction de routes. Ceci va contribuer certainement à maintenir les agriculteurs sur leurs terres et à réduire d'autant l'acuité de l'exode rural.

Nous fondant sur la conviction de l'importance d'une politique adéquate des prix comme stimulant de la production agricole, nous avons adopté une politique de prix d'encouragement pour les produits de base tels que les céréales, l'huile d'olive et le lait tout en maintenant la politique de l'offre et de la demande pour les produits non stratégiques.

La FAO est aujourd'hui appelée à jouer son rôle primordial dans la construction d'un réseau efficace de solidarité mondiale pour adapter la technologie agricole afin d'assurer une alimentation suffisante pour l'ensemble de l'humanité aux fins de la sécurité dans le monde.

Alors que nous reconnaissons l'importance de l'aide alimentaire dans la réalisation des objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire, nous y voyons également une source importante de développement et nous mettons l'accent sur la nécessité d'améliorer la performance des opérations d'aide alimentaire de manière coordonnée, tout en oeuvrant à en réduire les incidences négatives sur la production nationale.

Les pays développés se doivent de prendre en considération les besoins urgents des pays en développement en matière d'aide alimentaire tout en accordant l'intérêt requis par nos pays d'Afrique soumis aux méfaits de la sécheresse, de la désertification et de la malnutrition. Il est également nécessaire d'examiner les effets négatifs sur les balances de paiements de pays en développement des politiques protectionnistes qui ont été examinées dans l'enceinte du GATT.

A l'occasion de la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation cette année, le Président Ben Ali avait appelé du haut de cette tribune à la mise au point d'un Pacte de solidarité internationale pour l'éradication définitive de la faim dans des délais raisonnables et à l'instauration d'un ordre économique solidaire permettant de faciliter et d'adapter la technologie et de fournir les investissements nécessaires à l'accroissement de la production agricole dans tous les pays du monde car la réalisation des objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire pour les peuples des pays en développement et la création d'emplois suffisants pour leurs jeunes constituent les meilleurs remparts contre les dangers de l'extrémisme et du désespoir.

La proposition du Président Ben Ali visant à réinvestir les dettes des pays en développement dans des projets productifs dans ces mêmes pays trouvera peut-être un écho favorable dans les programmes de la FAO étant donné le rôle essentiel de ces programmes dans la réalisation d'un développement agricole durable, garantissant des revenus adéquats au monde rural et sauvegardant l'environnement.

Nous affirmons notre soutien au programme de travail et de budget de l'Organisation pour l'exercice biennal 1992-93 tel qu'il est présenté par M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO. Nous espérons que tous les Etats Membres lui apporteront le même soutien car il est nécessaire que les moyens dont dispose l'Organisation soient accrus afin que celle-ci puisse satisfaire les besoins toujours croissants des pays en développement.

Nous sommes convaincus que l'adhésion des organisations d'intégration économique régionale et de la CEE à la FAO contribuera à accroître les capacités. Nous réitérons l'appel que nous avons adressé à l'Organisation pour qu'elle poursuive son Programme de coopération technique dans sa forme actuelle qui se caractérise par la souplesse et nous prions le Directeur

général de tenir compte des directives de la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence générale dans l'élaboration de ses propositions pour l'exercice 1994-95.

Nous réaffirmons notre appui au PAFT et, à cette occasion, nous appelons la FAO à préparer un plan similaire pour le développement du secteur forestier dans les pays méditerranéens, afin d'aider à rétablir le couvert forestier de ces pays et de mettre un terme à l'avancée du désert qui menace non seulement les pays d'Afrique mais également les pays du sud de l'Europe, car la désertification ne connaît pas de frontière.

En conclusion, nous ne pouvons que réitérer notre estime pour la FAO et à l'endroit de ses fonctionnaires, et nous réaffirmons notre soutien sans faille à leur noble mission humanitaire, souhaitant parvenir ensemble, dans les meilleurs délais, aux objectifs que nous nous sommes assignés, à savoir assurer la nutrition de tous les êtres humains sans exception.

**Mauro BERTERO GUTIERREZ (Bolivia):** Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, señores miembros de la Mesa directiva, señores colegas Ministros de Agricultura, excelentísimos Embajadores acreditados ante la FAO, señores Miembros de las distintas Delegaciones, señoras y señores:

Ante todo, vayan mis felicitaciones a usted, Sr. Presidente, en ocasión de su acertado nombramiento. Asimismo, en esta oportunidad deseamos expresar nuestra cordial bienvenida, muy cordial, a los nuevos países miembros, augurando el mejor de los éxitos en este renovado esfuerzo de concertación de ideas.

Deseo, asimismo, felicitar expresamente al Director General de la FAO, nuestro buen amigo Dr. Edouard Saouma, por las excelentes labores de preparación de esta Conferencia, las mismas que se reflejan en el profesionalismo y la calidad técnica de los documentos que se presentan en esta oportunidad.

Estimados colegas Ministros, creo que todos, absolutamente todos, podemos coincidir en que este encuentro bienal se brinda para meditar en torno a múltiples observaciones sobre nuestras respectivas realidades nacionales. Observaciones éstas que, hoy más que nunca, se deben realizar en el cada vez más interdependiente contexto internacional. Prueba de ello han sido las palabras de nuestros colegas del mundo industrializado, el día de ayer; prueba de ello son las continuas conversaciones en los pasillos de este foro mundial sobre la percepción del mundo más solidario que hace algunos años, del mundo difícil del encuentro entre el alejamiento de aquello que es el conflicto conceptual y la práctica del conflicto real que tenemos la tristeza de vivir en algunas latitudes del mundo de hoy, prueba de ello es que nos embarga una profunda preocupación sobre el futuro de la revolución de la democracia del contexto que nos toca vivir.

Hemos venido a participar en esta Conferencia con el deseo de apoyar moralmente a la FAO en sus tareas de desarrollo y de reiterar nuestra convocatoria a nuestros hermanos de países industrializados, miembros de esta Organización, para que mantengan y, en la medida de sus posibilidades y limitaciones, amplíen sus contribuciones y los flujos de programas de cooperación hacia los países menos desarrollados.

La agenda de esta Conferencia nos induce a pensar que las preocupaciones de la comunidad internacional se han intensificado, efectivamente, en los últimos años, en lo relativo a temáticas tan importantes como el medio ambiente, el comercio internacional, los ajustes estructurales de nuestras economías y los flujos de cooperación para el desarrollo que comenzábamos a comentar. Sin embargo, señor Presidente y queridos colegas, es solamente honesto reconocer hoy y aquí que estas preocupaciones mayormente se han reflejado en el tenor de los discursos oficiales y no tanto así en la práctica diaria del accionar gubernamental, si tomamos en cuenta la creciente magnitud de las necesidades de los pobres del mundo. Esta realidad se hace más evidente si consideramos que la mayoría de los países del Tercer Mundo aún encuentran una larga serie de dificultades para estructurar programas que permitan una eficaz acción para desterrar el fantasma del hambre y la desnutrición. La magnitud alarmante del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo hacen urgentes las formulaciones de estrategias que aseguren los alimentos necesarios, permitan un crecimiento económico y orienten el desarrollo sustentable hacia el logro de una mayor equidad social.

En el contexto internacional y en lo referido al comercio de productos agropecuarios, los sectores agrarios de nuestros países, los países en desarrollo, encuentran serios obstáculos en sus posibilidades de exportación a los mercados que tienen un gran poder de adquisición. El proteccionismo, que subsiste en los países industrializados, crea una incertidumbre en el orden económico y comercial que limita de manera dramática nuestras posibilidades de inserción en el comercio agroalimentario mundial. La liberación del comercio agrícola ha sido un tema central de discusión en la reciente Conferencia Internacional de Ministros de Agricultura, en la capital de España - y quiero aquí saludar la presencia de nuestro buen amigo y colega, Don Pedro Solbes, de España, y agradecerle por las gentilezas que dispensó a sus colegas de América, hace menos de un mes, en la capital bellísima de Madrid. Como resultado de este cónclave, aprobamos una Declaración de Madrid, que aboga por acuerdos para eliminar las políticas que obstaculizan el comercio de los productos agrícolas y ocasionan graves, tremendos perjuicios económicos y sociales a los países en desarrollo.

En tal sentido, queremos reiterar ante ustedes, estimados colegas, y dejar establecido que nuestro país, Bolivia, continuará participando activamente en los distintos foros internacionales, como la Ronda Uruguay, a fin de contribuir, en la medida de su capacidad, al gradual y tan necesario dismantelamiento de las políticas que hoy por hoy distorsionan al comercio agrícola internacional.

Pese a estos aspectos negativos, cabe, sin embargo, aquí y ahora, relevar los avances que se están efectuando para disminuir barreras al comercio internacional, como la iniciativa para las Américas del Presidente Bush y el libre acceso a los mercados de la Comunidad Económica Europea, recientemente otorgado para productos de varios países latinoamericanos.

Vemos asimismo con sumo beneplácito el reconocimiento que hoy por hoy se hace a las estructuras de decisión de la Comunidad Económica Europea y de los Estados Unidos de América, en la medida del reconocimiento expresado en las palabras del Presidente de la Comunidad Económica Europea, cuando dice que tanto el comercio agrícola como el comercio, en su integridad, en materia internacional, son dos partes de una misma realidad. Esto hace que confiemos, que tengamos fe y convicción de que en los próximos meses

podremos llegar a arreglos no solamente formales, sino a arreglos reales, que permitan una liberación efectiva de un comercio internacional demasiado postergado.

En otro orden de cosas, el tema de la protección del medio ambiente para muchos países en desarrollo se convierte en un serio dilema, muy serio dilema, puesto que, por un lado, se deben satisfacer las necesidades básicas mediante el uso de los recursos naturales; recursos que, por otro lado, se deben conservar en base al reconocido principio de solidaridad generacional para con los que vendrán después.

En base a esta disyuntiva y conscientes de lo difícil que es explicarle a un pobre que no debe arrasar la foresta; lo difícil que es explicarle de ética con las futuras generaciones a uno que tiene problemas de pensar qué va a comer mañana; en base a esta disyuntiva, en Bolivia y en aras de llevar iniciativas al Grupo Andino y, de allí, a llevarlas a la Cumbre de Guadalajara, como lo hiciera el Presidente de mi país, Jaime Paz Zamora, mediante un decreto, hemos aplicado una pausa ecológica histórica; medida que tuve a bien anunciar aquí, ante este foro mundial, en nuestra última intervención, en noviembre de 1989.

Esta pausa ecológica determina que por un período de cinco años no se otorgarán nuevas concesiones forestales. En su Reglamento se ha buscado compatibilizar el interés de la preservación de los recursos de la flora y la fauna con los derechos en favor de los pueblos indígenas originarios asentados en la región amazónica y los intereses empresariales.

Así también, hemos aprobado una nueva Ley General del Medio Ambiente. Esta ley marco, que fue preparada con participación de diferentes sectores de la sociedad civil, define las normas generales de política medioambiental y servirá, esperamos así sea, de sólida base para la incorporación de la temática del manejo de recursos naturales en la legislación y las políticas macroeconómicas y sectoriales.

Estas iniciativas han obtenido ya el reconocimiento de la comunidad internacional y esperamos acrecentar el apoyo externo para desarrollar temas relativos al fortalecimiento de las ventajas comparativas en campos productivos orientados al comercio exterior con criterios y principios de explotación racional de los recursos naturales.

Dentro de este marco de acciones (y en ello vaya nuestro agradecimiento), hemos diseñado, con apoyo de la FAO, el programa de acción para el desarrollo forestal de mi país, como una estrategia integral, un mecanismo de planificación que permita incorporar desde una base técnica el sector forestal a la economía nacional.

En definitiva - y en esto quisiera yo relevar también la labor que lleva adelante un país colega en el esfuerzo de protección de la Amazonia -, nuestro país se está preparando intensamente para lo que se ha venido a denominar como la Cumbre para la Tierra - Ecobrasil 1992.

Nos asiste, queridos colegas, una gran esperanza: que esta Conferencia mundial pueda abrir el camino para establecer las bases de una auténtica, una sólida alianza mundial entre todos los países del planeta, en nuestra búsqueda por un destino común ecológicamente mejor.

Como otro tema de urgencia en el análisis de la realidad que nos toca vivir en América, está la cuestión de los pueblos indígenas originarios. Podemos afirmar que en mi país y también en toda América se viene dando un cambio cualitativo e importante en la percepción que se tiene del indigenismo y sus relaciones con el Estado. Este cambio significa un paso importante de la forma asistencialista y unilateral de acción pública en favor de los pueblos indígenas del pasado hacia un indigenismo de activa participación.

De esta forma, hacemos propicia esta oportunidad para destacar las iniciativas y planteamientos en torno a la recuperación de las formas de vida de los indígenas, el respeto por sus prácticas culturales, la valorización de la utilidad de sus conocimientos y, en suma, la defensa de sus intereses específicos en el contexto de los procesos democráticos que estamos viviendo.

Como ya expresé el inicio de esta intervención, otro problema central que nos preocupa sigue siendo la desnutrición y el hambre que aquejan a los países del Tercer Mundo. En Bolivia, el crecimiento demográfico en los últimos años sigue siendo, muy a pesar nuestro, mayor que el crecimiento de la producción de alimentos. Si bien podemos haber conseguido significativos incrementos en nuestros niveles de producción y productividad en el último año, aún no hemos conseguido la tan ansiada seguridad alimentaria. Seguimos siendo un país dependiente de las donaciones de alimentos y con una producción insuficiente como para satisfacer los requerimientos nutricionales de nuestra población.

En este orden de cosas, nos asiste la convicción de que uno de los principales cuellos de botella para mejorar las condiciones de vida de los campesinos y lograr la seguridad alimentaria, son y siguen siendo las obsoletas estructuras agrarias que aún prevalecen en muchos de nuestros países.

Quisiera destacar en esta ocasión que Bolivia tuvo el honor de ser anfitrión de la Sexta Consulta gubernamental sobre el seguimiento de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en América Latina y el Caribe, y como conclusión y recomendación de esta consulta, se hizo hincapié en la importancia de la reforma agraria para lograr una distribución más equitativa de los recursos productivos con que cuentan nuestras naciones.

Para Bolivia, como para muchos otros países del mundo en desarrollo, la reforma agraria se constituye en una condición sine qua non para impulsar el desarrollo y la reactividad del sector agropecuario. Así también, la dimensión y gravedad de la problemática agropecuaria en general y la necesidad de acciones coherentes y efectivas para abordarla requieren de un aparato público eficiente, capaz de formular y hacer cumplir las políticas de desarrollo sectorial.

En mi país - y es bueno decirlo acá, en la casa de la FAO - tenemos una experiencia muy exitosa con la asistencia de este Organismo. Desde agosto de 1989, por ejemplo, el Ministerio a mi cargo viene recibiendo asesoramiento permanente y continuo dentro del marco de una redefinición del rol del sector público en Bolivia, dentro del proceso de desarrollo agropecuario, en base a metodologías que han sido intercambiadas gracias a experiencias de países amigos, pero principalmente a ese bagaje de memoria institucional que caracteriza la gestión del Dr. Saouma.



Por ello creemos que es importante que la FAO continúe asesorando a nuestro país en materia de política sectorial a nuestros países y aumente la asistencia técnica que proporciona ya, como base necesaria para un desarrollo integral del sector. En este punto, queremos hacer énfasis en la importancia de la coordinación interinstitucional entre organismos como el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, la FAO, entidades que, coordinadamente y evitando la duplicación de esfuerzos, podrán ayudarnos a los países en desarrollo a poder estructurar programas de desarrollo agropecuario que nos permitan superar las limitaciones que hoy nos acosan.

Creo, Sr. Presidente, que éste es un momento muy oportuno también para dar la bienvenida al acuerdo marco de cooperación que la FAO acaba de firmar con la Comisión de las Comunidades Europeas. Esperamos que este acuerdo, sobre todo a través de la participación activa de la Comunidad Económica Europea en el Programa de Fondos Fiduciarios de la FAO, también rinda fruto para nuestros países en un futuro próximo.

Por otra parte, considero de importancia que avancen las deliberaciones sobre la admisión de la Comunidad Económica Europea como un miembro activo y preponderante dentro de la Organización. Asimismo, consideramos de suma importancia que se resuelvan a la brevedad los siempre presentes problemas financieros para el próximo futuro y, por supuesto, permitiendo un crecimiento real del Presupuesto y, consecuentemente, de las actividades dirigidas a la promoción del desarrollo agropecuario y rural.

En particular, quisiera enfatizar la necesidad de mantener y, en la medida de lo posible, aumentar los niveles de fondos propios de la FAO en su Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Consideramos que es un programa útil; demasiado útil y positivo como para ignorar esta realidad para la identificación y el arranque de proyectos de mayor alcance, así como para poder operar de forma rápida en situaciones de emergencia; situaciones de emergencia que todos conocemos demasiado bien.

Quisiera destacar una vez más la importancia de estas conferencias bienales como oportunidad de reflexión sobre nuestros problemas y desafíos comunes, en un mundo que necesita cada día más de reflexión, en un mundo que necesita cada día más de solidaridad.

Para finalizar, estimados colegas y Sr. Presidente, deseo reiterar mi condición de fe, profunda fe, de que, en la medida en que nuestra amistad se fortalezca, más fuertes se tornarán los lazos que unen a nuestros países en la perspectiva de la democracia y la coexistencia global en el planeta. Hago sinceros votos para que este nuevo encuentro entre representantes de todo el mundo se constituya en un renovado esfuerzo, que nuestros pueblos y las futuras generaciones esperan, y lo esperan de veras, para la consolidación de nuestras relaciones políticas, socioeconómicas y culturales, en nuestra continua búsqueda por un futuro mejor.

**Pedro SOLBES MIRA (España):** Sr. Presidente, muchas gracias por su invitación para hablar en esta tribuna y constituye para mí un gran honor y una satisfacción personal, hacer uso de la palabra por primera vez en este foro en el que se van a estudiar temas y adoptar resoluciones de relevante importancia para el futuro del mundo rural y de la agricultura, que tanta influencia ejercen en la práctica totalidad de la población mundial.

Quiero felicitarle por su elección y también quiero felicitar a los nuevos Estados Miembros de Estonia, Letonia y Lituania, así como al Estado Asociado de Puerto Rico.

Se celebra esta Conferencia en los comienzos de una década que podemos considerar como crucial para nuestro futuro. Los cambios en el panorama mundial a los que estamos asistiendo, impensables hace un lustro, nos exigen una profunda reflexión sobre nuestras próximas actuaciones en el campo agroalimentario, teniendo presente no sólo los intereses nacionales, sino el rico entramado que constituyen las nuevas relaciones internacionales y su equilibrio.

Como resultado de esta reflexión deberían surgir iniciativas que permitieran disfrutar de una década de prosperidad para todos. Las pautas de actuación de los años ochenta, no han favorecido la puesta a disposición de las poblaciones necesitadas de los recursos en alimentación y otros bienes, para asegurar una mejora en la calidad de vida de los agricultores y de los consumidores, manteniendo siempre un respeto hacia el medio ambiente capaz de propiciar el bienestar de las generaciones presentes y el de las que nos suceden.

En estos momentos en que tantos pueblos se afanan por conseguir mayor libertad en sus relaciones sociales y económicas, mayor estabilidad en sus sistemas políticos, para lo cual solicitan el apoyo y la comprensión de la comunidad internacional, si no logramos impulsar la mejora de un sector tan importante como es el de la agricultura, si no conseguimos paliar en una primera etapa y erradicar a medio plazo el hambre y la malnutrición que afectan a amplias capas de la población mundial, nos encontraremos con que todos los esfuerzos pueden ser vanos.

El desarrollo de la Ronda Uruguay en el marco del GATT, para establecer pautas de comercio internacional justas y equitativas, debe ser apoyado desde todas las instancias, porque el comercio es un factor fundamental para el desarrollo de los países y en este sentido, debemos potenciar la progresiva participación de los productores en las relaciones comerciales.

En este complejo panorama, la FAO mantiene su posición de instrumento de primordial importancia y debe continuar ejerciendo una eficaz labor en el beneficio del mundo en desarrollo.

Somos conscientes de las dificultades que para llevar a cabo su labor imponen un presupuesto limitado, debilitado por los atrasos en el pago de cuotas por una parte de sus miembros, así como reconocemos los problemas que aquejan algunos de los mismos, cuyas economías atraviesan etapas de crisis tales que dificultan este pago de sus cuotas, y que llegan sin embargo a constituir esta situación, un verdadero sacrificio en atención a las mismas.

Por ello, estimamos de gran importancia que aquellos países que puedan realizar sus pagos, extremen su esfuerzo para aportar las cantidades que son necesarias, y atender tanto el normal funcionamiento de la Organización como a sus diferentes actividades, programas y proyectos.

Por resolución de esta Conferencia, en su vigésimocuarto período de sesiones, se ha llevado a cabo durante los últimos años un examen profundo sobre los objetivos y actividades de la FAO, para afrontar en mejores

condiciones los problemas que se presentan en esta década y comienzos de la siguiente.

Los resultados del examen se han tenido en cuenta en la preparación del presupuesto para el bienio 1992-93, cuya aprobación será objeto de debate durante esta Conferencia. El mismo, presenta un crecimiento prácticamente nulo y obligará a una cuidadosa elección de prioridades entre las múltiples opciones que se ofrecen a la Organización.

Esperamos que estas limitaciones no redunden en una disminución de la cantidad y de la calidad de las prestaciones que se vienen proporcionando a los países en desarrollo. Por nuestra parte, como Estado Miembro, estamos dispuestos a brindar nuestra colaboración en todos los foros y órganos en los que nos sea dado participar, para paliar en la medida de lo posible los efectos negativos de esta situación.

La FAO, afrontará el próximo bienio con un elenco de miembros ampliados. Hacemos votos porque estos nuevos miembros contribuyan a potenciar la Organización y ayuden a mantener los equilibrios en los que se basan la paz y el bienestar del mundo.

Muy en especial formulamos nuestros votos para que la Comunidad Europea, Organización Regional de Integración Económica de la que España es Miembro, vea satisfactoriamente concluido el proceso para ser admitida como miembro de esta Organización.

Deseamos que esta circunstancia sirva también como precedente para otros procesos de integración de carácter regional y subregional que comienzan a manifestarse en otras partes del mundo.

Así tuvimos ocasión de comunicárselo a los Ministros de los Gobiernos de una región que nos es especialmente próxima por razones históricas y culturales y por otros muchos vínculos que nos unen a ella: me refiero a la América Latina y el Caribe con ocasión de la Décima Conferencia de Ministros de Agricultura que tuvimos el honor de albergar en España durante los últimos días del pasado mes de septiembre.

En el curso de la misma, los Ministros asistentes mantuvieron encuentros con los Ministros de Agricultura de la Comunidad Económica Europea y con el Comisario responsable de Agricultura de la Comisión, e intercambiaron puntos de vista y opiniones sobre asuntos de tanta trascendencia como el futuro del comercio agroalimentario y la cooperación entre la Comunidad Europea y América Latina y el Caribe.

Si me he extendido en estas consideraciones, Sr. Presidente, se debe a la importancia que atribuimos a este numeroso grupo de naciones, con las que mantenemos cordiales relaciones y frecuentes intercambios de todo tipo.

Otro tanto puede decirse de los países del Magreb, con los cuales la proximidad física potencia los tradicionales lazos de amistad y de cooperación entre diferentes campos de actividad.

Por otra parte, no ha sido éste el único acontecimiento que se ha celebrado durante el presente año en nuestro país con carácter internacional y dedicado a temas agrarios, pesqueros y alimentarios.

Tuvimos, también, la satisfacción de albergar la segunda Conferencia Mundial de Ministros de Pesca a principios del mes de septiembre y más recientemente, en la pasada semana, el Seminario Perspectivas de la Agricultura y el Mundo Rural en América Latina y el Caribe hacia el año 2000 que, con la inestimable colaboración de la FAO reunió a los Rectores de las principales universidades de aquella región con expertos en varias disciplinas para tratar sobre el desarrollo agrícola y rural en aquel Continente.

No podemos dejar de señalar que estos acontecimientos preparan el marco de actividades futuras que tendrán lugar el próximo año, conmemoración del Quinto Centenario del encuentro que permitió ensanchar la faz del mundo y cambió su historia. Por medio de ellas, y en el ámbito específico de la agricultura y de la alimentación que hoy nos reúne en esta Conferencia, esperamos llevar a cabo conjuntamente una profunda reflexión que colabore a consolidar las estructuras nacionales, mejorar las relaciones internacionales de mercado y, en la parte que nos corresponda, mantener nuestros esfuerzos para elevar la cooperación agroalimentaria al nivel más alto posible dentro de nuestros recursos.

La agenda de esta Conferencia tiene temas relevantes a los que, de forma breve, deseo dedicar algún comentario.

Consideramos de suma importancia la conservación del patrimonio genético que la Humanidad ha recibido. Los países industrializados deben reconocer lo que ha supuesto para la alimentación de sus poblaciones el aporte de los nuevos productos que proceden de regiones en las que hoy se asientan la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo.

En diferentes ocasiones hemos manifestado nuestra preocupación por la erosión a que están sometidos los recursos fitogenéticos. Por esta razón hemos colaborado en la construcción del sistema global de recursos fitogenéticos de FAO desde su inicio, y deseamos que la Conferencia actúe como impulso para hacerle cada día más efectivo y más adaptado a las nuevas tecnologías, de modo que sirva para un auténtico desarrollo sostenible.

Reconocemos la eficaz labor que ha realizado la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y su grupo de trabajo, y consideramos que es el foro intergubernamental idóneo para asegurar la eficiencia del sistema global de forma equitativa a nivel internacional.

Merece también nuestra atención el ámbito de los recursos zoogenéticos, en el que FAO puede desempeñar un importante papel, teniendo en cuenta las características peculiares que la diferencian de los fitogenéticos. Preparamos en nuestro país varios acontecimientos que tendrán como finalidad la recuperación y el fomento de aquellas razas ganaderas, que tanto en el continente americano como en el nuestro, supusieron la supervivencia y el sostén de muchas comunidades y hoy se encuentran en peligro.

El mantenimiento y la mejora del material genético constituyen la base de numerosos productos y suponen una garantía para la seguridad alimentaria, tanto de los países que encuentran graves dificultades para atender a las necesidades de sus poblaciones, como para la de aquellos que hoy se consideran libres del fantasma del hambre o de la malnutrición.

Respecto a esta última lacra, extendida por todo el globo, tanto en el mundo rural como en el urbano, debemos manifestar una gran preocupación. Es necesario estudiar este grave problema con profunda atención, no sólo en el ámbito internacional, sino en el de nuestros propios países, pues la malnutrición se produce tanto por la escasez de alimentos como por una utilización inadecuada de aquellos que se encuentran disponibles.

Por estas razones acogemos con satisfacción la convocatoria de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición de 1992 y colaboraremos con nuestra experiencia y nuestros trabajos para su mejor éxito.

Hemos reiterado en diferentes foros la preocupación que siente nuestro país por el deterioro y la desaparición de los bosques. Asistimos con profundo interés a la celebración del Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial en París y esperamos que suponga un nuevo incentivo en la preocupación mundial por los bosques, que permita alcanzar un consenso para su conservación, capaz de hacerse realidad durante la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo que se celebrará el próximo año en Brasil.

Otro hito importante para el mundo forestal será la convocatoria en España, el próximo año, de la Conferencia Internacional sobre el Alamo. Es para mí un alto honor que por la Dirección General de FAO haya sido aceptado el ofrecimiento de España como país huésped de la XIX reunión de la Comisión Internacional del Alamo y la 36ª reunión de su Comité Ejecutivo que se celebrarán en Zaragoza en septiembre del año próximo.

El tema de esta reunión de la Comisión es Los álamos como complemento de la agricultura, y expresa claramente la importancia de la misma, cuyos resultados esperamos sean altamente beneficiosos para la silvicultura y la agricultura en general.

El territorio de nuestro país forma parte de una región, el Mediterráneo, que al igual que otros similares en el mundo, sufren de problemas peculiares en cuanto a la conservación de la cubierta vegetal y se ven afectados por la incidencia de la desertización en amplias zonas. Nos congratulamos de que esta peculiaridad esté contemplada en el anuncio de la posibilidad de desarrollar un plan de acción forestal en el Mediterráneo y aportaremos al mismo nuestra experiencia en esta materia.

Por todas las consideraciones expuestas nos ha parecido muy pertinente la idea que ha presidido la reciente celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, asociando elementos primarios como son los bosques, a la seguridad alimentaria y a la protección del medio ambiente.

Desgraciadamente los problemas medioambientales relacionados con la desaparición de los bosques siguen presentes y en numerosos países se relacionan también con la existencia de poblaciones hambrientas. Por ello, la ayuda alimentaria que algunos países pueden proporcionar a las mismas sigue siendo necesaria.

Reconocemos la inestimable labor en este sentido desarrollada por el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y podemos asegurar que continuaremos, dentro **del límite de nuestros recursos, cooperando en la ayuda alimentaria** dirigida a las situaciones de emergencia, así como el programa establecido en el marco del Comité de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Esperamos que la estrategia mundial para hacer más eficaz la realización de esta ayuda pueda encontrar las vías que dentro de las Naciones Unidas se establezcan, para mejorar la coordinación en la distribución y los efectos sobre las poblaciones a las que se aplica.

Otro importante aspecto de atención preferente por parte de FAO es el del papel que la mujer campesina desempeña en el mundo rural. Mejorar su situación es una finalidad que compartimos. Animamos a la Organización a proseguir sus esfuerzos para lograr un mayor grado de participación de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo.

Deseamos que el Plan de Integración encuentre las fórmulas adecuadas para superar los obstáculos que se oponen al acceso de la mujer a las actividades generadoras de ingresos y al control de los mismos, al crédito, a las relaciones comerciales, captación a la tecnología y a los servicios sociales básicos.

En esta somera visión de las grandes líneas de acción de FAO no podía estar ausente nuestro interés por el sector de la pesca, ya que este sector en España tiene gran importancia económica y social, superior a la de los países de nuestro entorno.

A escala mundial, el sector de la pesca es de gran trascendencia por las aportaciones que en calidad y cantidad hace a la dieta humana. Dos problemas están siempre presentes en el mismo: los desequilibrios entre recursos y demanda y los excesos en el esfuerzo pesquero que ponen en peligro la propia existencia del recurso. Apoyamos, por tanto, todas las iniciativas de cooperación internacional que propicien una mejor gestión de recursos de la pesca teniendo en cuenta los elementos de la estrategia de la Conferencia de Roma, que tan útiles han resultado para los gobiernos a la hora de planificar sus políticas.

Finalmente, deseamos manifestar nuestro apoyo a la iniciativa de celebrar una Conferencia mundial sobre conservación de recursos marinos y el medio ambiente y consideramos que FAO es la Organización idónea para encauzar las inquietudes de todos los países, prestándonos su experiencia y conocimientos ampliamente demostrados.

Quiero terminar esta intervención deseando a la FAO y a todos los presentes, los mejores resultados en el desarrollo de nuestros debates y ofrecer nuestra colaboración para conseguirlos.

G. Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

G. Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence Ocupa la presidencia G. Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

**John FALLOON (New Zealand):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I stand here with some sense of history in that on the wall outside is my predecessor in Parliament, Sir Keith Holyoake, who was Chairman of this august body in the 1950s for a period, and I remember very well his contribution internationally to making certain that multi-national organizations such as the FAO were playing their role in bringing together the world's political leaders, and in particular, endeavouring to make certain the great problem of hunger and food for those people who are unfortunate was met in a firm and solid fashion.

I think it would probably sadden him, as it does me, to see that in spite of considerable efforts made worldwide, we have not made sufficient progress to meet the very real problem of many millions of people, and that in fact we have the developed world awash with food and we have the undeveloped world where there are very great shortages. If ever there was a misallocation of resources it is in the food area. So in the context of my remarks to you today I come as a politician of some experience, but also as a fourth-generation farmer who has endeavoured with the land that we have, to use it as well as we can so that we can help the world food supply as well as to obviously help ourselves and our country.

We are seen by many as a very fortunate nation. We have but 3.4 million people and we have some 60 million sheep. We harvest each year 7 million tons of forestry, and will be harvesting from our own plantation trees, which were planted largely in the 1930s in response to the Great Depression, something like 15 million tons by the year 2020. We have about a million tons of meat that we produce a year, 300 000 tons of wool and 8 million tons of dairy products, and we sell those to nearly every country in the world. We are not great at giving massive amounts of food aid because we simply cannot afford it as a nation, but we are playing our part and doing our best to make sure that with the resources we have we use them as wisely as possible.

We have been through the great debate of moving from subsidies, interventions, and protection to the situation today where our farmers are virtually not supported at all, as are not almost any other section of the community except those who are unemployed, elderly, sick or need of education. In that sense I can say this to the politicians who are here and I am talking to them, not particularly to officials. It is not such a difficult process to change. In fact, those of you who are looking at politics may well find that the farmers in your nations, the producers, do not actually want to be dependent on the state. They do not want to be turned into wards of political whim. They do not want to be stultified by subsidy reducing their innovation, reducing their dynamism and turning them effectively into monuments that you can go and see when you visit the countryside.

To those of you from the world's poor nations, you have a vested interest in fighting to make certain that the GATT Round comes to some effect - not tomorrow necessarily although the window of opportunity is there on Monday for EEC ministers to take another step forward in their discussions, but within the next few months. We have never had a better opportunity to bring together some rationality into the world trading scene. The FAO is uniquely situated in the timing of the event to take another step forward.

We can make grand designs here and talk about wonderful schemes for transferring technology, and all these are important, but nations must be able actually to compete with the products they produce, whether they come from Estonia or Lithuania, our newly emerged members, who to my mind on Monday at the G34 meeting showed great courage in saying they would not have the interventionist system. They do not want to make the same mistakes that their neighbours are making in Europe but have open trading opportunities. So the opportunities and momentum are there for us actually to take a step forward that would make my predecessor, now dead, very proud of the world scene. It was taken in those days in industrial goods and the

beneficiaries have largely been the developed countries. It has not been taken sufficiently strongly in agricultural goods and the beneficiaries have been the developed countries.

I simply want to read from the international farmers' magazine a point that some of you will have seen. OECD figures show producer assistance rising. In the year 1990 there was an increase of 12 percent over the 1989 figures. The total sum of money is mind-boggling. The total subsidy equivalent is US\$299 billion, up 12 percent. If we look at those who are awarding their farmers the most we find the European Economic Community at US\$81 billion; we find Japan at US\$30 billion; we find the United States at 35 US\$ billion.

The developing countries are not immune to that but one has to understand, of course, that it is essential in the early phase of agricultural restructuring and development to give some technology transfer, to develop the opportunities to help people with irrigation, with the means to find new crops. Nobody can object to that in a developing country where you have come from an extremely difficult position. But in our wealthy nations there is no real excuse, except political expediency.

In giving a message to those politicians today, I want to say that it is time you turned your back on your own political destiny and looked at the destiny of the world as we see it and took some action in the interests of your consumers, in the interests of developing countries and the way in which you know has to be taken because if it is not taken then we will inevitably see trade wars. We will inevitably see the world go into greater trading blocks. We will inevitably see poorer countries left out in the process towards that. We will inevitably see greater starvation, anguish and concern. Inevitably there will be greater instability and insecurity as those countries which are poorer seek to take more resources to help themselves in the future.

So the message is very strong. It is intentionally strong. It is not meant to be one which draws any punches because I firmly believe it from my experience, both as a politician and as a farmer and as one who has travelled a large part of the world on many occasions. I know it is not easy. I know it is not simple but the steps have to be taken before it is too late for too many people. I am sick and tired of hearing politicians say to me that the reason why they cannot move is because it is difficult politically. What about the people who are starving? What about the nations where they cannot trade to their comparative advantage? What about the particular example of sugar where the EEC and the United States used both to be net importers? Now particularly the EEC is exporting some five million tonnes of sugar and countries in South America, Central America and the Caribbean are unable to export that sugar effectively around the world. The subsidy equivalent is US\$200 per tonne.

What we see is a situation where quite clearly whatever the sum of money involved it is too much. We must give those people who are producing the products that are not competitive internationally the opportunity to shift their direction into other products. They will find them, given the opportunity, but the Third World cannot expand its competitive and comparative advantage unless it is given access to the markets that are the best in the world as well. That is my simple message on that note.



I want now to come to the FAO and to talk in some detail about it and say that quite clearly as a new Minister of Agriculture one can only be amazed at the sort of developments that the FAO is involved in. I had the privilege to be in Oman for a few days on the way here. I saw an excellent project which has been developed to map Oman and to look at the irrigation potential to try and utilize the water to provide an opportunity to give technical assistance extensions. It is but one of many excellent projects in which the FAO is involved. It is the sort of assistance which I see as being essential to help countries to develop and to utilize their resources better. If that is where the bulk of the money is going, then, as far as I am concerned, long live the FAO. I suspect though that some of the money, of course, has to go on maintaining buildings and offices and meetings like this. I simply make a plea to the Conference and to those in control to try to spread the resources around the world and not to put them into having excellent conferences which we as politicians enjoy very much but which, at the end of the day, could take place a little more speedily than they do. On the other hand, I suppose one would not have to listen to so many speeches if we shortened the Agenda.

Nevertheless, what we must do is make sure that where it is difficult for smaller countries to come to meetings like this and spend money in coming to this wonderful city of Rome, which we all enjoy very much, it is possible for them to do so. We have a particular interest in some of the countries in the South Pacific. We help them with their development. They are not able to be here because they simply cannot afford it. Let us make sure that in the administration and the operation of this very important international organization we cut our cloth and the money goes where it should go and into the sort of project to which I have referred.

In the same process we have, of course, to make certain that representation is fair and reasonable. We are pleased to support EEC membership because we recognize that the EEC has assumed responsibilities in negotiation, in agricultural trade and in matters of agriculture and that therefore it makes sense for them to be members. We welcome that opportunity. We would like them to be a little more solid on agricultural reform. I think that probably goes for everybody here, except perhaps for some of the members of the EEC. Nevertheless, I am quite certain that even they can see the necessity for change. I welcome the renewed determination to see development of better international rules for trade and agriculture.

We as a country have taken some notice of sustainable development. We, like many countries, went into our land resources. We took over our forests and we replaced them with sheep and cattle. Of course, 140 years later we are paying the price for that in erosion and in some desertification in parts of the South Island. That has to be turned around. Fortunately, we are able to do that by forestry.

I simply want to emphasize that the FAO has a very vital role in the development of more afforestation in the world, not necessarily to stand on ceremony and say that certain people are doing things that are wrong for them. We in the so-called West who have stripped our forests have no right to say to others that they should not have some opportunity to use that resource. We can do much to help nations to develop plantation forestry such as ours and those in Chile which are being developed in many parts of the world simply to make certain that there is a future for the world as we

know it. There is no question that the greenhouse effect will have a major impact if we do not substitute some of the land we have taken for agriculture and put it back into trees.

In the fishing area I would like to endorse the comments made by my predecessor, the Minister for Spain, and say that there is a great need for international rules to be developed.

Each country within the economic zone situation is in a position where they can manage their resources better but the driftnet fishing phenomenon and the disgraceful use of these by many countries is simply not acceptable to the world. We must take firm action. The FAO is a body which, in my view, must have the strongest possible line against driftnet fishing. I welcome those colleagues of mine who are prepared to pass laws in their own countries to take action against those nations who use driftnets. It really does come down to our being prepared as world nations - and one looks at the unfortunate events in Yugoslavia - to use our collective will and our individual action to enforce rules which provide for the sustainable use of man's most important resource, the sea.

I would like to come back to two organizations for which the FAO is responsible in particular, the Codex Alimentarius Committee and the International Plant Protection Committee. They have both been accorded very prominent positions by GATT as two of the three leading international standards bodies in the sanitary/phytosanitary area.

During October New Zealand had the honour of chairing yet another successful session of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene. This Committee (which New Zealand has hosted since it was established 20 years ago), commenced revision of its four meat hygiene codes to ensure that they are scientifically up-to-date and reflect modern developments in meat hygiene. I am happy to tell you that excellent progress was made at last month's session and, with a further session early in 1993, these codes will hopefully be finalized by the middle of 1993.

Whilst on this topic, I would like to pay tribute to the valuable work undertaken over nearly 30 years by the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme. Through the Codex Secretariat, with a comparatively small staff and small budget, hundreds of international standards and residue limits have been established to facilitate world trade in food. Unlike Codex, the IPPC operates on an ad hoc administrative basis.

Mr Chairman, it is the view of New Zealand that priority should be given in the allocation of your scarce resources to the establishment of a small, permanent secretariat to support the expanded responsibility of the IPPC in the area of international trade.

I cannot emphasize those two points strongly enough, Mr Chairman, because in the development of international trade for many countries the standards of those exports are absolutely vital. International rules which are strongly enforced can give those countries access to markets they would not otherwise have because of the sanitary rules. In the transfer of technical assistance we in New Zealand pay particular attention to training people so they can be involved. So we welcome a further initiative by the FAO.

I really have nothing more to say except perhaps to reinforce where I came in at the beginning. It is a window of opportunity for the ministers of agriculture worldwide. We must grasp it. We must not withdraw from this challenge, from this opportunity to move agricultural trade into a mode that allows our farmers and, therefore, many of the nations of the world to limit their dependency on bulk commodity production for their survival and on occasional dribs and drabs of food aid to help them because they have not been able to expand their trade and, therefore, their economies in those areas where they are good, is because of the limitations in the international rules.

If we take that opportunity now and over the next few months, we have a chance to come back here next biennium and from then on and say, we have done well. We have not only been prepared to transfer some of our resources, we are also prepared to provide better market access and better opportunity for those people who deserve a better deal in the world we have today.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias al Sr. Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques de Nueva Zelanda. Tengo ahora el honor de conceder la palabra a Su Excelencia Marcelo Regunaga, Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca de la República Argentina.

**Marcelo REGUNAGA (Argentina):** Sr. Presidente en ejercicio, autoridades: en primer lugar, permítanme felicitarlos y, por su intermedio, al Sr. Presidente, por su elección a la Presidencia de esta Conferencia y asegurarles que contarán con la plena colaboración de la delegación de mi país para el logro de resultados satisfactorios en sus trabajos.

El 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO nos congrega, una vez más, para reflexionar acerca de un tema crucial para todos y cada uno de nuestros países: El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo.

Bien se ha señalado que la agricultura es una de las actividades más estratégicas y nobles, dado que no sólo es la principal fuente de alimentos para el género humano, sino que además brinda oportunidades de empleo para una parte sustancial de la población mundial y constituye una de las alternativas básicas para el crecimiento de las naciones, especialmente en el caso de los países en desarrollo. Todos estos aspectos son esenciales para construir un mundo más equitativo y en paz, y por ello nuestro país asigna gran significación a estas deliberaciones.

A pesar de que existe un alto grado de consenso acerca de los conceptos señalados precedentemente, constatamos con preocupación que no hemos tenido éxito para resolver, hasta la fecha, los desequilibrios existentes entre la producción y el consumo mundial de alimentos. Hoy coexisten situaciones de excedentes de producción en muchos países, con escaseces y emergencias alimentarias en otros. Asimismo, se están deteriorando los recursos naturales y el medio ambiente, tanto en los países industrializados (por un uso excesivamente intenso del suelo, los agroquímicos, etc.) como en los países en desarrollo, por la carencia de prácticas conservacionistas y porque las condiciones económicas han llevado al monocultivo y a otras

formas de explotación irracional de los recursos. Paradójicamente, el proteccionismo agrícola tiene dos caras y cada una de ellas se refleja en un deterioro de los recursos naturales.

La evolución reciente de la producción agropecuaria en los países en desarrollo ha resultado insuficiente para atender sus necesidades básicas de alimentación y crecimiento, frustrando de esta manera las expectativas de sus pueblos, que, en la mayor parte de los mismos, dependen esencialmente de la agricultura.

Los motivos que explican este magro desempeño están ligados tanto a las políticas nacionales que discriminaron contra la agricultura como a un contexto internacional caracterizado por prácticas desleales en el comercio mundial, que limitaron el acceso a los mercados y deprimieron los precios internacionales, desincentivando de esta manera el crecimiento de la agricultura.

Nuestro país es uno de los muchos que han enfrentado tal situación, por lo que el enorme potencial productivo existente no ha podido expresarse y, de este modo, contribuir en la medida de sus posibilidades a la alimentación del mundo y al desarrollo de su economía.

Luego de varias décadas caracterizadas por políticas agrícolas que desprotegieron al sector y aislaron su economía del contexto internacional, Argentina hoy está instrumentando una estrategia de apertura económica y de integración al resto del mundo, en la que tiene depositadas grandes expectativas. Sin embargo, aún constatamos que las condiciones del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas siguen caracterizadas por las distorsiones y las prácticas desleales. Por ello asignamos una alta prioridad a las negociaciones que se vienen desarrollando en el marco de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, en el que la agricultura debe jugar un papel relevante.

Sin una sustancial liberalización del comercio de productos primarios, seguirá seriamente cuestionada la posibilidad de que Argentina, así como otros países de la región y del mundo en desarrollo, puedan alcanzar un crecimiento sostenido y contribuir a resolver los problemas de la alimentación.

Argentina, así como otros países del Grupo Cairns, ha venido desarrollando una activa y constructiva participación en las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales en todas las áreas de la Ronda Uruguay, pero reitera una vez más en este foro que sin un acuerdo sustancial en materia agrícola no se alcanzará un resultado exitoso en toda la Ronda. Dicho acuerdo debe contemplar adecuadamente los aspectos vinculados al sostén interno, el acceso a los mercados, los subsidios a las exportaciones y los temas fito y zoosanitarios, tal como fuera detallado en el día de ayer por mi colega de Australia.

El crecimiento de los países ha estado estrechamente ligado al comercio internacional y es por ello que el mundo en desarrollo reclama un marco más equitativo y favorable para las exportaciones de los productos agrícolas, por lo que esta Conferencia debería incluir entre sus recomendaciones un llamamiento a los líderes de las naciones industrializadas para que se asuman los compromisos necesarios para llevar a un feliz término, en un breve plazo, a la Ronda Uruguay del GATT.

El mundo ha estado caracterizado por constantes cambios durante la historia de la humanidad, pero no puede haber dudas de que las transformaciones políticas y económicas de los últimos años son cualitativamente de gran significación. Estamos asistiendo y construyendo un mundo de creciente interdependencia entre las naciones, donde la paz, la democracia y el desarrollo equitativo aparecen como valores comunes para todas ellas.

Este nuevo contexto internacional requiere del fortalecimiento y la revitalización de todo el sistema multilateral, por lo que las Naciones Unidas en general, y la FAO en particular, adquieren una creciente importancia en la construcción de un mundo en paz y desarrollo.

Los desafíos que enfrentamos son de gran magnitud y sólo podremos estar a la altura de las circunstancias si todos nosotros y nuestros países, tanto desarrollados como en desarrollo, trabajamos en armonía y con generosidad en los grandes problemas que definen la agenda común de la presente década. Entre ellos debemos destacar que la liberalización del comercio internacional requerirá de la asistencia técnica multilateral - y, como tal, imparcial -, necesaria para garantizar normas sanitarias y de calidad que den transparencia y aseguren la equidad en las relaciones comerciales. En este sentido, las contribuciones de la FAO, por medio del Codex Alimentarius, y la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria resultarán de fundamental importancia.

La FAO ha sido durante los últimos casi cincuenta años una muy buena fuente de información analítica sobre la agricultura y la alimentación, ha servido de foro de discusión y progresivamente deberá ser el lugar privilegiado en el cual nuestros países puedan acordar y establecer los instrumentos necesarios, en los campos de su especialidad, para buscar soluciones que contemplen adecuadamente los problemas de la alimentación, el crecimiento y la sostenibilidad de los recursos.

En los últimos años, hemos comprendido que si no se modifican las formas en que se utiliza la naturaleza, el mundo se deteriorará irremediablemente. La agricultura es uno de los actores fundamentales en dicho escenario. La FAO puede y debe cumplir un papel de relevancia en la búsqueda de un equilibrio, entre las necesidades del desarrollo, del proteccionismo y de la conservación de los recursos. Dentro de éstos, debemos destacar las acciones positivas que están siendo llevadas a cabo en los últimos años en el sector forestal, que deberán recibir una alta prioridad en el futuro, en virtud del liderazgo natural que la Organización ejerce en este campo.

Asimismo, la FAO ha sido y es un instrumento importante de cooperación y movilización de recursos técnicos y financieros, destinados a la agricultura. A través de la cooperación y complementación con otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, instituciones financieras y organismos regionales y subregionales, en este nuevo marco de gran interdependencia, la FAO debe ser un centro vital de movilización de ideas, desarrollo de propuestas y ejecución descentralizada de acciones a nivel de campo.

Una clara definición de prioridades en la asignación de recursos, la descentralización operativa, la coordinación inter-agencias, la flexibilidad y sensibilidad para percibir las necesidades específicas de cada una de nuestras agriculturas. El desarrollo de un ambiente que promueva la capacidad creadora del hombre y asegure la alimentación para el mundo, son parte de la gran tarea a la que todos debemos comprometernos y la Organización debe asegurar. No tengo dudas de que así será.

**Karl-Erik OLSSON (Sweden):** Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let me first very briefly express our great satisfaction about the enlargement of the FAO membership with the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and with Puerto Rico as associate member.

The agricultural sector plays a vital role for human wellbeing. In developing countries, where the majority of the labour force is still engaged in the agricultural sector, we have witnessed remarkable increases in production which - with very few exceptions - have outpaced by a wide margin an unprecedented population growth. This development has been connected with an increase in employment in the agricultural sector - as well as in the input and processing sectors. It has also contributed to the rather impressive record of progress in terms of gross national product, literacy rates, educational standards and life expectancy. Last, but certainly not least, it has affected hunger and malnutrition, the extent of which has decreased markedly as a percentage of population in all regions except Africa.

Also in industrialized countries the agricultural sector has changed significantly. Structural developments and technical progress have led to both a rapid production increase and a flow of labour from agriculture to other sectors. Negative effects of this development is less employment in the rural areas and difficulties to maintain an open cultural landscape.

In spite of this progress and the bright prospects in many regards, there is no reason for complacency. First and foremost, the threats to sustainable agricultural development are justified causes of concern all over the world. Land degradation, loss of biological diversity and genetic resources, pollution of water, health hazards from intensive chemical use are just a few examples of harmful and undesirable environmental effects of agriculture, although the sector itself is also affected by these factors. But there are equally harmful and undesirable environmental effects on agriculture; for example, effects of climatic change and acid rain or at least the uncertainty created by those factors. We also know that in developing countries a large number of poor people lack access to food, and the agricultural sector will play an important role in the efforts to provide those people with employment, higher wages, and social security. In developed countries, there are serious concerns about costly agricultural policies, trade conflicts, high food prices, as well as food safety and quality.

Many of these problems have been encountered also in Sweden. Last year, Parliament passed a Bill which is a first step towards agricultural reform in Sweden. The main aims are to deregulate the internal market and to reduce the surplus production of food which has been exported at high costs. The farmers, like other producers, should be paid only for the goods and services demanded by the market or specific nonmarket activities such as environment protection. Deregulation is to be achieved over a five-year period starting 1 July 1991. During this time regional support to disadvantaged areas in northern Sweden will be maintained. Due to low profitability and farmers' expectation of lower prices, animal production is already today almost equal to domestic consumption. The main way of reducing crop production is to transform the use of arable land from food to non-food production, especially of energy and industrial crops.

Specific environmental programmes have been introduced for the preservation of landscape and areas of major natural or cultural interest. Farmers negatively affected by the changes will be compensated during the transitional period and be given incentives to facilitate the necessary adjustments to alternative land uses.

Further steps are anticipated. We hope that one such step will be achieved in the current GATT negotiating Round, viz, the lowering of border protection. Another step concerns increased competition in the processing and distribution sectors, as well as improved food quality and consumer influence.

FAO has been useful in the preparations for our agricultural reform by providing information on the international context and by its analytical work. And we expect its usefulness to continue - not primarily for our own problems but for the global problems mentioned earlier which makes it abundantly clear that the need for a strong and forceful FAO has not diminished.

There are clear indications that FAO is moving towards a position where its ability to fulfil this role is greatly improved. The reform process has advanced; the Medium-Term Plan is a good first attempt which should be developed further and given increasing importance; and the budget proposal is such that a consensus should be possible to reach which we hope will bring about a more sound and stable financial situation and also allow a greater share of our time and resources to be devoted to matters of substance.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Director-General and take note of this preparedness to continue the reform process. At the same time, we find that there is a long and difficult road ahead before we reach a point where all the various hopes and expectations are met. The conclusions of the Nordic/UN project on reform issues in the economic and social fields are relevant in this context. One of them is that the specialized agencies; among them FAO, ought to strengthen their role as centre of excellence in order to become more qualified and relevant within their mandates. This would enable them better to meet the needs of all Member States for advice and analysis in matters of global concern. This is particularly important since doubts about the Organization's truly universal character may well be one underlying reason for the financial and other difficulties that have fallen upon it in recent years.

Finally, it is imperative that members honour their financial obligations.

But not even FAO with enhanced efficiency and effectiveness could or should pay equal attention to all the problems referred to above. We appreciate that priorities expressed by Sweden and others at earlier occasions have been taken into account. The proposed Programme of Work for 1992-93 as well as the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-95 imply some shift in resources according to these priorities. This concerns first of all the area of environment and the need to carefully manage the limited resources available globally for production of food, fuel and fibre. Increased attention is urgent for several reasons. Some relate to negative environmental impacts on agriculture such as effects of climatic change and acid rain. Others relate to undesirable effects of agriculture on the environment, for example land degradation which is reaching alarming proportion in some areas of the world where food security is already at a precarious level, pollution of

waters, loss of biological diversity and health hazards from intensive chemicals use. We should also keep in mind that environmental concerns may provide incentives for production of energy crops and other non/food items, and that rules for international trade may have to be revised in order to take into account environmental aspects. In regard to this, our primary priority of sustainable agricultural development, it is particularly interesting to note that the substantial FAO contributions to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development took place without any specific budget allocations. This shows a very encouraging degree of flexibility in the use of secretariat resources. We take it that the follow-up of the UNCED will receive at least as much attention by FAO as the preparations.

We are also pleased to see the attention given to another international event, viz. The Uruguay Round of the GATT. FAO has an important role to play in the implementation of the expected results - in general regarding the global effects on trade, production, consumption, etc., and in particular regarding sanitary and phytosanitary matters. We would like to underline that the importance of a successful outcome can hardly be overestimated since the future global trading system is at stake. The agricultural negotiation is a crucial part of the Round and is of course also of great significance in its own right - not only for consumers and producers in developed countries but also for developing countries where distorted prices and limited market access are affecting agricultural development, employment and thus poor people's ability to buy food.

We notice that the Forestry Department has also received an increase in resources, which is certainly welcomed although its share of total resources is still far from satisfactory.

But even if we are fully aware of the fact that each and every part of the Work Programme has at least one supporter among the 150 or so Members, and that no sudden or dramatic shift of resources should be expected, it would be an exaggeration to say that we are impressed in all respects by the reallocation that has taken place so far. Food and agricultural policy has for some time been given a very small share of total resources, and we regret that our expectation for a significant increase has not been met.

Exactly the same holds true for activities relating to the European region. Of particular importance is Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic region where recent events have shown a great need for urgent and thorough policy analysis for the food and agricultural sector. This is naturally of greatest relevance to the people in those areas and to the whole economy of these countries and therefore clearly important also for the rest of the world.

Plant genetic resources is another example of an area where we see great need for additional resources and fail to understand the reason for the proposed reduction. A growing recognition of and concern for the impoverishment of plant genetic resources in the world calls for effective action, and we support the FAO Council's proposal regarding the undertaking on plant genetic resources but see an urgent need to go further.

Mr Chairman, we all hope that we are on the track to abandon most of hunger and malnutrition. However, we can foresee a growing population with an increasing demand for food. Due to the environmental situation, polluting fossil raw materials have to be replaced by biological ones. This means a



larger demand on agriculture for production of food, fuel and fibres. A limited overproduction of food today in some countries does therefore not contradict the need for efficient production.

A new environmental task for agriculture can also bring carbon dioxide from the air and place it in the soil to prevent greenhouse effect.

The surface of Earth is the place for life - the only place for life itself. Our most important obligation for the future is to provide good conditions for life on Earth - for a sustainable development. Therefore, the global society has to economize and maintain the areal resources such as farmland, forests and fishing waters, in order to give a richer and longer life for mankind on the surface of Earth.

Thank you for your attention.

**Sakue MATSUMOTO (Japan):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am greatly honoured to have this opportunity of representing the Japanese Government at this Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference and of exchanging views with the distinguished delegates of other member countries.

I would like, first of all, to offer you, Your Excellency

Malik Abdul Majid, my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairman. I am convinced that, with the benefit of your outstanding knowledge and guidance, this session will yield fruitful results for all member countries.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude and respect for the FAO Secretariat under the leadership of the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, particularly for its efforts to solve world food and agricultural problems. I hope that the secretariat will continue this difficult but important task.

Firstly, allow me to discuss the recent world food and agricultural situation. The level of cereal stocks has remained low, despite a good harvest in the last year. In the longer and medium terms, I dare to say that we seem to have some destabilizing factors, such as the effect of climatic changes including global warming of agricultural production. Therefore, I feel we should not be too optimistic about the future world food security.

My country currently heavily relies on the food supply from abroad. As a nation which experienced serious food shortages and hunger not so long ago, Japan maintains a strong interest in the stable supply of world food on a long-term basis. We believe that in order to maintain our food security, it is important to produce at least the basic foodstuffs within own territory.

We highly appreciate FAO's initiative to resolve the world food and agricultural problems and fully support FAO's activities in this field. My country has been making every possible effort to implement FAO's resolutions and decisions agreed upon by consensus in order to fulfil its responsibility as the second largest contributor to the Organization.

Our Government has intentionally expanded Japan's Official Development Assistance. In this context, priority is given to international cooperation in the agricultural sector which would mitigate food shortages and improve the living standard of farmers, in an effort to respond to basic human needs.

Mr Chairman, enhancement of food and agricultural production should be attained through the sustainable development process taking into consideration global environmental issues.

Recently, global environmental issues have become a common threat to the life of human beings and all fauna and flora in the world and is especially a threat to the activities of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors which depend on the natural environment.

It is necessary that each country make an effort to establish sustainable agriculture through utilization of nature's various functions under preservation of its own natural environment.

We consider it important to preserve the global environment in the future, and that this measure should be taken as a basic agricultural policy, not distorted by trade issues.

Furthermore, Japan intends to cope with global environmental problems more positively, on both a multilateral and bilateral basis, by fully utilizing our own scientific techniques, experiences and knowledge. In this connection, we will actively participate in the UN Conference on Environmental and Development in 1992.

It is indispensable for the international agricultural market to fulfil its normal function in order to ensure proper development of the global agricultural economy.

Therefore, in the GATT Uruguay Round Agricultural Negotiations, not only border protection and export subsidies, but also internal support which have been one of the causes of surplus of agricultural products, have been discussed. We believe that export subsidies, which are the most trade-distortive measures, should be the first one to be resolved among these three issues.

Japan has faced problems of surplus of agricultural products, as many other Member Countries do. In order to cope with the problem of over-production, Japan has been implementing production control on agricultural products rather than exporting surplus products with subsidies, and, as a result, has avoided disturbance of international agricultural market. These efforts by Japan should be fully appreciated in the Uruguay Round.

Japan has implemented various market-opening measures in spite of many domestic difficulties, in order to contribute to the development of the world's agricultural market and agricultural economy as the world largest net importer of agricultural products. On the other hand, Japan has become a country with the lowest self-sufficiency rate in foodstuffs among developed countries. This fact has raised Japanese people's concern about food security.

Therefore, Japan has proposed that specific provisions be included in the GATT rules that will enable contracting parties to take necessary border measures concerning basic foodstuffs such as rice in order to ensure national food security.

We would like to stress also that giving policy priority on the domestic production of staple foodstuffs is very important for developing countries.

Japan expects that the importance of national food security, especially staple food self-sufficiency is recognized by all nations.

We expect the agreement of the negotiations will be made with sufficient consideration of above-mentioned issues, and will harmonize situation between export countries and import countries, and as a result, contribute to solve food problems and to develop agriculture in the world.

I would like to touch upon forestry and fisheries, particularly from the viewpoint of sustainable development.

The forests - vital components of the global ecosystem - have contributed to the welfare of mankind through their various functions.

In many international fora, particularly the UNCED preparatory committees, participants have commonly recognized that effective steps should be taken by the international community as well as by those countries concerned with conservation and reforestation. Our Government has engaged in activities, such as participation in the meetings for strengthening TFAP promoted by FAO and the World Forestry Congress, arrangement of the Senior Forester Congress with ITTO in Japan. Furthermore, our Government has implemented some afforestation projects in Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, etc., as a display of bilateral cooperation. We would like to continue these activities.

Fishery is also important in securing sustainable fisheries development based on conservation and the rational utilization of fisheries resources, and maintaining harmony with the environment.

However, recently fishery has faced a number of adverse criticisms which are not based on scientific evidence. We fear that these situations have placed obstacles in the way of achieving sustainable fisheries development. Driftnet fishing on the high seas is a typical example of this. Japan has been executing the Resolution of the United Nations and is participating in a scientific study. My country recognizes that the United Nations should draw up effective conservation and management measures, which do not adversely affect species taken incidentally. If one kind of fishing method is banned according to the present proposal of one country, whose proposal is not based on scientific basis but is a political one, other fishing methods should be automatically banned.

We strongly anticipate FAO's initiative to approach these problems in a calm and rational manner, based on scientific evidence. Japan will also assume its responsibility for tackling these tasks.

The agricultural sector, including forestry and fisheries, is the most fundamental industry among countries, which actually has a large labour population.

Each country has developed its own agricultural, forestry and fisheries systems based on their own histories and natural conditions. Our Government recognizes that each country must have a mutual respect for each others' agricultural systems. At present, each country should develop its own characteristic agricultural system harmonizing the global environment in order to secure basic foodstuffs. We consider that this is a basic issue of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and is not distorted by any trade negotiations. My country strongly anticipates FAO's initiative to address and resolve the problems on food and agriculture, taking into account the very important role of agriculture.

Finally, we expect that the activities of FAO will be effective and efficient through such discussions as the Review of the Regular Programme, FAO's Goals and Operations and the Medium-Term Plan.

I would like to close this statement by stating that the Government of Japan will continue to participate positively in FAO's activities and will work together with other member countries.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Sr. Ministro de Agricultura de Lituania ha entregado a la Secretaria el texto que debería pronunciar. De acuerdo con las disposiciones vigentes, entiendo que la Conferencia no tiene inconveniente en que este texto se incluya en las actas.

Tengo el honor de conceder la palabra al representante de Filipinas.

**Senen C. BACANI (Philippines):** Honourable Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen I have the honour of bringing to you the warmest greetings of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Corazon C. Aquino. On her behalf and on behalf of the Filipino people, I thank FAO for its steadfast support of agricultural and rural development in addressing the important food and agriculture issues of our time.

Excellencies, recent events tend to confirm that a new world order is emerging, a new order where economic concerns take precedence over political and ideological ones. More and more nations now spend a greater part of their energies on the challenge of growth and development - a challenge which, as most of us have discovered, is better met in an atmosphere of peace and freedom.

As national priorities become predominantly economic, the role of food and agriculture in development becomes more notable. We have a shared future in agriculture. There is a scope for continued cooperation in research, technology transfer and development efforts with the end in view of achieving sustainable agricultural development to feed the ever growing population particularly of developing countries.

The deteriorating food and agriculture situation this year, particularly for developing countries, is a cause of deep concern. Overall food and agricultural production in 1991, according to initial indications, will fall below last year's growth rate of 2 percent to 0.3 percent. This will be the first global decline since 1983.

Production in developing countries would fall alarmingly from 3.2 percent in 1990 to 1 percent in 1991. This would mean negative per capita food production for developing countries in general.

We are likewise aware, Mr Chairman, of the urgent need to further liberalize world agricultural trade. According to the documentation before this Conference, the value of agricultural trade has generally remained depressed in developing countries. Likewise, the share in agricultural exports of developing countries has continued to erode.

The gospel that has been preached to us starting in the decade of the 1980s that salvation lies in the greater exposure of economies to market forces.

In developing countries, agricultural policy reforms as part of the structural adjustment, emphasize a reduced role of government in production, pricing and marketing of commodities.

In certain developed countries, however, the level of protection has not diminished and in fact has reached record levels. While there have been instances of significant improvements in market access conditions for some developing countries, export subsidies have caused even greater distortions in world agricultural trade.

In connection with the structural adjustments in developing countries, I would venture to suggest that the impartial policy advice of a neutral body like FAO could be most valuable particularly to introduce social and food security considerations.

Like the delegations of Argentina and Australia, New Zealand and many others, we wish to reiterate once more the importance of achieving an early successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations. Failure of the Round can only worsen the present situation.

Today in the Philippines, we continue to evolve a policy environment which encourages productivity in small farmers and fisherfolk, promotes agro-industry and the export of agricultural products, and reduces the anti-agriculture biases that have resulted from years of import substitution and protection of industry.

We have accelerated the pace of the comprehensive agrarian reform and integrated social forestry programmes to facilitate access to land for the poor and landless, and to improve the flow of credit, agricultural inputs and technical support to the countryside. We are working to strengthen the delivery of such social services as education, health care and nutrition to rural people, so we may enrich and sustain this rich human resource.

We continue to implement programmes and projects that are market oriented, conducive to private sector participation, and aimed at transforming small farmers and fishers into rural entrepreneurs, engaged in communal value-added processing of their agricultural products. We have keyed the provision of infrastructure, research and technology and market information, towards the goal of community-level agro-industrialization.

Turkey, Germany, Myanmar, European Economic Community (EEC), Tunisie, Bolivia, España, New Zealand, Argentina, Sweden, Japan, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Lithuania

We have strictly enforced policies that protect the country's land, water and marine resources in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the resource base. We continue to implement, with the help of FAO, such ecologically sound programmes as integrated pest management, which makes

use of methods other than chemicals to control pests, and we are helping rural people organize themselves into cooperatives and groups, so that they may develop the economic and political will to preserve and pursue their gains.

For the past six years, our activities in the rural sector have been rooted in the principles of free enterprise and market orientation, community-based agro-industrialization, empowerment, equity and poverty alleviation, and sustainable development - all of which demonstrate the great faith of the Aquino Government on people and people power as a genuine instrument of nation-building. Moreover, they underscore this Government's commitment to build on people in order to unleash the potential of the countryside.

These principles have allowed us not only to strengthen Philippine agriculture but also to boost the confidence of rural people in Government and in themselves. This is best borne out by the performance of agriculture from late 1989 to the present - an ongoing period of economic crisis for my country, brought about by a succession of natural and man-made disasters that started with the attempted coup in December 1989; then a major earthquake, the Gulf Crisis and a super typhoon in 1990; then the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in June of this year, and yet another super typhoon barely a week ago. We also had widespread droughts in 1990 and 1991.

Through all these disasters, the agriculture sector showed remarkable resilience, and even grew 4.2 percent in the first semester of this year. Production in rice and corn, our staples, grew 16 percent and 23 percent respectively over the first semester of 1990, making the country self-sufficient in rice this year and allowing us to export corn for the first time in our history.

Moreover, agriculture has outgrown the rest of the economy since 1990, and has indeed served as a safety net through much of the crisis period - which is again a remarkable achievement considering that the billions of pesos in cumulative damage were largely concentrated on agricultural production and infrastructure.

There is no doubt that the remarkable performance of Philippine agriculture during this difficult time is due to the admirable fortitude of rural families. It is therefore sad, but quite necessary, that much of the resources that should go to the development of their communities will continue to be diverted to the rehabilitation of areas directly affected by the disasters.

This is not to say that we will stop pursuing agricultural and rural development. Many communities will get development assistance and resource and infrastructure flows to the countryside will continue. In fact, we have already drafted the plan for the country's 13 regions; 11 commodity plans and 6 support service plans - and are unique for the extensive participation of farmers and fishers and peasant groups in the plan's drafting, validation and iteration. The Philippine Agriculture Development Plan is a people's plan - of, by and for the people - and through it, we hope to have started the development dynamics that responds to the needs of the grassroots.

In the meantime, much of the Government's energies is being channeled to rehabilitation work.

Apart from its toll in human life and well being, which is always the costliest of all, the Pinatubo eruption alone has to date caused losses in agriculture estimated at over US\$400 million. OPLAN Save the Farms, the Department of Agriculture's programme to rehabilitate farmlands affected by mud, ashfall and volcanic debris, has targetted over 100 000 hectares for rehabilitation, which is proceeding rapidly even as I speak.

The cost of rehabilitation, for the Pinatubo area and for all other areas devastated by the other calamities, has been and will continue to be burdensome for the Philippine economy. Although many governments and international agencies have responded generously to our calls for assistance, we need to generate more foreign exchange by increasing our exports of, among others, agricultural products.

Unfortunately, many of our commodity exports, such as carrageenan, copra, coconut oil, sugar and prawns, continue to meet artificial trade barriers in developed country markets. This is a common experience among developing countries, which tends to contradict the spirit of FAO Conference Resolution 2/79.

Technology sharing among developing countries has always been an inspiring manifestation of the solidarity and self-reliance of the Third World. Last September, the Philippines was privileged to host a TCDC programming exercise, in which there was discussion of over 180 TCDC projects and technical exchanges. In a similar forum, sponsored by the FAO, the nations of Asia-Pacific were able to lay the foundation for information exchange in the critical subject of pesticides. This was in the regional workshop on prior informed consent, which we hosted in Manila last July.

I wish to reiterate how helpful these international gatherings are in making us aware of the interdependence of nations. Gatherings, like the ones I have mentioned, truly increase our understanding of global concerns on agriculture and food and enhance our appreciation of the pains the FAO has taken to bring us all together for that purpose.

**Witness P.M. MANGWENDE (Zimbabwe):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to speak for the first time as Minister of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Settlement at this session on behalf of the cause of the Government and people of Zimbabwe.

Let me at the outset thank my friend and colleague, Mr Falloon, the Minister from New Zealand, for his finely crafted and articulate statement. He spoke on our behalf with that statement.

This Conference is taking place at a time when many countries in southern Africa, including Zimbabwe are preparing for their new summer cropping season. The harvest in 1990/91 has unfortunately been affected by the poor rains, illustrating the vulnerability of our sub-region to adverse weather conditions.

These poor rains have seriously affected the production of maize, which is the staple foodstuff not just of my country but also of many other countries in our region. Consequently the large maize stocks which we held at the beginning of the 1990/91 season have fallen by almost 50 percent.

The situation for the other major agricultural products has been similar to that for maize, with the exception of wheat (which is grown under irrigation), soybeans, cotton and tobacco.

Maize is the basis of our national diet and our policy objective is to sustain self-sufficiency and to provide for regional export requirements. The level of maize production fluctuates sharply with variations in annual rainfall, making it difficult to design and administer agricultural policies that ensure minimum levels of stocks and supplies to meet local consumption requirements and viable export opportunities.

However, even in the light of such constraints, Government policy is designed to achieve food security through sustained production of enough nutritionally balanced foodstuffs to meet our domestic requirements. The achievement of a higher standard of living for both rural and urban communities and the elimination of malnutrition and food shortages are at the forefront of our national objectives. Our policy is also aimed at improving the net balance of payments through increased foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports, in order to ensure availability of inputs. We also need to ensure a regular supply of raw materials for our domestic manufacturing industry - 60 percent of which is agriculturally related and to contribute to the food security requirements of ours as a whole, through exports of basic foodstuffs.

To this end, Zimbabwe recognizes the need to encourage more intensive and diversified production activities, especially in the small scale farming sector. The contribution of small scale farmer to total marketed production has increased substantially over recent years.

Since 1980 this sector's contribution to marketed maize and cotton has increased from less than 10 percent to more than 50 percent of the total volume sold on the market.

The Government of Zimbabwe has therefore given priority to improved support services for agriculture from the research, training and extension services departments, with special regard to the small scale sector. It has also put in place measures to improve irrigation facilities, in order to help counteract the effect of the recurrent droughts in a region in which droughts are endemic. Increased availability of imported inputs, including improved access to farm equipment is also given greater priority as part of the drive to increase our domestic supplies of farm products.

In order to create an environment that is more conducive to the achievement of these objectives, the Government has adopted economic policy reforms designed to raise the rate of growth of the economy and reduce poverty.

At the macro-economic level, initial steps on economic policy reform already taken include trade liberalization and the adoption of a relatively aggressive exchange rate management system, with a view to achieving a market exchange rate which would favour the export sectors including agriculture and would encourage exports and imports' substitution. Foreign currency retention schemes, new investment guidelines and a reduction in the fiscal deficit are among the measures included in Zimbabwe's structural adjustment programme.



Specific adjustments with respect to the agricultural sector focus on policies towards agricultural parastatals, particularly the marketing boards. These are being given greater autonomy in their operations which will be more commercially oriented, thus dispensing with the need for subsidies. Conditions for a more active role for private marketing channels are also being investigated and, in some case, created. To this end some of our loss-making boards are now residual buyers of a number of commodities, including yellow maize. In addition, the Government is studying the modification of pricing and marketing arrangements for cotton, dairy products, meat and coffee. At the same time the Government is concerned with the need to ensure that small farmers and other vulnerable groups of society, who often find themselves in difficult economic positions during structural adjustments, are helped to overcome such difficulties.

A major feature of our agricultural policy is the resettlement of small-scale farmers on more productive lands. The Government is currently drafting legislation to facilitate the acquisition of land and redistribute it to the trained rural people without of course jeopardizing agricultural productivity that has been so far attained.

I would like to mention here the plight of landlocked countries in our region such as Zimbabwe, who frequently achieve agricultural surpluses for export but suffer from expensive transport routes which reduce their ability to compete on the international markets.

However in the context of regional trade, I would like to acknowledge the positive role that the World Food Programme and other donor organizations are playing through triangular transactions.

Zimbabwe is heavily involved in regional economic co-operation; in particular the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) and the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA).

My country is co-ordinating, on behalf of other member states, the SADCC food security programme, whose objective is to increase agricultural production in order to achieve food self-sufficiency in the region as a whole.

Many of our projects receive technical and financial assistance from international agencies. The Food and Agriculture Organization has funded a number of these projects. The Government of Zimbabwe greatly appreciates the assistance that we have received which has been of real benefit in the development of our agriculture.

Finally, Mr Chairman, with regard to aid, I would like to emphasise the need for increased aid provisions from developed countries, accompanied by an inflow of private investment to strengthen the development of the overall economic situation.

We in Zimbabwe remain committed to adopting agricultural policies and strategies that work towards achieving and sustaining self reliance in agriculture. I have no doubt we shall achieve all that we have set out to do.

Your support, therefore, is crucial for us to achieve our aims. We certainly hope that FAO will continue to prosper and in its prospering will continue to extend assistance to its members. We also hope that the international community will continue to extend expertise and assistance to us.

We live on this planet together. Your success in our view should be our success also for in the modern international environment in which we live no man is an island entirely on his own; we are all part of the whole. For whom the bell tolls it tolls for thee. For one man's death diminishes me.

**Rimvydas Raimondas SURVILA (Lithuania):** Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania I thank you for the possibility to speak in this honourable forum. It is one of evidences that nations of the world recognized Lithuania as an independent country which after half a century of Soviet occupation started its second life and seeked to be your partner in all possible fields of cooperation. Close contacts with European and all countries of the world would give us strength and confidence creating economy of our independent state.

Lithuania is an amber country situated near the Baltic Sea. It occupies 65 thousand square kilometres with population of almost 4 million. Lithuanians make four-fifths of the total population. One fifth are Poles, Russians, Byelorussians, Jews and other nationalities. Over 1 million of Lithuanians live in other states, many of them have emigrated to the United States, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, European countries in the middle of this century.

Lithuania is an agricultural country. Over half of the national income is produced in this sector. We can say that our agriculture is intensive. The per capita production averages 1 ton of cereals, 150 kilogrammes of meat, 850 kilogrammes of milk. Such results could be achieved due to the fact that agriculture engaged big part of the population, as we lacked modern machinery and progressive technologies. Lithuanian agriculture provided food for our population and 30-40 percent of the production was supplied to the USSR. We import for livestock needs 1.2 million tons of grain, 300 000 tons of soya, sunflower and cotton cakes per year. Our Republic is one of major pedigree animal suppliers to former and present Soviet Union Republics. We shall work in this direction in future as well.

Such supplies are not fully reliable, therefore we look for alternative ways to receive grain and protein feeds. We want to keep up the present level of livestock production, introduce new farming forms, change technologies and rely more on domestic feedstuff resources, buying in the West proteins and other inputs necessary for development of combined feeds industry.

Crop growing in our country is orientated towards feed production therefore, farming land under feed crops amounts to 60 percent. Cereals yield per hectare is 3 tons. However, as I have mentioned, this is not enough. After transition to private property of land, when our farmers will be more strong and our former collective farms will be transformed to real cooperatives, this situation should change. For this period we shall need qualified assistance of specialists since it is necessary to orientate our economy not only to the traditional East market but also to the world market.

In addition to traditionally grown potatoes and sugar beets, other crops such as rape, various grass seeds, specific vegetables could be more widely introduced.

Flax fields occupy 20 000 hectares. This is a traditional Lithuanian crop and has great demand in the market. Flaxes are processed in 10 factories. However, growing and processing technologies are not modern.

We cultivate about 30 000 hectares of sugar beets. Our 4 sugar factories are capable to process 800 000 tons of sugar beets. There were years when the yields amounted to 1 million tons. From our domestic raw materials we are able to produce only half of the consumed amount of sugar, the rest is produced from cane raw sugar in March-August. At present, with the change of political and economic situation, supply of sugar to consumers and our industry is a major problem. I have mentioned only some main trends of our food industry which determine structure of food production and processing industry. Meat and dairy industries are prevalent in Lithuania. About 700 000 animals and fowls are being bought up and 330 000 tons of meat produced. We have nine meat factories equipment and technologies of which don't meet requirements nowadays. For the time being some western countries assist us in establishing smaller meat processing enterprises, renovating the old ones. We hope that at least a small part of our products could meet high quality requirements. Notwithstanding this, essential technological progress is needed in this field.

In the Republic of Lithuania we don't have dangerous animal and poultry diseases included in A list of International Epizootic Bureau and vaccination against them is not carried out. Veterinary service is capable to implement state control on veterinary rules in animal husbandry and processing industry. Veterinary Law of the Republic of Lithuania has been adopted. It consolidates status of the state veterinary service and meets requirements of corresponding EEC services.

The Republic of Lithuania is determined to keep to international rules of trade of livestock products and raw materials concerning their quality. We have necessary laboratories, skilled specialists, however, we lack methodologies, reagents and modern laboratory equipment.

Lithuanian dairy enterprises buy and process nearly 3 million tons of milk per year. The largest part of it is used for butter production. We have also quite a big number of cheese plants, produce canned milk. About 60 percent of milk resources are used in our Republic and the rest supplied to different parts of the Soviet Union. We supply small amounts of cheese, skimmed dry milk, casein, lactose to foreign markets as well. Soviet Union market is actually unlimited therefore, we would like to develop this industry branch. Entrepreneurs of all countries are welcome to cooperate in this field. The best form of cooperation from our point of view is joint ventures supplying their production to the East and West markets.

Such forms of cooperation are acceptable in bread industry as well since many bread products have good demand in other republics. However, we still have to import hard wheat for our needs since it is difficult to grow in our local conditions. Due to such problems powder confectionary capacities are not used to full extent. Sugar confectionary industry which uses about 80 percent of imported raw materials can work only with half capacity. With the help of reliable partners Lithuania confectionary specialists could satisfy even fastidious taste.

Beer and beverages are being produced in seven breweries. We produce about 1.6 mill.gk of beer of 20 different sorts. Again due to shortage of hops and malt, the capacities are used only by 80 percent. We produce good quality mineral water and 40 sorts of brandy and liqueur. We have good frothy wine factory, however, production is limited by shortage of raw materials and bottles.

In Lithuania we produce apple and berry wines. We hope to recover lost ground in the world in this field.

We have big vegetable oil filling capacities, however we are greatly dependent on oil import.

The fishery and aquaculture is an important branch of the Lithuanian economy. Total catches of the Lithuanian fishing fleet in the seas and open Atlantic and Pacific Oceans make up 326 000 tons of fish and other fish products. In the Baltic Sea fishing areas the Lithuanian total catches in 1990 were near 18 000 tons; 20 Lithuanian fish farms catch in inland waters about 9 000 tons of valuable fish per year such as: carp, rainbow trout, pike, pike-perch, eel, whitefish. Lithuanian large-scale fish industry is concentrated in Klaipeda, the only ice-free fishing and commercial port of Lithuania. Our fishing, transport and auxiliary fleet consists of 200 vessels. Fifty-five percent of total catches is caught in the economic zones of foreign countries. Since January 1, 1992 the Lithuanian fishing fleet will lose its right to work in the economic zones of foreign countries if the Republic of Lithuania does not make direct agreements. In such a case we shall face big problems in supplying fish to our consumers and according traditional relations to the Soviet Union and Western countries.

I think this short review of food industry will help you to imagine the picture of our country. I want to stress once more that we are actually starting everything anew and we are ready to carry out any necessary activities joining the more developed system. We set our hopes on privatization of agriculture, establishment of private farms, creation of new cooperation forms. Considerable changes will take part this winter. Community of nations of the world recognized the right of Lithuania to live in freedom and independently arrange its fate. Lithuania has returned to the Union of Nations, to international organizations. Today we apply to FAO. We hope to receive qualified assistance in arranging our food industry. We badly need consultations of specialists in determination of perspectives of traditional agricultural branches and their possibilities in the European market. Assistance is needed in the field of arrangement of state standards, methodologies and equipment for quality determination. We also need assistance in introduction of new crop growing technologies, because narrow relations with separate firms of different countries are not effective. It is very important to solve problems of technical supply. In many fields Lithuania is planning to have joint production with Latvia and Estonia, but this will take time. Therefore, wider support could make the transition period easier. Short-term supplies can help to solve problems only temporarily, therefore we would seek implementation or long-term programmes in this field.

At present businessmen and entrepreneurs of different countries come to Lithuania. However, they also have not wide and detailed programmes, sometimes their proposals are not properly evaluated by specialists. I am

aware that FAO is the organization which, having in mind its great experience, could unselfishly help our small country to return to the road of technical progress and support its further development.

I would like to assure this honourable audience that Lithuania will take a road of democracy and free market development, will be a reliable partner, good neighbour, loyal member of the world community.

Thank you once more for the right to participate and speak in this honourable forum.<sup>1</sup>

## INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

## INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

## INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

### Adoption of the Third Report of the General Committee

### Adoption du troisième rapport du Bureau

### Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** We now present to you, to this august house for your approval the Third Report of the General Committee. We will go through item by item of the Agenda that was discussed and the recommendations made by the General Committee from this morning.

I would now pass the floor to the Secretary General to read out the recommendation of the Committee, or the report of the Committee, to this august house item by item. The first item on the Agenda was the appointment of the Vice-Chairmen of the three Commissions, Rule X-2(c).

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Sur le point: nomination des vice-présidents des trois commissions, le rapport du Bureau. En application de l'Article X, alinéa 2(c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Bureau recommande à la Conférence de répartir comme suit les Vice-Présidents des trois commissions:

Première Commission: M. Vara Ochoa (Pérou), M. Strojwas (Pologne).

Deuxième Commission: M. Don Nanjira (Kenya), M. Nilaweera (Sri Lanka).

Troisième Commission: Mme Galvolgyi (Hongrie) et M. Aidara (Sénégal).

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments please. There are no comments, so the section of the recommendation just read is adopted.

We go on to the second item, and that is the statement in plenary meetings of the Conference by International non-governmental organizations having consultative status, Rule X-2(g) of the General Rules of the Organization. Mr Secretary-General.

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<sup>1</sup>

Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le Bureau a été saisi de demandes adressées par la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, L'Alliance Coopérative Internationale, la Fédération internationale des producteurs agricoles et la Fédération syndicale mondiale, organisations qui jouissent d'un statut consultatif auprès de la FAO et qui ont demandé à prendre la parole aux séances plénières de la Conférence. Après avoir examiné ces demandes le Bureau, conformément à l'Article X, alinéa 2(g) du Règlement général de l'Organisation fait maintenant rapport à la Conférence et recommande que la Conférence autorise les organisations précitées à prendre la parole en séance plénière étant entendu que la durée des interventions ne dépassera pas 10 minutes et qu'en aucun cas ces organisations ne pourront avoir la priorité sur les délégués des Etats Membres.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments, please? No comments, therefore, the second recommendation of the General Committee just read is adopted.

We go on to the third recommendation and that pertains to the method of work of Commission III.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** La méthode de travail de la Commission III et les problèmes particuliers dus au manque de temps que poserait la préparation du rapport de cette Commission sur le point 24 de l'ordre du jour; adhésion des organisations d'intégration économique régionale à la FAO, amendement aux textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation.

Le Bureau recommande que la Conférence nomme un rapporteur chargé de préparer le rapport de la Commission sur ce point.

Il recommande également que M. Sinaceur (Maroc) soit nommé rapporteur et M. Aidara (Sénégal), rapporteur-adjoint.

Le Bureau recommande en outre, que la Commission III se réunisse à nouveau le vendredi 15 novembre, et que les débats de la première Commission prévus pour vendredi soient reportés au samedi 16 novembre.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments, please? No comments. The section as read is adopted. Now we go to the next item which was on the agenda of the Committee which concerns the right to vote.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le rapport note que les Etats Membres ci-après n'ont pas versé une part suffisante de leurs contributions ordinaires pour conserver leur droit de vote à la Conférence. Le premier groupe comprend les Etats Membres ayant des arriérés: Belize, Cambodge, République dominicaine, Guinée équatoriale, Gabon, Guatemala, Pérou, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Seychelles, Somalie, Suriname, Ouganda. Le deuxième groupe comprend les Etats Membres autorisés par la Conférence à payer par tranches échelonnées: Antigua et Barbuda, et Tchad. L'Organisation a envoyé de nombreuses communications à chacun de ces Etats Membres et a reçu des réponses de tous à l'exception de Sao Tomé-et-Principe et des Seychelles. Huit des 14 Etats Membres énumérés ci-dessus sont inscrits et sont présents à la Conférence. Les six membres non inscrits sont les suivants: Antigua et Barbuda, Belize, Cambodge, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Seychelles, Suriname.

Les Etats Membres ci-après ont informé l'Organisation qu'un versement est actuellement opéré et devrait lui parvenir sous peu: Gabon et Pérou du premier groupe, Tchad du deuxième groupe.

L'Article 3, alinéa 4 de l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation stipule: Chaque Etat Membre ne dispose que d'une voix. Un Etat Membre en retard dans les paiements de sa contribution à l'Organisation ne peut participer au scrutin de la Conférence si le montant de ses arriérés est égal ou supérieur à la contribution due par lui pour les deux années civiles précédentes. La Conférence peut néanmoins autoriser ces membres à voter si elle constate que le défaut de paiement est dû à des circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté. A mesure que le Directeur général sera informé par d'autres Etats Membres de leur situation, soit qu'ils aient effectué des versements, soit qu'ils aient présenté une demande d'examen spécial par la Conférence d'un plan de liquidation de leurs arriérés par tranches échelonnées, ces renseignements seront examinés par le Bureau qui fera ensuite rapport à ce sujet à la Conférence.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments on this, please?

Just a report for information at the moment, and a further report on this will be made later on. So the report as submitted is adopted.

The next meeting of the General Committee is due for 9.00 on Friday morning. After that has finished we will present from the Board once again something for approval.

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas.

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(13 November 1991)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia



GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Yugoslavia, Uruguay, Grenada, Pakistan, Congo, Indonesia, Cuba, Cyprus, Syria, Finland, Suisse, Bulgarie, Yemen, Roumanie, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda.

**Dusan STRBAC (Yugoslavia):** I have the honour and privilege to present here a statement by Dr Stevo Mirjanic, the Federal Secretary for Agriculture, who participated in the Conference the first two days.

Honourable Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of my country and in my own name, I wish to greet this Twenty-sixth Session of the Organization for Food and Agriculture and to wish it successful deliberations and a fruitful outcome.

First of all, I would like to point out that since the last General Conference the world has witnessed deep and far-reaching changes in international relations. Central and East European countries have launched radical changes of their political and economic systems. In my country those deep changes are reflected in the overall social and economic system but with some adverse consequences.

In conditions of the on-going development of economic relations and the increasingly expressed interdependence prevailing at the global level, the United Nations and the entire system of their numerous organizations and agencies are acquiring ever greater importance and role. Among them FAO occupies a prominent position.

Therefore, the FAO should become an even more important and solid framework for dealing with all the vital issues related to agriculture and food of interest to the international community.

The increase in the world agricultural output over the past two years has not led to an improved situation with respect to nutrition. The discrepancies between output and food consumption in the world are still evident. Heightened intensity and continued growth of agricultural production in the industrialized countries brings about the creation of significant agricultural surpluses, threat to the environment and an increase in funds for subsidizing agriculture on the whole. Developing countries on the other hand are facing the problems of agricultural underdevelopment, inadequate nutrition, and even hunger. The major responsibility for agricultural development in line with the national priorities and programmes rests with those countries. However, success will depend very much on the activities at the international level and their harmonization.

In the future development, countries with underdeveloped agriculture, specially developing and Central and East European countries, should place the emphasis both on ensuring food safety, changing the structure of production to respond to market demands as well as on the rational utilization and conservation of resources and enhancing the efficiency of agriculture on the whole.

FAO plays an irreplaceable role in drafting and implementing the agricultural development strategies, particularly in countries with underdeveloped agriculture. In this context, we highly value the successful cooperation with the FAO. We particularly wish to point out the assistance rendered to Yugoslavia in 1991, in drafting the country's strategy for agricultural development. We are also looking forward to our future cooperation and FAO's assistance in the operational elaboration of the concept, implementation of the reform, modernization and restructuring of the Yugoslav agriculture.

Allow me to give a brief outline of the situation in the field of agriculture in Yugoslavia. In the context of the significant economic and political reforms launched in Yugoslavia two years ago, a process of radical changes was initiated in the field of agriculture. A very important liberalization of the domestic market and external trade was carried out. From the regulatory and restrictive administration, the economic policy shifted to an incentives type policy and protection of agricultural producers. Institutional bases were thus created, opening thus a process of fundamental ownership structure transformation has been launched. Processes of reprivatization and denationalization enabled the emergence of new economic entities based on private, cooperative and mixed type ownership. Based on the long-term global strategy, with the help of FAO we initiated the preparation of economic mechanisms for governing relations in the field of production and the food market area.

Along with the reform in agriculture and ownership transformation Yugoslavia has opened up a process of adjusting its overall agricultural production structure to the market principles and consumer demands. This year (1991) in spite of the huge problems, when all the causes and rigorous consequences of the deep crisis of the system have emerged to the surface, in agriculture we expect exceptionally good, and in the case of some crops, even absolute record yields. Food production is a sector in Yugoslavia's economy which, in 1991, will achieve highest growth in output.

On the basis of everything that I have just said we cannot accept all the adverse trends in the fields of nutrition and agriculture. Nevertheless, in spite of all the difficulties, we are satisfied with FAO's activities in the past and we can well say that, in terms of its programme orientation and efficiency, the Organization finds itself at the very top of the United Nations system.

The Programme of work and budget for the up-coming two year period, as well as the Medium-Term Plan, according to our view, constitute a follow-up to such an orientation. It actually reflects the needs of member countries, especially developing ones with respect to international assistance and cooperation in the field of food production. Bearing in mind a series of innovations, approaches and clear-cut priorities, especially in the application of scientific achievements, Yugoslavia supports the Programme of work particularly those issues which relate to the sustainable development of agriculture, the environment, advisory policy, enhancing the

information policy and technical cooperation programme. Supporting such a programme, I have to point to the need that efforts should be invested at this session again with a view to achieving maximum cost rationalization in the Organization's work, without threatening its efficiency and quality of work. A certain reduction of administrative and personnel expenses, reducing the number and shortening the duration of its meetings, reallocation of resources within the regular budget, are but a few possibilities to adjust the FAO budget to the actual potential of the member countries with respect to the payment of their contributions.

The time does not allow me to go into other equally important topics on the Agenda of this Conference. The Yugoslav delegation will actively participate in the discussions on the other items of the Agenda.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to turn your attention to the expectations from FAO, not only of Yugoslavia but particularly of a large number of the less developed countries. In the cooperation so far, a very frequent cause for the insufficient utilization of the available FAO potential was the inadequate organization of the member countries for using all forms and possibilities of cooperation. Therefore, in the coming period, FAO, and above all its Regional Office for Europe, should direct its assistance towards creating basic prerequisites which will help countries in preparing and implementing their respective agriculture development programmes in line with their potential conditions, social and economic relations and priorities. In that context, assistance is needed in the following fields:

- preparation of studies and analyses on the possible directions in the reform of agriculture related legislation, advisory services, marketing, and agricultural environment protection;
- transfer of technology and know-how, especially of new technologies adjusted to the environmental protection demands, by means of organizing workshops, meetings and through the exchanges of experts and professional documentation;
- providing initial financial assistance through Technical Cooperation Programme and professional realization of FAO projects by funding on the part of the international financial institutions.

Finally, a more active dialogue within the framework of FAO is necessary in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in the framework of agriculture.

With a view to achieving a successful realization of the FAO programme, we think that stronger links among the international organizations and a better coordination of work is necessary not only in the framework of the United Nations system but also within the relevant financial organizations. That would lead not only to a more rational utilization of resources, but also to the harmonization of economic and environmental principles and increased agricultural production, i.e., to the ultimate resolution of the problems of malnutrition and hunger.

If we bear in mind in particular the objective of establishing a new international order - the world of economic development and prosperity - which, we cannot but admit, is incompatible with poverty and stagnation of

entire regions, wherein as a rule the most numerous are developing countries, the role and the importance of FAO becomes even clearer.

Last but not least, allow me, Mr Chairman, to express my confidence that the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference will give a substantial contribution to the strengthening and further affirmation of this Organization in resolving fundamental problems of the world in the field of food and agriculture.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

**Gustavo FERRES PACHECO (Uruguay):** Sr. Presidente, Sres. Vicepresidentes de esta vigésimosexta Conferencia de FAO, Sr. Director General de la FAO, Sres. Ministros y jefes de Delegación, señoras y señores.

Deseo en primer lugar manifestar la satisfacción del Gobierno del Uruguay, que tengo el honor de representar en esta ocasión, en participar de tan importante evento y transmitirles al Sr. Director General, a la Secretaría General y al personal de la FAO en general nuestro deseo de que esta Conferencia se desarrolle a través de una fructífera labor de cooperación y concordia entre nuestras naciones y sus conclusiones permitan contribuir a un avance real en el cumplimiento de los objetivos de la Organización.

Expresamos nuestro reconocimiento a la tradicional hospitalidad y amistad del pueblo y Gobierno de Italia que nos alberga y nos guía. Señores, Sr. Presidente, nos convocan hoy aquí temas que están presentes desde el proceso fundacional del Organismo, como el del hambre y el de la agricultura como elemento clave para erradicarla y mejorar los niveles de alimentación, y temas cuya importancia y trascendencia han comenzado a ser reconocidos relativamente hace pocos años, como el del manejo sustentable de los recursos naturales y el aprovechamiento integral pero no degradante de los ecosistemas mundiales. Y nos convocan en unos momentos especiales y cruciales para la humanidad para nuestros pueblos, en los cuales cada vez más las poblaciones reclaman de sus gobiernos y de la comunidad internacional de naciones que se dé solución al problema acuciante y angustiante que sigue golpeando nuestras economías como es el problema del hambre y el problema de la diferencia de desarrollo entre los países, el problema de la abundancia y la escasez.

El mundo atraviesa circunstancias sumamente especiales marcadas por el fin de un milenio, en el cual emprendimientos como el de la FAO y otros organismos internacionales han buscado a través de décadas lograr solucionar estos problemas que hoy siguen angustiendo al hombre. Se caracteriza este fin del milenio por la tercera revolución tecnológica, por una globalización de la economía mundial a través de los progresos de la cibernética y de las comunicaciones, así como por los acelerados procesos de integración económica y lo que es aún más reciente, por la desideologización mundial, por el fin de la Guerra Fría, tantas décadas atravesando estos procesos que no han logrado solucionar, como decíamos al principio, los problemas reales de la humanidad.

Entonces, señores, la pregunta es: ¿cómo acompasar el inicio de un nuevo milenio y cómo lograr derribar las barreras que separan a los hombres y a los países entre la riqueza y la pobreza, entre la nutrición y la desnutrición, entre las enfermedades? Todos esos problemas siguen planteándose y a ellos debemos dar respuesta hoy más que nunca, haciendo un balance de cuál ha sido el resultado de nuestra acción comunitaria. Todo

ello nos lleva a repensar en la contribución que nuestros países pueden y deben hacer, procurando conseguir que del mundo desaparezca el hambre, la desnutrición, en la hora presente pero también como legado a las generaciones futuras, que, si bien es diversa, es significativa, sin importar el tamaño de cada país.

Por eso queremos brevemente reseñar qué contribución está realizando y realizará nuestro país, así como apuntar algunos aspectos políticos de suma relevancia que entendemos deben centrar la atención de toda la comunidad internacional para asegurarnos de que el nuevo milenio va a permitir consolidar los temas del mundo, en el cual el progreso beneficie a todos, y se haga realidad el anhelo de una justicia social universal, tan proclamada pero tan difícil de alcanzar. Para ello no alcanzan comprensiones voluntaristas, al contrario, debemos seguir contribuyendo al crecimiento real de las economías para lograr aplicar políticas distributivas que atiendan a las necesidades básicas de los pueblos y de nuestros sectores sociales más carenciados.

Uruguay históricamente ha realizado una contribución neta positiva para satisfacer las necesidades alimenticias no sólo de su población sino de muchos países del mundo, al tratarse de un exportador y productor neto de productos agropecuarios.

Sus niveles productivos alcanzados respondieron básicamente al aprovechamiento de la excelencia de sus recursos naturales y a las ventajas comparativas que los mismos determinaron en el comercio mundial. Pero hoy nos encontramos, como ha sido ratificado en este foro a través de los discursos de casi todos los delegados participantes, con un mundo donde estos principios se encuentran estancados, retenidos por barreras opuestas al comercio, por barreras que derriban la posibilidad de competir en base a nuestras ventajas comparativas y competitivas; se les niega a los pueblos la posibilidad de desarrollar sus producciones y de mejorar así el nivel de vida de sus poblaciones, de lograr el crecimiento real de sus economías; se les niega, en un comercio distorsionado, plagado de prácticas desleales que lo hacen inviable, la posibilidad de un desarrollo sostenido agropecuario como hemos venido proclamando aquí, en este foro.

Frente a ese panorama, ¿qué cosas venimos haciendo?

Nuestro país ha venido aplicando medidas de política macroeconómicas y sectoriales que apuntan en lo esencial a revalorizar el rol del sector privado en el desarrollo económico; a redimensionar y modernizar el Estado; a reorientar sus funciones de forma que se constituya en un estímulo y no en un freno al desarrollo; a crear las condiciones que permitan la inversión y, en consecuencia, un desarrollo autosostenido; y, específicamente, en cuanto al sector agropecuario, a reducir la discriminación que históricamente ha sufrido y, consecuentemente, a incrementar sus ventajas competitivas. Pero de nada servirán estos esfuerzos si no encontramos la contrapartida de los grandes mercados de los países desarrollados, de los mercados del mundo, que puedan abrir sus puertas a la posibilidad de colocar nuestros productos agropecuarios, que permita hacer realidad la reinversión en el sector agropecuario y rentabilizar el aumento de la producción como forma de satisfacer las necesidades alimentarias del mundo.

A efectos de superar el estancamiento del sector al que no se ha visto ajeno nuestro país, el Gobierno viene poniendo énfasis en la investigación

técnica, la generación y adaptación de tecnología, y su transferencia hacia los productores, procurando la diversificación productiva y la modernización empresarial. La transferencia está orientada hacia la producción hortifrutícola, la ganadería intensiva, el desarrollo forestal, la conservación y recuperación de los recursos naturales y el uso adecuado de los recursos hídricos para riego.

A través de tales medidas, se procura no sólo incrementar la producción y exportación de rubros tradicionales (carne, cuero, lana, granos), sino también, en general, saldos significativos de rubros no tradicionales, en los cuales podemos alcanzar ventajas competitivas. Dicho esfuerzo está siendo apoyado con financiamiento brindado por el Banco Mundial, y programas de cooperación técnica en colaboración con la FAO y otros organismos internacionales.

Quiero hacer una especial referencia a un rubro no tradicional al que nuestro Gobierno ha asignado especial importancia y a cuyo desarrollo ha consagrado especial orientación: el forestal, que es un tema que preocupa en las discusiones de esta Asamblea.

El desarrollo forestal en Uruguay contribuirá al bienestar económico nacional, generando productos que satisfarán la vida y la demanda mundial, y constituirá un aporte sustantivo al mejoramiento del medio ambiente mundial así como a la preservación de los recursos naturales en beneficio de las generaciones futuras.

Nos encontramos abocados a un ambicioso programa de bosques artificiales, con el objetivo de producir madera.

En efecto, en el año 1990 comenzó un plan nacional de forestación que tiene como meta plantar en cinco años 200 000 hectáreas de bosques en suelos vírgenes declarados de prioridad forestal por sus características de baja productividad agrícola-ganadera, su estado actual de deterioro y los rápidos crecimientos forestales que en ellos se obtienen.

Este plan, que es ejecutado en forma total por el sector privado, tiene como objetivo final lograr, a partir de los albores del siglo XXI, una producción sostenida de madera que permita establecer industrias forestales y una fuerte corriente exportadora, primando un criterio de conservación de los recursos naturales implicados.

Como forma de preservar los recursos naturales, también se ha implementado una política de conservación de bosques naturales, cuya población está prohibida por la ley.

Los primeros resultados de esta política son altamente positivos. De una media anual de plantaciones de 2 000 hectáreas, en 1990 se evolucionó a 10 000, y en 1991 se espera se complementen más de 20 000 hectáreas de forestación. Se han aprobado proyectos de inversión que implican la plantación de 65 000 hectáreas y, asimismo, se están instalando industrias de procesamiento de madera con tecnología avanzada que aseguran las posibilidades de comercialización de la producción en mercados sectoriales.

Este plan de forestación cuenta con el apoyo sostenido de la FAO que, en sus comienzos, aprobó un Technical Cooperation Programme para permitir la creación de un centro de semillas forestales y actualmente está ejecutando

un proyecto de apoyo al plan financiado por el Proyecto de Desarrollo de Naciones Unidas y por el Banco Mundial.

Se espera que, a partir de 1992, Uruguay comience la ejecución del Plan de Acción Forestal de la FAO, lo que permitirá delinear diferentes proyectos en materia de producción de madera, apoyo institucional, leña y energía, y medio ambiente, Uruguay participó activamente en el Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial recientemente realizado en París.

Con gran satisfacción decimos que nuestra política en materia forestal se inserta totalmente en las recomendaciones realizadas en el Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial en la declaración de París en cuanto al cumplimiento de los siguientes objetivos insertos en nuestra política: asociar las poblaciones al manejo integrado de su territorio; planificar la afectación a largo plazo de las tierras en función de sus potencialidades para definir aquellas que tienen una vocación forestal y estar atentos en esta planificación a las necesidades de las poblaciones involucradas, en particular aquellas que dependen del bosque; contribuir a la fijación del gas carbónico, recurriendo a técnicas silvícolas apropiadas, la extensión de las plantaciones y el empleo perenne de la madera; intensificar el desarrollo de los sistemas agroforestales, las forestaciones y reforestaciones.

Señores, esto es algo de lo que en materia de política forestal y de rubros no tradicionales viene ejecutando nuestro país. Pero queremos referirnos a otros aspectos que también deben merecer la atención de FAO por cuanto su análisis está dentro de los temas que preocupan a la Conferencia.

Uruguay adjudica especial prioridad al desarrollo de su sector pesquero, el cual realiza una contribución importante a su balanza comercial y ofrece empleo a un sector significativo de la fuerza de trabajo. Consideramos que el desarrollo de la industria pesquera a largo plazo depende de una política de administración y explotación regional de los limitados recursos de los caladeros explotados por nuestra flota. El Gobierno ha implementado en el pasado año y medio enérgicas medidas encaminadas a controlar los esfuerzos de pesca y proteger a las especies que habitan su zona económica exclusiva, con un claro sentido preservacionista.

Al mismo tiempo, como lo hemos hecho en otros foros, debemos expresar nuestra preocupación por el significativo incremento de las actividades de flotas pertenecientes a terceros países en el Atlántico suroccidental, tema que debe ser merecimiento de nuestro análisis y de contribución científica para buscar en este terreno las normas necesarias para la preservación de los recursos, que, en definitiva, son patrimonio común.

Uruguay considera que la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar estipula un marco de principios y normas que, si se las aplica debidamente, pueden contribuir a la debida administración de los recursos compartidos. FAO deberá considerar la posibilidad de realizar nuevos estudios sobre la situación de los recursos de la región, los cuales serían un apoyo valioso para los países ribereños. Deseamos también resaltar el derecho prioritario de los Estados ribereños a los recursos que habitan los ecosistemas que ese extienden a sus costas.

En este sector, al igual que en los demás que integran el comercio internacional, propugnamos el principio de la libertad y la abolición de prácticas desleales que afectan a los principios y a las normas

multilaterales del Tratado del GATT. Procuramos fórmulas de cooperación con todos los países basadas en el respeto a la conservación de los recursos pesqueros y a la libertad irrestricta de acceso a los mercados consumidores sin condicionamiento de especie alguna.

Valoramos especialmente el apoyo brindado por FAO para el desarrollo del sector pesquero de nuestro país y confiamos en que habrá de profundizarse la cooperación en el futuro.

Señores, no puede estar ajeno a nuestra intervención en esta Asamblea el tema del comercio internacional, los procesos de integración económica que se están dando en el mundo, en los que nuestro país participa activamente a través de la conformación del Mercado Común del Sur, recientemente creado fundamentalmente con Argentina, Brasil y Paraguay.

Deseamos dejar sentado que la actitud con que Uruguay asume la integración regional es la de dar un paso en el sentido de la progresiva liberalización total del comercio internacional. Nos integramos a efectos de ir avanzando hacia este objetivo.

Uruguay entiende - y así lo ha expresado en todos los foros en que ha podido señalarlo - que debemos alcanzar la liberalización del comercio multilateral y la disminución de todas las distorsiones que lo afectan, como son el acceso a mercados, las barreras no arancelarias, sanitarias, fitosanitarias, las medidas de soporte interno a las producciones domésticas, fundamentalmente los subsidios distorsionantes a las exportaciones de productos agropecuarios. Dicha libertad constituye una precondition para que los países en desarrollo puedan acelerar su crecimiento y satisfacer la necesidades básicas de sus pueblos y de los pueblos del mundo.

Uruguay desea una vez más enfatizar que apelamos a la voluntad política de todas las naciones para alcanzar éxito en las negociaciones multilaterales de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT, éxito que supone llegar a un acuerdo real y efectivo en materia de libre comercio agropecuario, un acuerdo sustantivo.

Al respecto, cabe referir lo que expresara nuestro país en ocasión de la mesa redonda entre Ministros de Agricultura del Sistema Interamericano y de la Comunidad Económica Europea, que tuvo lugar en la Décima Conferencia Internacional de Ministros de Agricultura desarrollada recientemente en Madrid, España, donde expresamos que los tiempos políticos de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT se agotan y, si la misma debe concluir, al respecto preferimos que no haya acuerdo antes que firmar uno malo que consagre prácticas desleales de comercio internacional de productos agropecuarios hasta bien entrado el próximo siglo.

Hoy, manteniendo la misma firmeza de principios, ratificamos nuestra voluntad negociadora - queremos negociar un acuerdo sustantivo - y nuestra esperanza en que se logre un acuerdo real en materia de libre comercio agropecuario, única forma en que podemos dejar sentado que estamos alcanzando los objetivos que en éste y en otros foros procura la comunidad internacional.

Para ello, en este foro que representa a la unidad de naciones, correspondiente a un organismo dedicado a la cooperación y a la promoción de la agricultura y la alimentación a nivel mundial, deseamos concluir nuestra exposición exhortando a todos los países que apelan a prácticas que



distorsionen el libre comercio de productos agropecuarios, en especial a los desarrollados, a revisar su posición y tener presente que la mejor cooperación para el desarrollo que puedan recibir nuestros pueblos es la contribución a un comercio internacional más justo, libre y transparente. De esa forma, estaremos contribuyendo efectivamente a hacer realidad el Fiat Panis que simboliza la FAO.

**Phinsley ST. LOUIS (Grenada):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Friends all, it is indeed a great pleasure for me to be representing my country here at this Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference of FAO.

Mr Chairman, on behalf of my country and my delegation let me congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO. Also I should like to congratulate all officers participating in the Conference, and wish everyone a successful and amicable conduct of proceedings.

Mr Chairman, it is with great delight that I welcome the new Members admitted at this Conference, and I refer to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Associate Member Puerto Rico.

Mr Chairman, this Conference takes place as the world is undergoing fundamental changes. Changes in relationship between nations, changes in relationship between people within nations. Are we, Mr Chairman, to treat these changes as threats or are we to treat them as challenges to the development process?

My delegation believes that agriculture provides an appropriate - and certainly in the context of this Conference - a relevant area as we plan strategies to effectively deal with these changes.

In the economic area our small nation was plagued by continuing efforts at adjustments, stabilization and the growth and restructuring of agricultural production - such as bananas, cocoa, nutmeg, crops from agricultural diversification attempts, all of which were subjected to low prices, lack of markets, transport, debt servicing, low access to external monies and the transfer of huge sums abroad for imports of inputs and consumption goods.

Within the period 1980-90 banana production fell from 11 820 to 8 007 tons per year, a fall of over 32 percent, due to Moko disease and other factors beyond our control.

The price of nutmegs during the last 5-year period fell almost 50 percent due to uncertainties on the world market.

In fact we suffered from a complex syndrome of structural imbalances, fiscal deficits and low investment levels, that have resulted in a period of stagnation, inflation and serious consequences for agricultural production capacity.

A review of statistics indicates that self-sufficiency in food declined over a ten-year period.

Mr Chairman, changing world conditions dictate that we rethink our strategies with respect to agricultural development in small island states like ours.

My delegation would like to suggest that in planning a workable strategy for agriculture as we gather here to pool ideas, cognizant that our efforts will lead us far into the Twenty-first century, a number of factors need to be addressed.

Mr Chairman, Grenada's economy is essentially agricultural, accounting for a large percentage of the labour force and contribution to the GDP. Yet our productivity is low. On the other hand, technologies exist which offer opportunities for great improvement in agricultural productivity. These facts, when put in relation to our needs, naturally commit us to a high priority towards agriculture and rural development. Consequently, in the years ahead our programmes will be designed to give that boost to increased production.

We hope to achieve this mainly through conservation of genetic resources and the generation and adoption of technological packages which contribute to this goal.

Mr Chairman, agriculture is basic to the economy and our well-being because of:

- its ability to generate employment
- its potential to earn and save foreign exchange
- its linkage with other sectors - tourism, health, nutrition
- its effects on energy needs
- its impact on the environment.

In the process of restructuring our economy we believe agriculture has a pivotal role.

By the Year 2000 the global population will be about 25 percent above the population of the mid 80s with 90 percent off the increase occurring in developing countries like ours.

Given the competing demand on our meagre financial and human resources, we find it difficult to meet these requirements solely from national resources.

My delegation therefore feels that we as a community of nations gathered here have collective responsibility to ensure that hitherto untapped resources do not disappear from our midst. With our fragile island ecosystem the challenge we face is how to increase food and other agricultural commodities and yet maintain environmental soundness. This is an area where my delegation feel the need for sound and sustainable international cooperation, technical and financial assistance.

Grenada endorses and supports fully the Director-General's initiatives and emphasis on the environment and sustainable development and would further urge for more measures and mobilization of additional resources, to meet the requirements of small countries like ours, which face particular difficulties in maintaining a balance between basic survival needs and the capacity of the natural ecosystem to provide such needs.

Sustainable development implies that national development strategies balance population with available resources.

Fulfilling the needs for agricultural products is a formidable challenge in the context of continued mismanagement of our critical resources (forestry, fauna, flora, soils and water) and is one of the most important tasks facing us, as we deliberate in this Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO. Again recognizing the interdependency of environmental protection, population growth and economic development would be a crucial challenge for us in this august body.

Policy analysis, accounting practices and planning cannot ignore the fact that the planet's stock of natural resources is finite and that the regenerative capability of renewable resources is limited and fast becoming more so with rapid population growth.

As an example, only about 3 percent of the total amount of water on this planet is fresh water and of this amount it is estimated that only one tenth of one percent can be utilized by the population. We need expert help to ascertain the carrying capacity and proper management of land and water use, which could meet not only the sustainability criteria but also the added production and income flow potential embodied in development programmes.

Help to explore new domains for example, small ruminants, plants, pastures and interaction farming systems.

Efforts need to be directed towards the development of appropriate technologies for fragile dry uplands and coastal plains where irrigation is severely limited and farming usually restricted to rainfall patterns.

We need to find ways of producing more food and lowering cost of production.

Some envisaged areas of need would be:

- |            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Biological | - | Genetics, improved varieties  |
| Chemical   | - | Increase and proper management of the use of fertilizers, pesticides and developments in veterinary medicine and animal nutrition |
| Irrigation | - | Techniques in order to improve the quality of land and increase crop yields   |

Technological progress and advances can be obtained only by joint efforts and investments that developing nations would be hard pressed to provide.

International agencies must combine national efforts not only for technology and innovation but more importantly for adopting more appropriate selections of technology.

Such technological advancements will be critical to our ability to face not only the challenges of today but also to take advantage of the future. In the face of changing conditions in the world economy, integration must be redefined within a broader perspective which brings in and coordinates the productive trading and technological aspects of different endeavours.

Within this framework the deepening of the integration process is an imperative for agricultural products from developing countries to better access the protected international markets, for us to attract the lessening financing and investment resources available in general, for us to increase agricultural productivity and to rekindle investment in this sector of the economy.

The theme for the last World Food Day was Trees for Life, and in the spirit of that theme Grenada fully supports the Tropical Forestry Action Programme as emphasized by the Director-General.

Grenada has initiated tree planting programmes in the schools and community through agroforestry programmes. Longer-term population education as regards the environment and coastal management is being developed. We would hope that continuous support from FAO and other cooperating agencies would be forthcoming in order to achieve the full objectives.

My delegation fully supports the efforts to integrate more women in the development process. We believe that gender issues are of central importance. Women play pivotal roles as head of family, in assuring food security, education, nutrition and family stability. In fact, many women are truly resource and environmental managers.

We call for help perhaps in the form of TCP in devising policies and programmes which invest in women, particularly in terms of education and training, the building of a more skilled work force which will help achieve a sustainable equilibrium and improve environmental management where it is most needed at the grass roots.

My delegation welcomes and supports the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. It is our fervent hope that the prior consent clause would be strictly adhered to by the producer/exporter countries.

My delegation records its endorsement of the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the biennium 1992-93. There is need to consolidate the gains of the 1980s and to keep agriculture at the forefront of global issues. These efforts need resources. We hope therefore that there will be consensus during the Conference to endorse the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General.

We support fully the TCP programme but are somewhat concerned about the low level of funding, when one considers that this Programme was especially tailored to help small developing countries with immediate and urgent problems.

We urge that the lapse factor be retained at 3 percent, that the working capital be increased and the special reserve fund be replenished.

Mr Chairman, my delegation applauds the initiative made by the Director-General and the Organization to implement certain programmes despite the financial crises besetting the FAO.

It is therefore our hope that countries with arrears, including ours, make a concerted effort to quickly pay their contributions so that the many needed programmes and services could be implemented in a timely fashion.

Finally, my delegation wishes to put on record its sincere thanks to the Director-General and his Organization for the continued technical assistance, training and projects which were implemented in Grenada during the biennium 1990-91 under the TCP programmes.

Also thanks is extended to the staff of FAO and all those involved in the arrangements for this Conference.

And above all our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of the host country for their gracious hospitality.

Finally, may I suggest to all delegates that we return to our home countries determined to do all in our power under God to wage a decisive and aggressive international war against poverty, hunger and malnutrition in our world using our land and other gifts that God has given us as weapons in that war against poverty.

**Mian Riaz SAMEE (Pakistan):** The delegation of Pakistan is proud to have the privilege of delivering its country statement with its distinguished compatriot in the Chair. On my behalf and on behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank all distinguished colleagues present here today for the honour they have bestowed on Pakistan.

My delegation also wishes to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made to the progress and effectiveness of FAO by Dr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO. By virtue of his long association with FAO, including a decade and a half as its Director-General, Dr Saouma has imparted it vigour and direction. We wish him well in tackling the manifold challenges which lie ahead and will continue to work closely with him and his colleagues.

Ladies and Gentlemen, two years ago when we had assembled in this room to deliberate in the Twenty-fifth Conference Session, few of us could have foreseen the monumental political changes that have since surfaced throughout the world. The manner and pace at which the situation has been evolving and the turns it continues to take, makes it difficult to predict a definitive conclusion on the final shape of events. However, there is an optimism and promise for peace and a brighter future for the world.

Nevertheless, the challenges to humanity still remain. Peace has to be sustained, but poverty, hunger and malnutrition continue to afflict the world in ever greater proportions, presenting additional challenges to the world community. The food situation in Africa remains precarious, while millions reside in abject poverty and a state of undernourishment in Asia.

Latin America presents an optimistic face of economic and political change but its progress is hampered by falling international prices for its primary commodities and the awesome burden of its debt. The irony of the situation is that the industrialized world is also passing through one of its slowest periods of economic growth which limits the availability of resources for overseas development and needs. Therefore, we in the Twenty-sixth Conference Session have the responsibility to reflect seriously and soberly in taking appropriate decisions, which would have a beneficial impact on these issues.

The concept of food security in today's world encompasses a broad set of issues relating to agricultural production, rural development and access to food and international trade in agricultural output. Indeed, the world is now in a better position to tackle major food crises than it was in the seventies. There has been significant progress in the world food supply situation, but its uneven distribution still poses a challenge to food security in the wake of population growth, environmental degradation and other economic factors such as external debt, international commodity prices, protectionism and terms of trade. For this purpose, intensive efforts are required to arrest the trend of growing hunger and poverty.

The developed nations can play a key role in providing resources on softer terms to support national programmes aimed at providing food security to the developing countries. Economic adjustment programmes must be designed in such a way as to protect the incomes and nutrition standards of the poor through project approach geared to higher levels of employment and equitable distribution of income. Special attention must also be given to the needs of small farmers to raise productivity. These incentives should include prices, marketing infrastructure, availability of credit, and other inputs at cheaper rates. Towards this end, massive efforts are needed both by the governments, donors and international agencies.

The state of natural resources and environment today is the most important area of concern for the world community. FAO has played an important role in the recent developments that have taken place in this field, but much more needs to be done. Rapid increase of population, inadequate economic growth, and incidence of poverty have a direct bearing on environmental degradation. It is therefore important that environmental concerns are made an integral part of national and global developmental activities.

The world forests are an important part of our ecosystem and constitute a pivotal element in our life support. The conservation and development of these forests rightly remains an important part of our agenda under the report of the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

As usual, the biennial Programme of Work and Budget on which depends the efficacy and effectiveness of FAO's assistance to its Member Nations fares high on the agenda. Four years of continuing financial crises have severely eroded the reserves of FAO and makes it incumbent upon us to restore its capacities by approving a budget of adequate size. While Pakistan notes zero and negative growth budgets, which are retrogressive and unresponsive to the needs that poor and developing countries place on FAO, it welcomes the predominant spirit of consensus with which the budget process has moved so far and would urge all members to endorse the consensus on budget levels emerging from the September 1991 session of the Programme and Finance Committees without encumbering it with further absorption of cost increases.

Mr Chairman, with your permission, I would now like to move to some important developments in Pakistan. The new Government which came into power following elections in Pakistan in November 1990 has initiated radical measures to liberalize the national economy. Trade barriers have been removed, foreign exchange controls withdrawn and public sector industry is being privatized. Efforts are in hand to introduce private management to all sectors of the economy.

Privatization and free trade policies are also being applied to agricultural development in the country. While agro-based industry is being encouraged in the rural areas, input supply and pesticide application is being shifted into private hands. Subsidies on agricultural inputs are being phased out and a greater proportion of operating, management and research costs for irrigation, roads and other rural infrastructure passed on to users. Nevertheless, while this wide-ranging structural adjustment of the economy is bound in close collaboration with the IMF, the Government has to remain cognisant of the objective circumstances of the rural majority of small farmers and working labour. Small land holdings, uncertain markets and financial inability of the government to arrange for necessary agricultural extension support are all constraining factors on the ability of rural people today. The Government is therefore working hard to develop a balanced programme for reducing governmental subsidies and increasing rural incomes.

The Government policy in the agricultural sector is set out in a national agricultural policy which revolves around five key elements: social equity, self-reliance, export orientation, sustainable agriculture and enhanced productivity. The realization of these goals appears to be an uphill task, but the objectives and the accompanying plan of action in the policy have been designed to make it attainable with efficient use of local resources and primarily in collaboration with international agencies like FAO, UNDP, IFAD, ADB, World Bank, etc. To start with, a special budgetary provision of 1 000 million rupees has already been made in the budget for productivity enhancement programme.

Mr Chairman, the various facets of our national agricultural policies and activities will be appropriately highlighted by our delegation in their interventions under the concerned agenda items in the commissions. Therefore, at this stage, it is not my intention to further impose on your time.

In closing, Sir, I would like to note that the nature and importance of issues before this session and its timing may well make it a landmark session. The other day we welcomed the three Baltic Republics and Puerto Rico amongst us. The Conference would be adopting amendments to the world food programme basic texts resulting in an increased and more regionally representative governing body of the Organization. Commission III is also in the process of examining amendments to the basic documents of FAO which could result in the entry of the EEC to membership of the FAO - an historic development. As always my delegation will strive to the utmost in concert with like-minded delegations to advance the purposes and objectives of the Conference.

**Auguste Célestin NKOUA-GONGARAD (Congo):** M. le Président, au moment où le 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle frappe déjà à nos portes, au moment où, par ses effets pervers et insoupçonnés, le progrès technologique en arrive même à menacer la survie de la planète, permettez-moi au nom de mon pays, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom personnel de rappeler une vérité fondamentale de notre institution: ici on parle de la terre, notre mère nourricière, de ce qu'elle peut nous donner pour nous permettre de vivre et des moyens qu'il nous faut pour la mettre en valeur.

Tel est le destin traditionnel de la FAO.

Il nous paraît capital de ne pas oublier cette mission essentielle pour mieux apporter, dans un élan commun et à l'occasion de cette conférence, notre contribution pour que ce destin devienne chaque jour une réalité.

C'est à cette tâche que vont s'atteler mon pays et ma délégation.

Mais auparavant je me permettrai de vous dire sincèrement que ma délégation et moi-même sommes très sensibles à l'accueil chaleureux qui nous a été réservé à notre arrivée ici ainsi qu'aux soins particuliers dont nous sommes entourés depuis que nous sommes en terre italienne.

Qu'il me soit également permis, M. le Président, M. le Vice-Président, de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre élection. Nous saisissons également cette occasion pour saluer l'admission des nouveaux membres qui viennent renforcer l'universalité de notre Organisation.

Voici venue l'heure où, ensemble, tous les pays membres se penchent sur le devenir de notre Organisation dont dépend, du point de vue de l'alimentation, l'avenir des peuples du monde entier.

La mission fondamentale de notre Organisation est, nous le savons tous, de libérer l'humanité de la faim. Malheureusement, depuis la création de la FAO, le nombre de mal-nourris dans le monde ne cesse d'augmenter en chiffres absolus. Il était d'environ 500 millions lors de la toute dernière enquête mondiale sur l'alimentation. Aujourd'hui, ce chiffre a très vraisemblablement été largement dépassé au regard de l'effondrement des économies de la majorité des pays membres, d'autant plus que la plupart de ces pays sont des pays pauvres car leurs matières premières sont achetées à vil prix sur le marché international; ils n'en tirent de ce fait aucun profit.

A cela, il faut ajouter la sécheresse, l'endettement écrasant et la diminution de l'aide publique accordée par nos partenaires dans le cadre de notre développement.

Tel est le cadre contraignant dans lequel chaque pays, aujourd'hui, doit gérer sa politique agricole et essayer de résoudre l'épineux problème de la faim.

Vous comprendrez cependant que la délégation congolaise ne puisse passer sous silence, devant ce grand forum où se trouvent réunies les grandes sagesses et compétences du monde agricole, l'événement qui a marqué la vie nationale de mon pays, à savoir, la Conférence nationale souveraine.

C'est à partir de ce grand forum national, pacifique et responsable que notre pays a entrepris de reconsidérer sa politique de développement agricole.

Hier, sous le monopartisme, le développement agricole dans notre pays était basé sur les entreprises et les fermes d'Etat en direction desquelles l'essentiel des moyens financiers était consenti, malheureusement sans grand succès.

Aujourd'hui, grâce à l'avènement de la démocratie qui permet une plus grande libération des énergies et une meilleure expression des potentialités, le Congo, mon pays, a résolu d'intégrer véritablement le privé au processus de développement agricole.



Cette intégration est aujourd'hui incontournable, tant au Congo que dans la plupart des pays en développement.

C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que des initiatives relatives à l'aide aux privés du secteur agricole soient prises par notre Organisation. Cette aide, nous en convenons, serait évidemment et naturellement consentie sous le contrôle de l'Etat pour que les experts de la FAO, même en conseillant les privés, continuent à jouir de leur statut diplomatique.

En clair ce que nous voulons c'est libéraliser l'activité agricole et faire que la FAO puisse orienter et aider conjointement, dans la mesure de ses possibilités naturellement, aussi bien le secteur public que le secteur privé.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, je ne saurais passer sous silence les nombreux avantages qu'offre mon pays au secteur agricole. En effet, dans le souci de promouvoir le développement agricole national, des mesures concrètes et incitatives ont été prises en direction des opérateurs du secteur agricole. Il s'agit tout particulièrement de l'exonération des droits et taxes douaniers à l'importation des équipements et intrants agricoles.

Il s'agit aussi de la réduction de 20 pour cent du tarif de transport par chemin de fer.

Pour notre Organisation, à tous les niveaux, des approches nouvelles doivent être imaginées, notamment en ce qui concerne la mise en place des mécanismes de régulation du marché international des produits agricoles, de rémunération équitable des matières premières d'origine agricole ou d'aide multiforme au développement.

Voilà à notre humble avis des voies que devrait explorer notre Organisation en vue de demeurer toujours cet instrument d'aide et de progrès au service de l'humanité.

Sur le plan des relations inter-Etats, le Congo encourage toute démarche destinée à renforcer notre Organisation.

C'est ainsi que la demande de la CEE en vue d'intégrer la FAO a été favorablement accueillie par notre pays. C'est pourquoi nous lançons, du haut de cette tribune, un appel fraternel à tous les pays membres de notre Organisation, et plus particulièrement à ceux du Nord, de se dépasser en mettant au premier plan les valeurs séculaires de solidarité et de justice sociale car aujourd'hui l'interdépendance des pays et des peuples du monde est devenue une réalité évidente non seulement entre les peuples riches, par exemple, le Japon et les Etats-Unis, entre l'Italie et la France, entre l'Allemagne et l'Angleterre, mais également entre les peuples du Nord et du Sud.

C'est là enfin le sens profond de notre message, un petit message mais un grand message très profond d'amour, d'amitié, de paix et de fraternité, également un message d'amour pour notre pays, pour notre continent, l'Afrique, et pour l'humanité tout entière.

**Syarifuddin BAHARSJAH (Indonesia):** I am very pleased and honoured to have the opportunity to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

It is most gratifying to me and to my delegation that the stewardship of this Session of the FAO Conference is entrusted to a distinguished leader intimately associated with the work of FAO as well as an eminent representative of Pakistan, a country with which Indonesia has always enjoyed close, fraternal relations.

I take this opportunity to convey our warm congratulations to you and to pledge my Delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your responsibilities. Your opening address, Mr Chairman, has provided us with important guidelines which will immensely benefit the Conference in achieving its objectives. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the elected Vice-Chairmen.

The Government of Indonesia congratulates the Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia for their having joined FAO as new Members and to Puerto Rico as Associate Member.

The Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference is of particular significance because this Conference is being held at a time when the world is witnessing an atmosphere of international political detente, which will hopefully lead to a greater predilection of all toward development. Amidst this rapid change, however, it is alarming to note that the world food balance is deteriorating further.

All available indications appear to point to a tighter cereal supply situation in the year ahead and that to meet the 1991/92 consumption requirements, world cereals stocks will have to be drawn down sharply.

The economic outlook for the 1990s suggests that the fight against hunger may become more difficult in many parts of the world in the years to come. The continued existence of hunger in the world into the Twenty-first Century is morally unacceptable. It is unacceptable in terms of human suffering and also because it impinges upon development. We must, for that reason, double our efforts to strike at the roots of hunger. These efforts must include, but should not stop at, food aid.

In the Indonesian economy it is obvious that the role of agriculture will remain important for some time to come. Reforms and deregulation in all developmental activities, including agricultural production and trade, are being undertaken with great vigour in the attempt to simultaneously continue pursuing the three objectives of stability, growth, and equity.

Indonesia will continue to do its best to maintain self-sufficiency in rice. Therefore, the development of the agricultural and irrigation networks in Indonesia will continue to enjoy high priority.

We are cognizant that to sustain the agricultural growth momentum, we cannot rely solely on increased rice production, but must incessantly search for new sources of growth. Therefore, efforts continue to be made to enhance the productivity of other agricultural commodities.

As one of the biggest food producing and consuming countries, the sustained drive toward enhancing food-crops production in Indonesia could hopefully be construed as a meaningful contribution towards the achievement of stability and security of the food situation in the region. The Indonesian farmers have been able to express solidarity with their drought-stricken African brethren by sharing with them returns from their bountiful rice

harvests, and by continuing to share the experience gained in rice cultivation. We look forward to further hosting such farmer to farmer visits.

The World Food Programme has grown to become a large development programme within the UN system. It has proven to be very effective in administering food aid at minimum costs. My delegation hopes that the Programme will continue to work as an action-oriented developmental instrument with enough flexibility to adjust itself to the rapidly changing circumstances.

It is in this light that I would like to seize this occasion to express my Government's appreciation to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr J. Ingram for the wisdom, dedication and the consummate skill with which he has guided the work of WFP during his soon to be completed tenure. My delegation wishes to express their hope that all potential donors will support the Programme so that the pledging target of 1992-93 can be achieved.

Trade is as important if not more important as technical aid to our developing economies. Therefore, discussions on trade taking place in other fora may have implications not only on the activities of FAO but also on our national policies in respect of food production, which falls more appropriately within the competence of FAO, and trade in agricultural products which falls within GATT.

My delegation believes that there is an urgent need for a dynamic trading system that provides exports from the developing countries with greater access to market in industrialized countries.

Paradoxically, however, while many developing countries, including my own, are at present unilaterally liberalizing their trading regimes, many developed countries are indulging in managed trade and increasing their tariffs and non-tariff barriers. My delegation further believes that the only credible option for generalized prosperity and development is by means of a truly open and credible multilateral trading system. It is therefore my earnest hope that the contracting parties, in particular the major trading nations, will grasp at the opportunities being currently presented to bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion.

Another important development sector that calls for our serious consideration is in the field of commodities. Bearing in mind that they constitute the main economic resource of many developing countries, it makes very good sense to explore and strengthen the extant international commodity policy measures. More active participation by all parties in producer/consumer fora should be further encouraged and strengthened.

Let me use this opportunity Mr Chairman, to state that it would be mutually beneficial for all parties concerned if the industrialized countries would actively participate in strengthening the Common Fund for Commodities.

Some weeks ago all nations celebrated the eleventh World Food Day under the theme of Trees for Life.

The threat of irreversible environmental destruction and its impact on mankind's well-being and on development has become a major international concern.

My country, Indonesia, which has always been fully supportive of the pressing need for environmental protection, believes that in this undertaking a balanced approach should be preserved.

As an issue affecting the entire international community, global in scope and impact, it is imperative that environmental problems be addressed on the basis of equitably shared responsibility and that it does not become a new bone of contention between the North and the South. Neither should it be made an added conditionality in the context of development cooperation.

For the developing countries, overcoming the problems of poverty and population pressures will be essential if they are to pursue environmentally sound and sustainable development.

Indonesia deems it a blessing and at the same time recognizes a special responsibility in being the custodian of vast and prolific tropical forests. Indeed, we are doing our utmost within our limited material and technological capabilities to guard against their depletion and to preserve their wealth of bio-diversity.

We should note, however, that not only tropical forests but, for differing reasons, boreal and temperate forests are under serious threat as well. Hence, in pursuing sustainable forest management that would allow for their preservation and their economic utilization, a global cooperative framework needs to be developed.

We trust that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil next year will adopt a comprehensive and balanced approach in addressing the broad spectrum of issues on its agenda, including those on climatic change and on hazardous and toxic wastes.

My delegation welcomes warmly the recommendations regarding Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD)'s agenda for action. I wish to use this opportunity to express my Government's appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands and to the FAO for their assistance and cooperation in making the International Conference on Agriculture and Development held in s'Hertogenbosch, April 1991, a very successful one.

The problems of sustainability, growth, and poverty alleviation are most acute in the Asia and Pacific Region; these arise mainly from intense population pressure and high incidence of rural poverty. Therefore, urgent action is needed to develop and implement a strategy for SARD with the alleviation of rural poverty as its basic objective.

My delegation hopes that UNCED will devote full attention to SARD as a key topic in order to mobilize all possible support for this vital sector in meeting basic human needs while preserving the environment.

My delegation welcomes the progress report on the implementation of Resolution 7/89 regarding the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. Not only does my delegation support FAO's plan of action but has, in fact, already taken various practical steps to facilitate the implementation of this Programme.

Efforts should continuously be made to ensure that gender aspects be systematically introduced in policy-oriented studies, advisory services and various follow-up activities. In other words, every effort should be made to integrate women fully into development.

The consideration of the biennial Programme of Work and Budget of FAO, in our view, is very important. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to present to this Conference a realistic Programme of Work and Budget prepared in line with the advice of various FAO technical bodies as well as the Programme and Finance Committees. Therefore it deserves our support.

We do realize the constraints behind the proposed 1992-93 Programme and hope that future programmes of work and budget would be much larger. The increased allocation to TCP is welcome as this programme has enabled FAO to respond quickly to urgent needs in the past.

However, I note with concern that its share in the overall Regular Programme budget is below the expectations of Conference Resolution 9/89 - a trend that needs to be reversed in the future TCP appropriations.

My Government welcomes the intention of a Regional Economic Integration Organization (REIO) to become a member of FAO. With regard to the amendment of the Basic Text and Rules of Procedure of FAO, my delegation hopes that a consensus solution can be achieved so as to pave and ensure the ways for the REIO's full participation in the work of FAO.

Finally, Mr Chairman, as history has witnessed the remarkable role of FAO in assisting the developing countries' agricultural development, I wish to appeal that all members should make their best efforts in maintaining FAO's capabilities in the discharge of its task in the future.

It is undeniable, however, that all efforts to enhance the role and improve the functioning of the UN agencies, including FAO, will come to naught unless underpinned by the commensurate commitments and support. The FAO can only be as effective as its members will allow it to be and can only succeed if its members are committed to make it succeed.

I rest confident that all of us share these concerns and will leave no stone unturned in the pursuit of our common objectives.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Adolfo DIAZ SUAREZ (Cuba):** Señores delegados, permítanme en primer lugar, felicitar al Sr. Presidente, Malik Abdul Majid, y expresar nuestra felicitación a los Vicepresidentes elegidos para presidir este 26° período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO, y brindarles la seguridad de que nuestra delegación trabajará con la mayor dedicación para contribuir al éxito de la misma.

Asimismo, felicito a los países que han integrado este 26° período de sesiones de la FAO, aprovecho además la oportunidad para saludar y felicitar al Director General de la FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, por su labor al frente de la Organización y por su consecuente posición en defensa de los intereses de los países del Tercer Mundo, para los que con justeza ha

pedido, con persistencia y tenacidad, una política de tratamiento diferenciado y preferencial por parte de los países más desarrollados.

En correspondencia con los principios sostenidos por la FAO, nuestro país reitera su pleno respaldo a los objetivos y prioridades de la Organización, y a su batallar en la búsqueda de soluciones para paliar la grave situación alimentaria mundial.

Nuestra delegación considera que la distribución de recursos del Programa de Cooperación Técnica tiene lugar, desde su creación, sobre las bases de una metodología que asegura el funcionamiento abierto y sin discriminación alguna de este importante Programa en la atención de las solicitudes de los Gobiernos y la misma debe continuar rigiendo estas acciones, como una fórmula que contribuye a la cooperación que requieren los países más necesitados para su desarrollo.

La brecha abierta, entre la situación de los países desarrollados y los países subdesarrollados, tantas veces analizada en esta Conferencia, lejos de estrecharse, se ensancha cada día más y aun con las medidas tomadas por el Director General de la FAO y sus colaboradores se hace imprescindible, como lo han declarado varias delegaciones, que los principales contribuyentes liquiden sus adeudos y se incrementen sus aportes hacia la colaboración multilateral.

Asimismo, al destacar la importancia de la colaboración multilateral, espero sinceramente que todos los Gobiernos aquí representados demos nuestro total apoyo al trabajo de la FAO, para que se le deje trabajar sin presiones y pueda ser más útil a la necesidad de todos los países del Tercer Mundo. Dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas, es justo resaltar el importante papel del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y la labor desempeñada por su Director Ejecutivo, el Sr. James Ingram, en la movilización de recursos de la comunidad internacional, dirigidos fundamentalmente al desarrollo, como la vía más efectiva para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros países, sin menoscabo de atender con efectividad y dinamismo las situaciones de emergencia que enfrentan los países más necesitados del mundo.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, es evidente que la crisis alimentaria y nutricional que durante las últimas décadas, ha sido puesta de relieve en distintos foros internacionales, y en particular en las conferencias de la FAO, lejos de evolucionar en un sentido positivo, continúa agravándose y como se señaló en el Consejo en su 99<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones, el ritmo de crecimiento de la producción de alimentos, fue inferior al ritmo de crecimiento demográfico en 67 de los 112 países en desarrollo. La falta de poder adquisitivo de estos países, obstaculiza el acceso a los alimentos, determinando que cada día un número creciente de personas, se vea privada de un suministro mínimo para subsistir.

La grave crisis económica que continúa afectando a los países en desarrollo, no ha tenido, ni se vislumbra, una perspectiva clara de solución, si tomamos en cuenta que la década de los ochenta es universalmente reconocida como una década perdida para el desarrollo y hoy, Sr. Presidente, ni siquiera existen planes y estrategias concretas, para revertir el proceso de deterioro de las economías de los países en desarrollo, en particular de las regiones de Africa, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe.

La deuda externa y el pago de sus servicios, el intercambio desigual y el proteccionismo, continúan siendo flagelos que golpean con más dureza cada día a nuestros pueblos.

En el comercio internacional, como también se ha expresado aquí por muchos delegados, los países en desarrollo continúan obteniendo migajas, mientras que los desarrollados se llevan siempre la mejor tajada. Es así que las negociaciones del GATT, en el marco de la Ronda Uruguay, no ha tenido el avance deseado, porque se mueven activamente intereses muy poderosos que pretenden monopolizar y manipular, con fines egoístas, el comercio de alimentos, que es decir comerciar con la vida de los seres humanos, basta analizar los precios de los productos básicos de la mayoría de nuestros países en la actualidad.

Es cierto, Sr. Presidente, que en el mundo se están produciendo cambios políticos inusitados, incluso se pretende y se estimula cada vez más la formación de grupos o bloques de integración económica, y parecería que esto pudiera traer consigo nuevos aires renovadores en la esfera económica internacional, pero este proceso está condicionado a las reglas de participación que imponen los países desarrollados, dentro del restringido marco de acceso a sus mercados, con plena vigencia de políticas proteccionistas y un pobre apoyo financiero de los países más ricos a los menos favorecidos, manifestaciones éstas de la ausencia de un nunca logrado Orden Económico Internacional justo.

Nuestro país ha expresado firmemente su convencimiento de la necesidad de promover y concretar una verdadera integración económica en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, como continuidad del exitoso encuentro de los Presidentes Iberoamericanos en Guadalajara, México, y hemos también reconocido que nuestro país y nuestra economía, manteniendo sus principios políticos, está enteramente dispuesto y preparado para adentrarse en un proceso de integración, en el que todos los países participantes obtengamos beneficios para elevar los niveles de desarrollo, y mejorar las condiciones de vida de nuestros pueblos.

No excluimos tampoco la posibilidad de emprender negociaciones, en el plano económico, con aquellos países y entidades de cualquier latitud, que de buena voluntad, deseen unirse a nosotros para promover la producción y el comercio en el sector agrícola y en otros sectores, en términos de beneficio común, respetando nuestras normas y soberanía.

Esta voluntad de nuestro país, Sr. Presidente, se contrapone diametralmente a la posición del imperialismo, obstinado en mantener contra nuestro pueblo un férreo bloqueo económico que ya rebasa las tres décadas, y el cual trata de agudizar en estos momentos por todos los medios a su alcance, con la pretensión de asfixiar a nuestro país. Cuando en medio de la coyuntura internacional, nuestros pueblos, siempre los más amenazados por los efectos que pudiese tener para la humanidad la galopante carrera armamentista, que matizó el período subsiguiente a la Segunda Guerra Mundial, asisten con júbilo al advenimiento de la distensión entre las hasta ayer reconocidas como grandes potencias, vemos con justa preocupación el surgimiento de un mundo unipolar, que se perfila hacia la dominación de un solo país sobre el resto, incluyendo hasta Europa, independientemente del nivel de desarrollo económico o tecnológico que haya alcanzado, reforzando la política de dominación neocolonial sobre la base del chantaje y de las amenazas, de la acción implacable de mecanismos financieros que frenan las potencialidades

de desarrollo de nuestros pueblos, condicionando al sojuzgamiento político toda ayuda que pueda provenir de sus arcas.

Lo que hemos escuchado en las palabras pronunciadas aquí por el Dr. Saouma, Director General de la FAO y el Embajador Sr. Saintraint, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, nos bastaría para entender la compleja situación actual.

En la actualidad, enfrentamos los mayores desafíos para continuar avanzando en el camino de alcanzar las metas del bienestar que nos hemos propuesto para nuestra sociedad.

Nuestro país, que logró durante estos años un desarrollo razonable en la salud, la educación, en su infraestructura productiva, se ha visto afectado por los cambios que se han producido en los países de Europa del Este. Entre estos países y Cuba se dieron relaciones justas de intercambio que, aunque hoy se cuestionan, no dejamos de preconizar y reconocer como las que deben existir, como práctica consecuente, entre los países de menos desarrollo y los países más desarrollados.

Podemos afirmar que continuamos trabajando con una estrategia coherente y con un concepto pragmático de desarrollo rural integral, que permite, además del aumento de la producción de alimentos, proteger el medio ambiente, mediante el incremento sostenido de nuestras áreas de bosques, el adecuado manejo de las cuencas hidrográficas y de otros recursos naturales. Nuestro programa alimentario nacional, que tiene la primera prioridad del país, se complementa con el desarrollo de la necesaria infraestructura productiva y social, que incluye construcción de viviendas, consultorios para los médicos de la familia, escuelas, hospitales y otros servicios comunitarios, que permiten a nuestros hombres y mujeres del campo, vivir en condiciones cada vez mejores, como reconocimiento de su verdadera dimensión humana en una sociedad de justicia social como la nuestra.

Sr. Presidente, es incuestionable que vivimos una gran paradoja. Una gran euforia acompaña los cantos de sirenas con los que, los heraldos de una ola neoliberal, anuncian y convocan el advenimiento de un mundo unipolar, de supuestas coincidencias ideológicas, en el que nada tendrían que ver las esenciales diferencias que realmente han colocado al mundo en un mar de desequilibrios económicos y de desigualdades sociales, generadas en las entrañas mismas de un sistema económico, predominante en la mayor parte del planeta y en nombre de cuya perpetuidad, se proclama ahora, un mundo de bienestar para los pueblos, que en su propio seno, padecen las consecuencias de sus contradicciones.

Mientras el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional propuesto y acordado por la Organización de Naciones Unidas, como un paso imprescindible para lograr un mundo más justo, más armónico y pacífico, sigue siendo una aspiración loable, marginada de la práctica, porque aquellos que están posibilitados de aplicarla mantienen aún y refuerzan una conducta egoísta, en favor únicamente de sus intereses, sin tomar suficiente conciencia de que en este mundo, y en el venidero, estamos obligados a salvar con el esfuerzo común, a las más de cuatro quintas partes de la población mundial, amenazada de perecer por el hambre, o de vivir y vegetar como simples desechos sociales, para vergüenza de una comunidad internacional que llamamos civilizada.



No basta, Sr. Presidente, proclamar el derrumbe de la diferencia entre los pueblos si no se echan por tierra las bases mismas que las sustentan, y nos preguntamos:

¿Cuándo y cómo los que predicán las venturas de un mundo donde ha nacido una era de distensión mundial, pondrán en práctica medidas que limiten el proteccionismo, que liberen las importaciones con precios justos, sin fórmulas egoístas que sólo promueven el bienestar creciente de los países más ricos?

¿Cuándo se dispondrá de los recursos financieros, que suman cientos de miles de millones destinados a la carrera armamentista, para ponerlos a disposición de la colaboración multilateral, si esto se da, para ayudar al desarrollo de los países más pobres?

¿Cuándo los países, que no importe su tamaño o su nivel de desarrollo, tendrán iguales derechos?

¿Cuándo los países más poderosos dejarán de dar órdenes a otros pueblos sobre los que no tienen nada que hacer, atentando abiertamente contra su soberanía y extendiendo recetas económicas que cierran todo acceso al desarrollo?

Tal vez, como se ha dicho en esta reunión, esto sea una utopía, pero nosotros, Sr. Presidente, somos hombres de fe, creemos en el hombre y en los pueblos, en las extraordinarias posibilidades de perfeccionamiento humano, en la capacidad del hombre para buscar respuestas a estas incógnitas de hoy, al momento en que, en aras de un mundo de paz, de un mundo promisorio, por el que siempre ha abogado este foro, se transfieran los fondos de la guerra a la estructura de la creación, de la producción y de la cultura humana, al momento en que los más ricos entiendan que no hay riqueza mayor que la hermandad entre los hombres y el bienestar de toda la humanidad.

Para Cuba, no hay caminos ambivalentes, nuestro pueblo, en aras de estos ideales, sostendrá al precio que sea necesario las banderas de la lucha por su bienestar y el bienestar de todos los pueblos subdesarrollados, sin claudicaciones ni sometimientos a idea alguna, que atente contra los verdaderos intereses de los desposeídos de la tierra.

La incógnita que nos hemos formulado, no tiene hoy respuesta; transcurrirá el tiempo y este foro seguirá abierto, ¡Los hombres tienen la palabra!

**Andreas GAVRIELIDES (Cyprus):** I am delighted to be here once again and to have the opportunity to address this Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference. In 1989, when I addressed this Conference for the first time, I emphasized the difficulties that are placed in the way of the developing countries in their valiant efforts to eliminate hunger and malnutrition. Today, I have no other choice, unfortunately, but to continue on the same issue, as we are still facing the appalling fact that nearly one billion people continue to lack the basic requirements for survival and productive work, and 13 to 18 million people die every year, as a result of hunger. The death and suffering caused by chronic hunger is clearly unnecessary and it becomes unacceptable if we consider that this situation exists, in spite of the fact that there is enough food in the world to feed everyone, provided that it is properly used and distributed.

When the problem of world hunger emerged as a major issue of global dimensions, back in the early 1970s, I was serving in the Department of Agriculture of my country as an Agricultural Economist. I recall the conduct of the World Food Conference in Rome, in 1974, and the major promise made to the world to do everything necessary so that no child will go to bed hungry by the end of the century. This deadline approaches rapidly and it seems certain that we will not be able to deliver our promise. Progress has definitely been achieved. Through the help of FAO and other international organizations, we have been able to significantly increase food production throughout the world and spare the lives of millions of people who might otherwise have suffered from hunger and malnutrition. But increases in food production alone have proven not to be the answer to the problem. Clearly, most of the difficulties in combatting world hunger are due to causes outside the production area, in what can be defined as the global economic environment, which includes trade distortions.

I believe that there is widespread recognition that the prevailing international economic environment has to become more just, fair and equitable to enable the less-endowed countries to come out of the poverty trap they are locked in. The elimination of unnecessary market-distorting policies in international agricultural trade and its liberalization could, for example, prove to be in the long-term interest of the development and food security aspirations of all countries. We should all, therefore, do our utmost to assist in the revitalization of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in the Uruguay Round of GATT, and for the successful and equitable outcome of the negotiations in the trade of agricultural and tropical products, to the benefit of both developing and developed countries.

Crucial is also the need to address the staggering external debt problem of many countries. The seriousness of the issue is clearly illustrated by the fact that the debt servicing obligations cause a major net outflow of financial resources from the developing to the developed countries.

Recent developments have indicated that international cooperation guided by strong political will and determination can have far-reaching results. One needs only to consider the unprecedented efforts of the developed world in support of Eastern European reforms in terms of resources mobilized, the comprehensiveness of the support programmes and the coordination arrangements. A similar effort is needed in support of the world's hungry people if the gap between political intent and results is ever to be bridged.

In document C 91/12 it is stated that Heads of Delegations could refer in their statement to the agricultural situation in their countries and to international agricultural issues. I do not intend to elaborate on the state of agriculture in Cyprus. However, I would only very briefly like to emphasize that, despite the rapid progress of the other sectors of economic activity, the broader agricultural sector continues to command an important place in the Cyprus economy. As a result of a wide range of measures adopted by the Government, substantial increases in production and productivity took place and farmers' incomes were raised.

Notwithstanding this improvement, it should be stressed that we are not self sufficient in most food crops due to several reasons. The tragic events of 1974 have accentuated the problem of the limited area available for cultivation, and deprived the use of other natural resources.

The non-availability of sufficient water resources often becomes a most limiting factor not only to the expansion of the agricultural activities but to the broader development as well.

We have in this respect managed to increase our storage capacity from 6 million cubic metres in 1960 to about 300 million cubic metres presently, which is an increase of 50 times.

Simultaneously we are going ahead with the procedures to install the first sea water desalination plant in Cyprus aiming to augment the supply of potable water to urban centres. We are also ready to proceed with the use for irrigation of treated effluent from the major central sewage systems promoted for various urban areas.

The scarcity of water resources has been aggravated during the last three years due to prolonged and serious droughts, which have also affected water availability for domestic supply. Although these drought conditions cannot be attributed to changes in the global environment and the greenhouse effect, they are, however, an indication of what the repercussions from this change might be.

Scientists have warned us that the consequences of the greenhouse effect may cause dramatic climate changes worldwide. We are also well aware that the cause of much of this change in the world environment has been largely associated with increased industrialization in developed countries, emissions from stationary resources mainly from the utilities sector, emissions from mobile sources, and to accelerated exploitation of some of the earth's natural resources, primarily its forested areas which are, principally, located in the developing countries.

The greenhouse effect when correlated with the hunger and malnutrition problem, is a clear example of the dilemmas and complicated decisions we are faced with, when we attempt to tackle perplexing global issues.

Although this problem requires concerted efforts and the response of every country, the industrially developed nations have a particular responsibility, as they are the principal sources of the problem. They are also more technologically advanced and can greatly contribute in the necessary research and development efforts. The results of such research need to be shared with developing nations.

Unless substantial assistance, both technical and financial and appropriate investments are channelled to the developing countries and the debt is resolved, energy efficiency will never be achieved and the exploitation of the natural resources is likely to continue on a magnified scale, and may ultimately affect the very survival of our planet.

FAO has definitely a major role to play in all these concerns, especially with regard to the channelling of technical assistance to those in need. I would, therefore, like to express my delegation's satisfaction for the priority given to the programme for the environment and sustainable

development, in the Programme of Work and Budget submitted for the consideration of the Conference.

Another activity which requires our attention and which has also been recommended by the Review of FAO, is the Organization's involvement in providing assistance to governments on policy analysis and the design of programmes of operational strategies for agricultural and rural development. The recent experience of Cyprus in obtaining assistance from FAO in agricultural policy analysis has proven to be very encouraging and has provided important conclusions for the strategic development of our agricultural sector. The increased allocation of resources to this particular programme in the proposed Budget is therefore fully justified.

Since my delegation's views on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget will be elaborated in Commission II, I do not wish to dwell on this subject now. I only wish to stress our support for the proposed increase in the resources of the Technical Cooperation Programme. This programme has enabled the Organization to provide funds for small and relatively short-term projects of immediate and tangible results.

The needs of the developing countries are indeed enormous and so are the requests to FAO for assistance. The Director-General, in preparing the Organization's proposed Budget, had again before him the requirements of the developing countries for a substantial increase to the level of the Budget but, simultaneously, also the views of others calling for a zero growth to it. With the proposed Budget, I believe that the Director-General has managed to blend these conflicting viewpoints and present to us a Budget which should receive the support of all of us. In this respect, as we have been informed of the serious financial problems which our Organization has encountered recently, mainly due to arrears of Member Nations, I strongly urge all countries to fully respond to their obligations.

We are all with equal sincerity of purpose pledging ourselves to satisfy one of the basic human rights, that of food. At the foremost of our efforts I would put two fundamental requirements. The first one, at a local and regional level, is the need to strengthen our own institutional and professional capacities and our science and technology basis, to respond to the challenges of our times.

The second requirement, at an international level, is the need to develop trans-national ethic of mutualism. It should recognize the interdependency between economic development, alleviation of poverty and protection of our environment, and be characterized by a complementarity of objectives between developed and developing nations.

With these thoughts in mind, I conclude my statement by expressing my country's strong and unequivocal commitment to the goals FAO has been entrusted to fulfil.

**Mohamed GABASH (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Mr Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen: it gives me great pleasure at the outset to extend my sincere congratulations to Mr Abdul Majid for the chairmanship of this session, together with his Vice-Chairman, for the high confidence

and trust placed in them due to their wisdom which will ensure leadership for the deliberations of this session.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Director-General of FAO Dr Edouard Saouma, for the commendable efforts deployed, together with his staff, in the preparation of this Conference. We are fully confident of Dr Saouma's capabilities and the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic shall extend full cooperation with the Conference bureau so as to achieve the best results in the interests of all mankind.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, we meet in this august international gathering at a crucial time in history. It is convened amid improved international conditions which we hope will reflect themselves in a better future for humanity, the attainment of security, peace based upon justice, and the restoration of legitimate rights to their rightful owners particularly in our region which suffered tremendously as a result of Israeli aggression and the occupation of parts of our Arab lands.

The situation still persists contrary to the principles of justice and international legitimacy and the provisions of UN resolutions. We earnestly hope that the international community will be able to put an end to this state of affairs and that peace will be restored to our region so as to concentrate efforts on production and construction.

We meet here fully aware - through the figures produced by concerned organizations and information heard daily by the media and viewed on TV screens - we are aware of the ever-escalating problem of hunger. This tragedy still expands daily despite the untiring efforts deployed. This reaffirms the need for us all to cooperate, pool our efforts and provide one another with the required expertise and finances to make our lives better.

I feel duty bound at this juncture to express our thanks and appreciation to all countries providing assistance to developing ones. However, I would like to state, prompted by the spirit of friendship and cooperation, that the assistance extended by many countries is very little measured by their capabilities and the huge surpluses they have. I refer to assistance as a solution to the food problem because I consider all parties as beneficiaries since food shortage creates conflicts among peoples, in addition to migration, which results in huge problems to migrant labour and host countries alike.

On the other hand, assistance at present is a required medication. However, the quantities extended should be increased since a hungry human being is an affront to humanity. Treatment should also address the root causes of the problem with a view to its total elimination. This calls for the provision of capital by rich countries to needy ones thereby enabling the latter to achieve the highest degree of sufficiency conducive to the effective treatment and consequently setting the human punishments at rest.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, another important issue which constitutes a major obstacle to increase agricultural production is that of protection in the trade of agricultural commodities, a policy which stems from egoistic and regional interests. Such economic policies have undoubtedly had an adverse impact on the exchange of foodstuffs and agricultural commodities on the world level.

Supply-driven policies, together with export subsidies applied by developed countries, constitute a major threat to the trade of the products of developing countries, especially the agricultural products, resulting in the latter adopting of necessity preventive countermeasures to protect their products, a matter which inflicts an additional burden on these countries to the extent that they become no longer capable of pursuing the right path in their developmental plans.

Elimination of protectionism in agricultural trade may create some problems initially for which the international community can easily find appropriate solutions. However, in the long run this approach enhances security in the interests of all. As for the environment and its progressive degradation, you are all aware that environment degradation is primarily by excessive deforestation in addition to pollution resulting from industrial waste.

In all this the developing countries are victims. Should this dilemma be left without an appropriate solution, the danger is bound to escalate, jeopardizing the very existence of all countries.

Much concern has been voiced, together with the existence of signs, of a limited treatment of the issue. However, the problem is such that should be handled in a global, comprehensive manner commensurate with the magnitude of this problem.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Syrian Arab Republic, which assumes a positive role and is a committed member of FAO and other international organizations, designs and implements its developmental plans in accordance with the objectives and orientations adopted by the conference of such bodies despite the economic difficulties we face as a result of providing for the defence of our people and territories for the elimination of the injustice inflicted both upon us and upon our brothers suffering occupation, suppression, homelessness and loss. It pleases me to place on record that our efforts in agricultural development were fruitful. Allow me to outline briefly some of the achievements attained by Syria particularly in recent years.

Development efforts were targeted primarily to benefit procedures. We gave due attention to vertical development, being aware of its role in increased food activity, with promoted research and improved varieties in major crops. We developed agricultural extension work. In addition, we accorded price policies which drew attention in view of their instant impact and increasing production. I would like at this juncture to refer to the 1991 investment code which provided for sufficient guarantees to Arab and foreign investment capital without any restrictions or obstacles. It provided investors with privileges which can hardly be matched anywhere else.

Therefore, the Agricultural Secretary for Syria witnesses a distinct activity. Since over a short period of time many agricultural projects and ventures were established owned by individuals or incorporated or joint companies. I would like also to refer to the fact that my country gave interest to women in general and especially rural women and it tried to develop its knowledge and its involvement in the production process. We have achieved a great success in this respect through the various professional and popular organizations.

We support the programme of FAO in this field, namely, the involvement and development of rural women. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has embarked upon the implementation of an ambitious programme in the field of increasing production and environmental protection despite the limited resources available. We in Syria implement an intensive programme for the reclamation of saline and waterlogged soils. We also reclaim stony lands to transform them into arable lands producing fruits and crops. This required increasing the number of production seedlings by 350 percent recently. Interest in the environment has led to increasing the forest and cover to raising the number of forest seedlings by 400 percent during the last few years.

We also restore vegetation in dry areas whose range lands deteriorated. We also implemented a programme for establishing natural reserves in Syrian steppe so as to protect the environment and restore ecological balance to these areas which constitute 55 percent of the total area of my country. Work in this respect, as you are all aware, requires tremendous efforts and huge costs. It aims at primarily improving ecological conditions and balance without any significant economic return.

With a view to expediting the process of afforestation, a supreme body with a broad mandate was established by a decree by H.E. President Hafez El Assad. A ministry for the environment was also established. We also enacted a number of legislations and we have taken various measures by the various government agencies in order to protect the environment and to conserve the ecological balance. We see that interest in agriculture is the practical solution, which ends the biggest part of the environmental problem, and the deterioration of the environment and through this activity we achieved a good rate of growth in our agricultural production.

It would have been possible to have achieved more had it not been for recurrent drought which proved to be a heavy burden since more than 85 percent of our annually cultivated land depends heavily on scarce rain and the shortage in irrigation areas is due to the meagre surface and subsoil water resources in my country. This led us to undertake wider research aimed at developing water use and a rational utilization and to introduce modern irrigation techniques in irrigation.

We also developed appropriate programmes to provide training and extension services to farmers to enable them to use these technologies besides providing them with adequate credits and loans in this respect. We would like to emphasize the importance of international cooperation in order to facilitate the acquisition of modern irrigation inputs and technologies at reasonable, appropriate prices with a view to their wide application.

On the other hand we are undertaking intensive research work in order to create new drought-resistant varieties. We have made concrete progress in this field. We find that the Arab Centre for Studies in Arid and Dry Lands, whose headquarters is in Damascus, is cutting out research and agricultural irrigation in combatting desertification and developing agriculture in dry areas. This centre is one of the most important regional scientific centres serving agriculture in dry lands.

In this respect I would like to mention the technical assistance provided by the Arab and international organizations and by bilateral assistance programmes because this assistance has greatly contributed to the achievements made so far. We would like to emphasize the importance of

increasing this assistance and, in particular the assistance provided by WFP and FAO because this assistance is vital for development and the conservation of the environment to my country.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, the eyes of millions of hungry people are fixed on this important forum since food has been and will always be an urgent matter because life on this planet is dependent on food. Action in the field of food production should always have the highest priority in comparison with other activities. As you are all aware, solving this problem and providing food to the millions of needy people is easier and less costly than producing a few kilograms of mass destruction weapons.

Therefore, we are calling on FAO and the various international organizations and all countries of the world to join in efforts in order to develop agriculture and increase food production through ambitious and clear programmes with the necessary requirements for their implementation so that our world can achieve a qualitative shift towards prosperity, thus enhancing world peace and security and this will give a true meaning to the new world order to which we all aspire.

Mr Chairman, my country is closely following the effective and important role of FAO under the wise leadership of its Director-General Edouard Saouma and we highly appreciate the efforts he is making to support the developmental efforts in many countries. We hope that the occupied Syrian Golan Heights will be given more attention in order to meet the ever-increasing needs of its population, needs which are made even more difficult by the problem of occupation displacement and by depriving the people of their basic human rights, including the exploitation of the land after confiscating land and water resources and barring them access to their farms and harvests in addition to losses incurred as a result of the difficulties in marketing whatever little they are able to harvest.

We are therefore hopeful that our Organization will study the situation of these populations and alleviate the tragedy until an end is put to occupation and they exercise their legitimate rights like other farmers in the world. We are also hopeful that allocations to the TCP will be augmented since TCP assumes special significance to developing countries because it addresses directly the needs. Efforts exerted by countries individually are important. However, these efforts should not eclipse joint cooperation through the FAO and other relevant organizations.

In conclusion, we hope that this Session of our Conference will succeed in finding appropriate solutions to the problems suffered by the developing countries. We look forward to a better tomorrow where food security and peace are enjoyed by all. I thank you and thank the distinguished delegates for listening. Our thanks are also due to the management of FAO, representatives of international and regional organizations, to the Secretariat, translators and interpreters, who made every effort required to promote cooperation among all participating delegations. God's peace and blessing be upon you all.

**Martti PURA (Finland) (Original language Finnish):** First of all I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. Also, I have the honour to join the previous speakers in welcoming the new Members of FAO, our Baltic friends and neighbours, Estonia, Latvia and



Lithuania. My Government wishes to encourage them in their work for agricultural development in which the membership of FAO should be of special value. I also want to welcome the new Associate Member of FAO, Puerto Rico.

The international situation has undergone dramatic changes since the last FAO Conference two years ago. The world food security situation provides us with an increasingly challenging scene. Especially in the African continent many countries are facing a crisis of a magnitude not registered in the past. The gravity of the situation has not received sufficient attention in the political dialogue nor in the world mass-media. This is serious, and even more so is the fact that the international community does not seem to be able to confront the situation to the extent it should.

In addition to this, I would like to raise the issue of the deteriorating food security situation in the Soviet Union and its Republics. Also there, the magnitude of the need for support is growing rapidly. Large quantities of food are needed both in from external sources. It is necessary to pay attention to this question in FAO and in other appropriate international fora, and take into account the consequences of the situation when analysing and planning the future global food security policies.

Another important issue is the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which, among other things, will have a long-term impact on agricultural production and trade, food aid as well as on the overall development prospects. While expecting a successful result from the Uruguay Round, I think that the agricultural trade negotiations in GATT should give more attention to the uncertain food situation in many regions of the world.

It is within this global framework that FAO must assess its capacities and define its priorities. In the view of the Finnish Government FAO should continue to focus on the area where it has a comparative advantage in meeting the needs of its membership. We support further development of the analytical and policy advice functions of the Organization and agree that priority be given to the assistance of the developing countries in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

One of the most important tasks of this Conference is to assess the progress in implementing the resolution on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations adopted two years ago. The most concrete outcome of the Review is the reintroduction of the Medium-Term Plan, which my delegation has studied with particular interest. The period of six years provides a sufficient time-frame for a discussion on the long-term priorities of FAO, facilitates dialogue and increases consistency of planning. Furthermore, the fact that the MTP is a rolling plan enables a continuous analysis and revision of FAO's development needs in the light of overall development trends in food and agriculture. The first MTP document provides a good start for this new process. My delegation wants to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat of FAO for the document.

In the past two-year period FAO can record a number of activities and development in the areas that were selected as priorities in the Review process. The progress achieved in the Integration of Women in Development, Plan of Action on People's Participation, and the Environment deserve special mention. While recognizing these developments in different sectors, I want to emphasize that the Review should be a continuous process. There

is a need for maintaining a follow-up of the process in general, and in the priority areas in particular.

As regards the governance, management and funding issues I would like to mention the Nordic/UN project, the main thrust of which is an analysis of the role of the United Nations and its various agencies in meeting the challenges and opportunities facing the world community. The Nordic countries have already introduced the project to the Director-General and the Council, and our delegations will further elaborate on the findings of the project in the work of different Commissions of this Conference. In the FAO context, the working methods and decision-making process are a matter of special concern.

The most important prerequisite for the implementation of the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1992-93 is a sound financial basis of the Organization. Finland has always maintained the view that Member States must pay their assessed contributions to the Organization on time. Similarly, Finland has been one of the countries opposing external borrowing by FAO. In our opinion, borrowing is definitely not a long-term solution and it should be avoided as a short-term remedy as well. While expressing this opinion we understand the difficulties of the Director-General and the Secretariat in managing the Organization under these financial circumstances.

If some Member States do not honour their financial commitments, they undermine the possibilities of the governing bodies and FAO leadership to be guided by the main outcome of the Review, namely the reintroduction of the MTP and the PWB based on it. One very important aspect of the financial crisis is the uncertainty as regards the individual programmes. This situation does not create a favourable climate for work. FAO is under threat of losing people that otherwise could give a great contribution to the Organization. This should be considered very serious.

In relation to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, Mr Chairman, my delegation wants to express its support for the proposal to make the Outline a permanent feature in the programme budget process. This additional step definitely facilitates the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget. We also endorse the recommendation put before this Conference that the other measures proposed by the Director-General for streamlining the process be implemented on an experimental basis during the 1992-93 biennium, and for the 1994-95 budgetary exercise.

My delegation shares the overall consensus that has been reached in the preparation of the Plan of Work and Budget on the priorities of the FAO. There is one sector in FAO's activities, however, that deserves critical attention, namely forestry. Priority that has been granted to forestry and forest related activities in principle is not being manifested sufficiently in real terms. By saying this I am not only referring to insufficient increase in funding to the FAO Forest Department. I am also referring to the inadequacy of an integrated approach to forest activities throughout the FAO. Forestry ought to be recognized as a fundamental resource in the process of diversifying rural employment opportunities and generating income. Furthermore, the role of forestry in rural development is indispensable from the point of view of environmental concerns as it is being increasingly recognized in the preparations of the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

A further comment is due, precisely, in relation to the role of FAO in the international forestry cooperation. The decisions on the institutional arrangements of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme have been delayed all too long, putting the future of the Programme in danger. We regret, therefore, the decision taken by the Council last week to establish yet another ad hoc group to prepare proposals regarding the revamping of the TFAP. This decision will further delay the finalization of this matter, and the possible repercussions of the decision cause us serious concern. FAO is under a general threat of losing the role and capacity it should have and maintain in the tropical forestry.

Let me conclude by saying that I am confident that this Conference will be successful in providing guidance to the Secretariat in focusing the future work of the Organization in such a way that it meets the challenges confronting it.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

**Jean-Claude PIOT (Suisse):** M. le Directeur général, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, j'ai le plaisir et l'honneur de représenter mon pays pour la onzième fois consécutive à la Conférence biennale de la FAO. C'est dire que j'ai pu suivre et observer les travaux, les réussites et les échecs de notre Organisation durant plus de vingt ans.

Les réussites, ce sont, entre autres, l'augmentation de la production vivrière à l'échelle mondiale, qui a même tellement bien réussi qu'il y a des excédents et ce grâce à de meilleures techniques, de meilleures semences et une amélioration de la formation des familles paysannes.

Ce sont encore la contention de la fièvre aphteuse aux portes de l'Europe, et plus récemment l'éradication de la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord, activités que seule la FAO pouvait mener à bien.

Les échecs - il y en a, hélas, dans toute activité humaine - c'est par exemple, comme vient de le relever tout à l'heure le délégué de Chypre, le fait que nous n'avons pas réussi à atteindre l'objectif désigné par Henry Kissinger lors de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de 1974, quand il lançait le défi qu'à la fin des années 80, plus aucun enfant sur la planète Terre ne devrait aller se coucher le ventre vide.

Cet échec ne saurait toutefois être imputé à la seule FAO, mais je pense à nous tous qui sommes finalement responsables de l'activité de notre Organisation et des politiques suivies par nos Etats. A part les guerres fratricides et les catastrophes naturelles - malheureusement trop fréquentes - je pense surtout aux Philippines et au Bangladesh, qui sont les plus récentes - il reste le problème lancinant de la forte croissance démographique, qui peut devenir un obstacle au développement quand la formation professionnelle et l'emploi en particulier ne suivent pas.

Nous savons tous que le défi que représente l'élimination du fléau de la faim, souvent lié à la difficulté d'accès aux ressources pour les couches les plus défavorisées de la population, est de nature complexe, donc difficile à relever. Il faut donc procéder avec méthode et continuité, par une approche globale qui tienne mieux compte des nombreux problèmes particuliers et qui facilite le choix de priorités claires.

Je n'oserai pas affirmer ici que notre Organisation a toujours respecté ce schéma. C'est bien sur cette constatation que des remarques ont été faites dans le passé quant à l'efficacité de la FAO.

Ces remarques, formulées par de nombreux pays membres, ont conduit, tant le Comité du Programme que le Comité financier à procéder à un examen approfondi devant déboucher sur certaines réformes et certaines modifications de son activité.

Seront-elles suffisantes? Je n'ai pas encore réussi à m'en persuader totalement, tout en reconnaissant loyalement la valeur des améliorations en cours. Celles-ci doivent encore être poursuivies avec ténacité pour renforcer l'impact et l'image de notre Organisation. Je tiens cependant à remercier le Directeur général E. Saouma du bon travail déjà accompli et des efforts qu'il continuera à faire dans ce sens avec tout son personnel. Le Plan à moyen terme qui nous est soumis est un premier pas dans la bonne direction.

Je souhaite que ce plan nous permette de rapprocher nos vues sur les stratégies à adopter pour relever les défis lancés à la FAO et faciliter le choix des priorités dans les futurs programmes de travail.

J'en viens maintenant au Programme de travail et budget pour le prochain biennium. Mon pays a souvent soulevé des objections lors des discussions sur le budget. Ce ne sera pas le cas aujourd'hui. La Suisse approuve le niveau du budget proposé.

Cependant, nous souhaitons pouvoir éviter une augmentation du Fonds de roulement et avant tout la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial qui ne nous paraît pas indispensable.

Nous voulons, en acceptant ce budget, témoigner de notre soutien actif à la FAO, mais aussi souligner notre droit de formuler des remarques et propositions, que nous voulons constructives. Je l'ai déjà répété plusieurs fois à cette tribune: Nous ne voulons pas une FAO qui coûte moins cher, mais une FAO plus forte et plus efficace, dans le cadre d'un budget donné.

Or, je dois relever qu'à notre avis, la nouvelle augmentation des éléments du programme nous semble être le signal d'un éparpillement des ressources disponibles. Nous le regrettons et aurions souhaité l'établissement de priorités plus clairement définies, une concentration plus marquée des efforts sur l'analyse, la formulation et l'assistance à la mise en oeuvre des politiques agricoles - donc implicitement des politiques alimentaires - dans les pays qui ont besoin du concours de la FAO.

Par contre, des activités de détail, qui ne sont pas essentielles dans le mandat de la FAO, pourraient être confiées à d'autres organisations ou agences déjà actives et spécialisées dans les domaines considérés, qui le feront avec compétence et vraisemblablement meilleure efficacité.

Dans sa déclaration de lundi après-midi, le Président Saintraint a regretté le déficit d'articulations étroites entre le PAM, le FIDA et la FAO. Il ne nous a malheureusement pas fait part des raisons de ce manque de coopération. Je rappelle, dans ce contexte, l'intéressante étude des Pays nordiques sur les réformes nécessaires dans les institutions des Nations Unies.

Je suis donc persuadé qu'en intégrant mieux encore notre Organisation dans le concert des organisations internationales - en établissant de bonnes priorités et en concentrant nos efforts - nous améliorerons l'efficacité de nos engagements. Les pays membres en retard de paiement de leurs contributions seront ainsi incités sinon invités à payer leur dû dans les meilleurs délais.

La faiblesse de la conjoncture dans les pays industrialisés, les perspectives d'une éventuelle récession nous imposent une attitude réservée. Cela touche bien sûr les activités de la FAO en Europe. Le vent de liberté qui souffle sur les pays situés à l'Est du défunt rideau de fer doit permettre d'envisager la fusion du bureau régional pour l'Europe et de la division mixte FAO-CEE, et parallèlement celle des organes européens de la FAO avec les organes agricole et forestier de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. Une telle fusion permettra une réduction de l'offre et une concentration des activités du système onusien dans l'agriculture, l'alimentation et les pêcheries en Europe, ce qui conduira à une amélioration de l'efficacité et à une diminution des coûts de ces divers services.

La Suisse célèbre cette année le 700ème anniversaire de sa fondation. Les Suisses d'aujourd'hui, à l'image de leurs ancêtres, restent épris de liberté, ce qui implique aussi la responsabilité et l'engagement personnel de chacun. Les suisses d'aujourd'hui ont aussi appris que l'on ne vit plus en vase clos, que l'interdépendance tant à l'échelon régional que mondial est la conséquence logique et inéluctable de l'évolution socio-économique et politique que connaît le monde en cette fin du XXème siècle.

Notre Gouvernement est décidé à relever ce défi, tout en sauvegardant notre identité, notre culture et aussi notre agriculture. Cette dernière remplit des fonctions multiples au service de la collectivité. Je pense surtout à l'entretien des sites cultivés et à la saine gestion de l'espace rural, vu son rôle socio-démographique, et tout cela dans le respect de l'environnement naturel. Nous tenons à sauvegarder une agriculture paysanne dynamique et durable - sustainable agriculture - élément essentiel de la viabilité à long terme d'un pays équilibré.

Les négociations en cours à l'Uruguay Round du GATT sont très importantes pour l'agriculture de tous les pays participants, et pour celle des pays en développement aussi, qui seront de toute manière touchés par les décisions qui devraient se prendre prochainement à Genève. Dans un cénacle FAO, où nous sommes tous de bons connaisseurs des problèmes de l'agriculture, nous savons tous que chaque pays a besoin de son agriculture et que le libéralisme pur et dur sans le commerce des produits agricoles n'est tout simplement pas possible. Fair trade, not free trade doit être la ligne à suivre dans ce commerce. Il faut en effet que la production agricole de tous les pays tienne mieux compte du respect de l'environnement, qui implique des coûts plus élevés, donc une compétitivité réduite par rapport à une production de type minier.

La seule comparaison des prix, sans tenir compte de facteurs tels que le bilan énergétique, la déforestation dont on a parlé cet après-midi, et la dégradation des sols dans les différents systèmes de production, ne constitue pas une base objective d'appréciation.

C'est précisément de cette agriculture équilibrée et durable dont nous avons tous besoin. Elle n'exclut pas la recherche de l'efficacité ni du profit, mais la guide vers des comportements plus nuancés.

Les développements récents dans les pays de l'Est de l'Europe - je tiens en passant à féliciter les nouveaux membres de notre Organisation, l'Estonie, la Lituanie et la Lettonie, ainsi que Porto Rico comme membre associé -, ces développements nécessitent d'importantes aides financières et techniques, pour leur permettre de rattraper le grand retard accumulé au cours des 40 dernières années. La Suisse y participe, dans la mesure de ses possibilités publiques et privées. Je tiens toutefois à préciser que nous veillerons à ce que ces aides importantes pour nous n'affectent pas les moyens financiers et humains que nous mettons et continuerons à mettre à disposition des pays en voie de développement pour leur permettre d'améliorer sensiblement leur niveau de vie.

Nous voulons collaborer avec tous les pays afin que la solidarité au niveau mondial ne soit pas un vain mot et je souhaite que les activités de la FAO permettent d'avancer rapidement dans cette direction.

**Stanislav Dimitrov DIMITROV (Bulgarie):** J'ai le plaisir de saluer le Bureau et les participants à la Conférence de la FAO et de leur souhaiter plein succès dans leurs travaux. Qu'il me soit permis également de féliciter les membres nouvellement élus de la FAO. Cette période biennale fournit en fait des événements extraordinaires qui ont été décisifs pour l'évolution démocratique des pays d'Europe centrale et d'Europe orientale. On a également assisté à de véritables possibilités de coopération fructueuse dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je ne saurais passer sous silence les grands progrès qui ont été enregistrés en ce qui concerne les problèmes du Proche-Orient. Le fait même que les pays intéressés se trouvent à la table de négociations est très important tant du point de vue économique que politique.

Des changements importants sont survenus également en Bulgarie. Lors des dernières élections en octobre, le peuple s'est clairement prononcé en faveur des forces démocratiques, ce qui signifie qu'il y aura encore une actualisation plus marquée des principes de liberté individuelle, de multipartisme et d'économie de marché.

Une nouvelle voie s'offre à notre pays vers une orientation pratique et vers la privatisation et l'intégration avec nos voisins, avec l'Europe et avec tous les pays du monde sur la base de l'égalité de droit et des avantages mutuels.

La semaine dernière, le parlement bulgare a élu le nouveau gouvernement. Dans sa déclaration, le nouveau premier ministre, Filip Dimitrov a souligné les objectifs principaux et les priorités que le gouvernement nouveau devra suivre.

Dans peu de temps, son objectif consistera, en fait, à atteindre une stabilité économique, à accroître le niveau de production et à faire face aux problèmes de l'inflation et du chômage.

Le nouveau gouvernement favorisera le développement du secteur privé et les initiatives d'ordre familial, y compris dans le domaine agricole.

L'ordre du jour de notre session reflète bien les grandes mutations qui sont intervenues et également les objectifs importants de cette Organisation.

Je me félicite des progrès considérables qui ont été réalisés et de la grande efficacité de la FAO dans ses activités au cours des deux dernières années en dépit des difficultés financières.

Nous nous félicitons de la mise en oeuvre de la révision de certains aspects des objectifs et des opérations de la FAO et des solutions concrètes importantes, ainsi que de l'amélioration de la coopération avec d'autres instances internationales et de l'élaboration de plans de développement à moyen terme.

Nous acceptons le programme de travail et le programme de budget 1992-93. Nous sommes d'avis toutefois qu'il conviendrait de l'améliorer en spécifiant plus clairement les objectifs de certains secteurs et en limitant encore davantage les dépenses de caractère administratif et certaines mesures de routine.

Nous tenons à faire état de notre compréhension des problèmes, tels que la récession, l'inflation et le chômage dans les pays développés et la malnutrition chronique, la famine et les dettes étrangères des pays du tiers monde qui ont, bien entendu, une influence négative sur les activités de la FAO. Nous sommes tout à fait favorables à une croissance zéro du budget de l'Organisation et également à une répartition rationnelle qui prenne en considération des mesures de coopération régionale avec une participation active des pays de l'Europe de l'Est.

Les changements qualitatifs intervenus dans la société bulgare ont abouti à une restructuration fondamentale du secteur agro-industriel et de l'agriculture bulgares. En 1991, une loi sur la propriété et l'utilisation des terres agricoles a été adoptée par le Parlement. Une loi sur la coopération étroitement liée à ce secteur a également été adoptée. Les associations d'Etat ont été en fait démonopolisées, et on a assisté à une libéralisation de la production et des activités commerciales. Chaque société privée, chaque coopérative ou chaque société nationalisée est libre de mener à bien ses activités de production et de commerce tant sur le marché interne qu'international, mais sur la base de l'économie de marché. A ce stade, les agriculteurs et les entreprises connaissent encore des problèmes graves en matière d'approvisionnement et notamment de commercialisation de leurs produits essentiellement en raison des possibilités limitées du marché interne, des perturbations des marchés avec les autres pays, avec les ex-membres du COMECON, et du manque de contact avec les pays développés et en développement. La loi sur la privatisation qui sera adoptée prochainement nous aidera à faire véritablement démarrer ce processus. Notre pays et le peuple bulgare sont particulièrement reconnaissants envers les pays qui, en cette période difficile pour le secteur agro-industriel et pour l'économie dans son ensemble, ont accordé une aide humanitaire et une assistance technique d'une importance considérable, et qui continuent à le faire afin que nous puissions surmonter les problèmes et accélérer notre transition vers l'économie de marché.

Je tiens à exprimer notre sincère reconnaissance à la Communauté européenne pour le programme de coopération Phare en 1990 et pour l'aide directe aux exploitants agricoles indépendants et pour le programme de développement

global en 1991-92 dans lequel une attention particulière a été accordée à la privatisation des terres, à l'éducation, à la diffusion des travaux de recherche, à la restructuration de l'industrie alimentaire, à la privatisation des entreprises industrielles, à la commercialisation des produits agricoles et alimentaires sur les marchés internes et internationaux et à la création d'un système d'informations pour les agriculteurs indépendants. J'exprime également notre reconnaissance au Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique qui nous a fourni un apport de céréales et une aide technique ainsi que des experts spécialisés dans la restructuration de l'agriculture.

Nous remercions également les Gouvernements des Pays-Bas, de la France, de l'Allemagne, de l'Autriche et d'autres pays qui nous ont fourni du fourrage, des produits alimentaires et une aide sous forme d'experts.

Nous nous félicitons du début de nos travaux réalisés avec la collaboration de la Banque mondiale en vue de créer les conditions propices au financement des exploitations agricoles privées et des entreprises de l'industrie agro-alimentaire.

Compte tenu de notre propre expérience et de l'expérience d'autres pays, nous reconnaissons qu'en dépit de l'aide humanitaire considérable qui nous a été accordée pendant une période critique, elle ne peut être un facteur déterminant pour la stabilisation et la reconstruction de ce secteur. Cela a seulement contribué à soulager les producteurs indépendants. Nous estimons que seule une coopération à long terme bien planifiée, et qui vise à rétablir une stratégie de développement est véritablement utile. Les efforts du Ministère de l'agriculture et de tous ceux qui nous aident avec tant d'aménité se concentrent sur la mise en oeuvre de ces objectifs.

Je suis heureux de mentionner également la contribution de la FAO à ce processus. Bien entendu, la direction de l'Organisation, dans la limite de ses possibilités, envoie des experts qui concourent à l'élaboration des projets de développement et contrôlent la qualité des produits agricoles et alimentaires. Nous espérons que la FAO, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations, telles que le PNUD, développera avec une grande vigueur de telles actions, notamment la mise en oeuvre de projets concrets et coordonnés qui sont étroitement liés à la remise en état du secteur agricole. A cet égard, nous appuyons l'initiative de la FAO de procéder à des analyses et à des évaluations de l'état du secteur agricole dans les pays d'Europe de l'Est et également de mener des activités en matière de coordination avec le PNUD envisagées dans le cadre de projets nationaux et régionaux de collaboration de ces pays entre eux et avec les autres pays développés d'Europe. Je pense notamment à la prochaine réunion des représentants responsables des pays qui doit se tenir, en janvier 1992, à Nitra (Tchécoslovaquie).

Nous estimons qu'il est très important que la Bulgarie continue de collaborer plus activement avec la FAO dans le domaine des ressources phytogénétiques, - nous sommes d'ailleurs prêts à signer l'accord - dans le domaine de la recherche, notamment celle qui concerne les céréales, le riz et le coton, l'élevage et les problèmes de fourrage et de qualité des produits alimentaires. Nous apprécions pleinement l'importance des projets conjoints à petite échelle dans le domaine vétérinaire et en ce qui concerne les ressources phytogénétiques et d'aquaculture.



Enfin, qu'il me soit permis une fois encore d'exprimer à la Conférence nos vœux de succès à ses travaux.

**Sadeq Amin ABU RAS (Yemen) (Original language Arabic):** Mr President, Your Excellencies, please permit me at the very outset to congratulate you on this great confidence bestowed upon you by the members here present. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate all those countries, Member Organizations, especially the new Members - Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Puerto Rico.

From the various comments that we have made and heard we find that our aspiration are one, our concerns are one, and therefore I shall try to be as brief as possible.

Mr President of the Conference, your Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my country's delegation it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you and congratulate all those entrusted by the Conference to guide its deliberations. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the sound preparations made for the Conference and for the documents submitted.

It is indeed a great pleasure to have this opportunity of addressing the Conference for the first time in the name of the Republic of Yemen which was established a year and a half ago. This historic event has united the people and resources of Yemen, and has reinforced its ability to implement its development plans. The Government of Yemen has adopted a transitional programme to coordinate administrative and technical policies, and within this programme the development of the agricultural sector has been accorded great importance. Steps have been taken to encourage the private sector and arrange for rural financing. At present all lands expropriated in the past are being returned to their owners.

The fisheries sector has been accorded the same importance as the agricultural sector. The programme also foresees the development of relations with our sister and friendly countries, and greater cooperation with international and regional organizations.

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the sad events in the Gulf have jeopardized our plans and development programmes. That tragedy brought in its wake negative repercussions on my country's economy as more than one million Yemenis had suddenly to return home.

This has meant an unforeseen burden as we have had to accommodate them and secure the basic necessities. It is no exaggeration to say that Yemen has been one of the countries most deeply affected by the Gulf crisis. A large number of countries never understood our position. We tried to find a peaceful alternative to that destructive confrontation which has affected the whole world. In spite of this, we have overcome the crisis and are steadfast in the face of difficulties. We look forward to the future with optimism and hope that there will be understanding and cooperation.

At a time when 500 million people in the world suffer hunger because of drought and lack of rain and a further 18 million Iraqis have been added to them by man's choice and approval, we have to make a comparison between the cruelty of nature and the cruelty inflicted by man on his fellow men.

It is no exaggeration to say that Iraq stands on the brink of famine and will suffer famine and worse if goodwill and compassion are not used to lift the inadmissible food embargo which has not been approved by any dogma, creed or tradition. I should like to know the participants of the report on the food situation in Iraq which the FAO helped to compile last July.

From this podium I entreat you all to take the necessary steps to lift the embargo imposed on the people of Iraq.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this Organization, its Director-General and all who work with it for their ceaseless quest for excellence. We attach importance to the aims and goals of its Medium-Term Plan.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you all.

**Petru MARCULESCU (Roumanie):** Permettez-moi d'abord de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre nomination en qualité de Président de la vingt-sixième Conférence de l'Organisation et de vous souhaiter plein succès dans l'accomplissement des devoirs de grande responsabilité et importance pratique qui vous reviennent dans le cadre de cette Conférence qui, particulièrement cette année, doit résoudre des problèmes tout à fait exceptionnels.

Depuis la dernière session, dans le monde entier et particulièrement en Europe, des changements importants de structure ont eu lieu, des idéologies et des pratiques politiques et économiques aberrantes ont été déjà ou sont en cours d'être abolies ou remplacées avec ce que le Secrétaire général de l'ONU désignait dans son rapport pour 1991 comme des flots de la démocratie; c'est en vérité un processus d'instauration de la normalité, qui durant les 45 dernières années a été gravement mutilée, voire à peu près étranglée. La Roumanie a douloureusement ressenti ce mal, y compris en ce qui concerne ses relations avec la FAO.

Comme tout processus de telles proportions et importance, il ne peut avoir lieu sans secousses, sans que l'économie, la vie sociale, les habitudes et les mentalités ne soient affectées, et sans créer des difficultés, même là où il y a de très bonnes intentions et déterminations. Nous savons tout cela de l'expérience vécue par mon pays, la Roumanie, qui a mis en marche le mécanisme économique et financier du marché libre, la privatisation de l'agriculture et de l'industrie, du commerce et du tourisme, mais qui doit affronter les coûts très élevés, économiques en même temps que sociaux, de la période de transition, dont les besoins alimentaires, pour faire référence à un aspect lié à l'activité de la FAO, soulèvent des difficultés financières très importantes.

Ces phénomènes, qui caractérisent d'une manière ou d'une autre tous les pays est-européens, comme facteur spécial, apparu ou aggravé après 1989, doivent, à notre avis, retenir toute l'attention de la Conférence, et se voir reflétés dans toutes les décisions pertinentes liées à l'activité et au programme de la FAO jusqu'à la prochaine Conférence.

M. le Président, je vous demande la permission de retenir votre attention sur quelques aspects spécifiques de l'agriculture roumaine dans cette période de transition.

Le 1er janvier 1991, le patrimoine foncier de notre pays s'élevait à 23 839 milliers d'hectares, dont 14 769 milliers d'hectares de terres agricoles, 6 686 milliers d'hectares de forêts, le reste représentant des terres avec eaux, chemins de fer, routes, constructions et autres terrains.

Je voudrais souligner le fait que, si jusqu'à la révolution de décembre 1989, la plupart de ces terres appartenaient à l'Etat, maintenant plus de 80 pour cent des terres agricoles se trouvent en propriété privée. Le changement de la structure de la propriété, par lequel le paysan roumain est redevenu le maître légitime de la terre qu'il laboure, a donné un sentiment de satisfaction dans le monde villageois et un engagement total de ces paysans de bien travailler ces terres. Je ne voudrais pas qu'on comprenne que les travaux vont très bien. Due à des causes objectives, mais aussi subjectives, l'application de la loi du fonds foncier, qui rétablit ou établit le droit de propriété sur les terres, s'est faite avec du retard, je veux dire la mise en pratique de cette loi, matérialisée par la prise de possession des terres par qui de droit.

La production de céréales que nous estimons réaliser cette année (environ 17 millions de tonnes) est d'un million de tonnes plus grande que celle de 1990, mais insuffisante pour faire face aux besoins internes, tant pour la consommation humaine que pour les fourrages. Due aux pluies abondantes au mois de juillet, la moisson du blé s'est beaucoup prolongée, ce qui a causé des pertes importantes, quantitatives et qualitatives.

En ce qui concerne les cultures d'automne, le tournesol, le soja, la betterave à sucre, les productions réalisées sont plus grandes par rapport à 1990, mais quand même insuffisantes pour assurer le nécessaire en sucre et huile.

Dans le secteur zootechnique, des changements ont eu lieu pour toutes les espèces d'animaux, mais particulièrement pour les bovins et ovins, qui sont passés des anciennes coopératives agricoles aux exploitations privées.

Les productions obtenues cette année dans le secteur végétal et zootechnique ont couvert en grande partie les besoins de la population en matière de produits alimentaires. Il est vrai que la consommation de ces produits se situe au-dessous de celle des pays ouest-européens et, pour certains produits, même au-dessous de celle réalisée dans les pays voisins. C'est pourquoi notre préoccupation est celle de créer les conditions et de soutenir les producteurs agricoles en vue d'obtenir des productions au niveau du potentiel naturel du pays qui permettront non seulement de couvrir la consommation interne mais aussi de créer des disponibilités à l'exportation.

Sans avoir des objections majeures concernant le document C 91/3 (Programme de travail et budget pour 1991-92) et les priorités adoptées antérieurement, la délégation roumaine est d'avis qu'il est possible que les documents respectifs soient adaptés aux nouvelles conditions créées en Europe de l'Est, sans négliger les intérêts des autres régions ou sous-régions.

L'Organisation doit s'impliquer, à côté du FMI, BIRD, Communauté européenne, Banque européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement de Londres, CEE/ONU, PNUD, Groupe des sept pays industrialisés, etc., dans un plan d'assistance pour ces pays, ce qui les aidera à traverser cette période de transition dans un délai relativement court et avec des coûts

sociaux en limites supportables. Une telle assistance, dans le cadre d'un programme spécial d'action, sera bénéfique à court terme pour ces pays, mais, à long terme, elle sera profitable aussi pour tous les pays membres, toutes les prémisses existant afin que les pays assistés deviennent, dans un court délai, des facteurs actifs de progrès pour l'activité de la FAO. D'ailleurs un exercice de revitalisation des activités de la FAO, ainsi que de toute la famille des institutions spécialisées et des programmes des Nations Unies, s'impose maintenant plus que jamais, ayant comme but l'efficacité et visant une coopération réciproque avantageuse avec d'autres institutions.

Nous assistons aujourd'hui à la manifestation prégnante du facteur économique par rapport au facteur force militaire, phénomène qui pourra devenir un facteur de stabilité sociale, élément indispensable au progrès, seulement dans la mesure dans laquelle il sera présent dans le domaine de l'assistance, du partenariat avec ceux moins dotés du point de vue économique et technique, pour ne pas remplacer une menace (celle militaire) par une autre, apparemment pacifique (celle économique). Dans les domaines qui lui sont spécifiques, l'Organisation peut beaucoup contribuer à la réalisation d'une voie juste pour la coopération internationale. Nous souhaitons que l'Organisation, la vieille dame, fasse preuve d'un permanent esprit de rajeunissement relatif à son rôle de veille et d'initiative, afin de confirmer la maturité d'une des plus anciennes institutions spécialisées de l'ONU.

Nous désirons que l'Organisation contribue encore plus pour que nous entrions tous dans le troisième millénaire libérés de l'angoisse de la malnutrition, sans parler de la famine purement et simplement, de la peur des moissons détruites par la sécheresse, les insectes, les parasites, les pluies acides, les pertes massives d'après la récolte et pendant le stockage, la perte du don génétique de la terre, le manque d'eau potable, industrielle, ménagère, les migrations écologiques inévitables, etc.

Il va de soi que l'Organisation ouvrira sans discrimination l'accès, en qualité de membres à pleins droits, aux pays qui ont gagné ou déclaré leur indépendance, dans l'esprit du droit international et dans le cadre du progrès de la démocratisation, de la priorité du droit, de la réparation de certaines injustices dont je parlais au début de mon intervention.

Pour l'accomplissement de ces buts, l'Organisation trouvera dans la Roumanie régénérée, revenue à petits pas, mais irréversiblement, à ses vertus et traditions démocratiques, étouffées mais non éteintes durant une période pendant laquelle une manière de vie et d'action nous a été imposée, un membre honnête, loyal, ouvert à la coopération et au partenariat, au respect, à la décence et à la dignité.

Ceci ont été les quelques préoccupations et réflexions d'ordre général que la délégation roumaine a désiré faire connaître dans le cadre des débats généraux.

Mais elle est, en même temps, prête à faire certaines suggestions concrètes concernant le programme et le budget, la nature de la coopération entre régions, sous-régions ou dans le cadre des régions, le système d'information sur la prévention des calamités, etc.

C'est l'expression de la foi constante de la Roumanie quant au lieu et au rôle spécial de l'Organisation, au service de la lutte contre la misère physique, matérielle et morale, pour redonner à l'individu sa dignité sur la terre, notre bateau commun unique.

Et Bon Dieu, combien de fois oublions-nous que nous sommes tous, ceux du nord et ceux du sud, ceux de l'est et ceux de l'ouest, dans le même bateau et qu'il faut tous contribuer à ce qu'il ait toujours bon vent à la poupe et, si possible, jamais d'avarie!

**Mohamed MOUSSA CHEHEM (Djibouti):** M. le Président, au nom de la délégation de la République de Djibouti et en mon nom personnel, j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de féliciter M. Malik Abdul Majid pour son élection à la Présidence de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO qui, j'en suis persuadé, sera couronnée de succès, de joindre ma voix à celle des orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour saluer chaleureusement l'admission comme Membre de la FAO de la Lettonie, de l'Estonie et de la Lituanie, et comme Membre associé Porto Rico; je leur souhaite d'en tirer le meilleur profit.

M. le Directeur général, permettez-moi de vous présenter mes sincères remerciements pour votre aimable invitation à prendre part à cette vingt-sixième Conférence de la FAO.

Qu'il me soit permis également de vous féliciter pour la manière diligente et positive dont vous menez cette organisation.

Grâce à une gestion intelligente, active, prudente et efficace, vous avez pu mener à bon port ce navire dont vous êtes le timonier malgré les tourbillons économiques qui frappent, ces dernières années, le système économique mondial.

Par ailleurs, nous apprécions à leur juste valeur l'ensemble des efforts déployés par votre Organisation auprès des Etats sinistrés, victimes des effets conjugués des calamités naturelles et de la crise économique mondiale afin de faire disparaître de la surface de notre planète la famine, la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Nous observons malheureusement avec amertume que, dans certaines parties du globe, des hommes, des femmes, des personnes âgées et des enfants meurent chaque jour de faim, dans des souffrances indicibles alors que, dans d'autres, des milliers de quintaux d'excédents alimentaires s'accumulent dans des silos ou des entrepôts coûteux.

Aujourd'hui, nous sentons de plus que nous partageons le même monde.

Notre planète constitue un seul ensemble. La complexité et la dépendance sont telles que toute action a des incidences, des réactions en chaîne non seulement dans les régions affectées mais dans celles encore préservées.

L'environnement forme un tout. L'échelle du monde se réduit, les distances s'estompent. Nous vivons les uns près des autres. L'équilibre de la nature et de la vie, c'est l'affaire de tous.

Il est donc urgent pour nous d'établir un ordre des relations internationales inspiré par l'esprit de solidarité, où toutes les nations agissent en partenaires égaux: les riches comme les pauvres, les pays

développés et les pays en développement, les grands pays aussi bien que les petits. L'objectif est de construire un monde qui assurera le progrès de tous, la prospérité et la justice pour l'humanité entière.

Si notre logique ne nous a pas permis encore de lever les contradictions sources de richesse et de pauvreté, d'exécution et de pénuries, alors peut-être le danger nous secouera.

Le contraste entre le gaspillage et la pénurie la plus totale de vivres, entre l'existence de richesses inutilisées et une demande de nourriture non satisfaite, est pour la communauté internationale à l'orée de l'an 2000, un crime impardonnable et sérieux.

Disette et pauvreté rurale sévissent encore dans nombre de pays dont les populations sont encore pour une large part, incapables de subvenir à leurs besoins les plus fondamentaux. Par centaine de milliers, les hommes meurent de faim et de malnutrition. La famine tue encore sur cette terre des enfants en grand nombre.

Et pourtant bien que le défi soit de taille, nous sommes convaincus que la faim n'est pas une fatalité dont il faut s'accommoder. Elle peut et doit être vaincue. L'humanité, à l'approche de l'an 2000, dispose plus que jamais de connaissances scientifiques et techniques, de moyens matériels et humains pour résoudre les problèmes alimentaires.

A côté de ces éléments négatifs, il faut bien reconnaître que la conjoncture internationale nous offre certains espoirs.

L'évolution rapide des rapports entre l'Est et l'Ouest a permis non seulement la détente et l'atténuation de certains conflits, mais aussi l'instauration d'une nouvelle forme de coopération caractérisée par une ouverture politique et économique tous azimuts. Nous souhaitons que la communauté internationale saura dépasser la simple expression de la solidarité avec ceux qui souffrent de la faim en prenant l'engagement de mettre en oeuvre des solutions durables, capables de résoudre définitivement les problèmes de l'alimentation. Nous espérons que cette même communauté qui inclut les pays les moins avancés, aura l'intelligence avant qu'il ne soit trop tard, de diminuer le taux d'accroissement de sa population afin de l'adapter à notre capacité de production de nourriture.

Ayant esquissé à grands traits certains aspects de la conjoncture mondiale qui me paraissent primordiaux, je voudrais évoquer brièvement les documents qui ont été soumis à notre examen.

Je remercie le Secrétariat de la FAO, pour leur qualité mais surtout pour l'exercice osé mais nécessaire du Plan à moyen terme. Osé, parce qu'il s'agit d'une première, nécessaire car il était temps que l'on dépasse le stade de la gestion du quotidien pour s'engager dans une politique de développement agricole à moyen terme qui nous permette d'envisager l'avenir avec plus de confiance.

Concernant le Programme de coopération technique, nous voudrions attirer votre attention, sur le caractère vital pour les PMA, de sa mise en oeuvre sur le terrain, au jour le jour, en fonction des difficultés qui surgissent au cours de l'exécution d'un programme.

Bien que, conformément au vœu de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence, son montant n'ait pu atteindre ni dépasser les 14 pour cent du Programme ordinaire, nous lui confirmons notre soutien déjà manifesté dans la Résolution 9/89.

Nous souhaitons cependant fermement que la part du PCT affecté à chaque pays ne soit inféodée à aucun mécanisme indicatif basé par exemple sur le chiffre indicatif de programmation (CIP) du PNUD.

Cette innovation en effet pénaliserait les pays les plus pauvres et risquerait d'engager l'Organisation dans des controverses interminables susceptibles de jeter le trouble parmi les Etats Membres.

Je souhaiterais aussi vous parler de mon pays, la République de Djibouti.

Dans un même souci de planification prospective, notre Gouvernement vient d'élaborer le deuxième plan d'Orientation des actions et des projets de développement économique et social pour la période quinquennale 1991-95. Tous les secteurs y sont naturellement programmés mais je n'étudierai devant vous que les trois options stratégiques de base qui guideront les actions de développement rural: la maîtrise de l'eau, la réduction du taux de dépendance alimentaire et la protection de l'environnement.

A Djibouti plus qu'ailleurs, la gestion des ressources en eaux conditionne tout le développement socio-économique:

- Nous souhaiterions élargir la connaissance sur les ressources en eau en recherchant les conditions de leur renouvellement. La vie des hommes est conditionnée par l'eau: en 1992, le déficit prévisible de la ville de Djibouti, atteint 7 pour cent de la consommation de 1990. L'agriculture ne se conçoit pas sans irrigation et chaque hectare de culture créé par les projets de développement a besoin de son stock annuel d'eau. Le cheptel aussi doit boire.
- Nous avons mis en place en 1990 un Schéma Directeur d'exploitation des ressources en eau qui tente d'adapter en permanence les ressources disponibles aux besoins des usagers. Ce projet s'appuyant sur une banque de données hydrauliques et socio-économiques, devra aboutir à un modèle mathématique de simulation et de gestion rationnelle de l'eau.
- Nous voulons également poursuivre la réalisation d'ouvrages d'exploitation de l'eau mais aussi protéger de la pollution les activités en aval des zones de consommation.
- Nous avons à coeur, enfin, de renforcer l'organisation et les moyens de maintenance des ouvrages pour tirer le maximum de profit des investissements effectués tout en évitant les gaspillages d'eau et les quantités considérables qui se perdent chaque année dans la mer.

Quant à la réduction du taux de dépendance alimentaire, cet objectif suppose l'augmentation de la production nationale dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche.

Alors que la période passée a donné lieu à l'expérimentation en milieu réel, le plan 1991-95 sera consacré à la mise en oeuvre à grande échelle des innovations technologiques acquises. Quatre-vingt-dix pour cent de

l'enveloppe financière allouée au secteur agricole seront utilisés pour la création de nouveaux périmètres irrigués.

Le développement du palmier dattier mérite une attention particulière. La période 1986-90 a été focalisée sur une meilleure connaissance du potentiel génétique existant et aux essais de comportement des rejets.

La période qui vient verra la plantation de grandes surfaces à partir de rejets importés et de vitro-plants, la vulgarisation des méthodes de phoeniculture pour aboutir enfin à la production de dattes en quantités suffisantes.

Concernant l'élevage, deux lignes d'action se dégagent:

- Un plan d'intervention visant l'évolution de l'élevage extensif qui constitue 90 pour cent du cheptel djiboutien. Il s'agit de poursuivre l'amélioration qualitative et quantitative de l'hydraulique pastorale, de créer de vastes zones de pâturage et d'augmenter le revenu des éleveurs. Nous souhaitons enfin faire participer l'élevage des petits ruminants à l'économie nationale en améliorant la production et la commercialisation.
- Un plan d'intervention visant la sédentarisation de l'élevage partout où ce sera possible à commencer par la périphérie des centres urbains.
- Pour le secteur de la pêche maritime, elle constitue la ressource naturelle qui peut être exploitée et développée dans l'immédiat. La séquence d'opérations suivante sera mise en place
- Evaluation des ressources halieutiques qui n'est connue qu'avec une approximation laissant trop de place à l'erreur.
- Accroissement de la production et augmentation de la flotte et des techniques de pêche.
- La valorisation du poisson par le séchage, le salage, le fumage et la conservation par le froid.
- L'appui à la commercialisation sur le marché local et à l'exportation.
- La mise en oeuvre, enfin, d'aquaculture dans les lagunes.

La protection de l'environnement est la troisième voie de développement et ce n'est pas la plus facile.

Bien que les actions menées jusqu'à ce jour aient été conduites dans le plus grand respect de l'environnement naturel nous espérons que le Sommet mondial sur l'environnement prévu au Brésil en 1992 apportera à tous les participants une meilleure compréhension.

En juin dernier cependant, à l'occasion de l'élaboration du document préparé en vue de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour un environnement durable, le Gouvernement a créé au niveau politique, un Comité national de l'environnement.

C'est la première phase d'un long processus qui conduira la République de Djibouti à gérer ses ressources et son environnement naturel.



**CHAIRMAN:** Yes, indeed the world is shrinking and we are all faced by common problems, but the paradox is that many children are still going without food while some of us are suffering from overeating.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL:** The delegations of Ethiopia and Uganda have asked to submit their statements for inclusion in the Verbatim Records.

**Zegeye ASFAW (Ethiopia):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to have the honour of addressing this august body at the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I am also honoured in extending my sincere congratulations to you, Mr Chairman and your Vice-Chairmen, on your elections as Chairmen of this Conference.

The Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference is also honoured by the admission of the four new Members to its global forum of food and agriculture. As I welcome the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Puerto Rico upon their admission to the membership of this global Organization, let me also express my assurances of cooperation in our common endeavour of facing the challenges in the areas of food and agriculture.

May I also express my heartfelt appreciations to the People and Government of the Republic of Italy, for hosting the Conference and making our tour of duty pleasant and memorable.

As you are already aware, my country, Ethiopia, just survived the most destructive and prolonged civil war and we are beginning to come out from the dooms and glooms of war. The presently prevailing motive is to make a full stop on war and reconstruct our country out of the ruins of war and establish a democracy. Thus a Transitional Government was formed so as to pave the way for permanent constitutional developments within the next two years. The spirit of the Ethiopian people is motivated through these new developments and the momentum for reconstruction is steadily growing.

Like post-war situations in many parts of the world, Ethiopia is presently passing through a period of disaster and rehabilitation, from the drought and dilapidated economy, thus the struggle for rehabilitation of agriculture and the whole economy becomes a challenge to our own national capabilities and the goodwill of the International Community. We hope that the presently prevailing positive outlooks to the developments in Ethiopia would be materialized to the extent of support that would enable our country to face the challenges for a successful objective and achievement.

The disastrous economic policies pursued by the previous regime, drought, war and adverse global conditions have brought our country to the brink of ruin. Now that these are becoming history, the possibility for a period of peaceful rehabilitation and revitalization of the economy, is being visioned through the new draft economic policies that will limit the role of the State in the economic sector, thus encouraging privatization.

Presently the population of Ethiopia is estimated at about 52 million and by the year 2000 it is expected to grow to about 70 million if the present rate of 2.9 percent growth continues. On the other hand, food production is increasing at about one percent. The food production growth will, therefore, need to address both adequacy for the prevailing shortfall and

the anticipated population increase. The food and agriculture sector will require sustained improvements and this cannot occur until the damaged images of drought are mitigated. Sustainable food production, therefore, will need to be seen both, from the point of needs for present population as well as those of the future generation.

Having deliberated on the general situations in Ethiopia, my delegation would like to indicate its positions on some of the Agenda Items presented to the Twenty-sixth Conference.

We would commend the well-balanced programme of work and budget, including the priority upon which the PWB is based. We have no doubt that these programmes of work will assist in the development needs of our country. The Ethiopian delegation, therefore, would like to indicate its support to the request outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget, increase for the TCP, the Special Reserve Account and Operational Capital Fund.

It is unfortunate that the Organization was forced to work under budgetary constraints, just because member countries fail to pay their respective assessed contribution on time and in full. We hope that this situation will be corrected in the biennium ahead of us.

Finally, our due regards to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma and his staff for the commitments and dedications that they have shown in achieving the objectives that were decided in the biennial Conferences.<sup>1</sup>

**Mrs Victoria SEKITO LEKO (Uganda):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates. The negative impact created by the problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty has never been experienced before in the history of mankind. Recent studies in various parts of the world, especially in developing countries, indicate dwindling food production due to poor technology, uncoordinated food policies, environmental degradation and certain calamities such as pest outbreaks requiring large capital outlay to manage.

The problems facing Africa regarding food are well known to all the delegates here. Some countries in Africa are threatened with famine and others are faced with the problem of food imports on the continent, despite the problems of balance of payments and high debt levels. What is required now is to formulate policies and political will which will ensure food for all Africans. Mr Chairman, in 1989, I told you that Uganda was determined to increase food production and I asked our friends to assist us by purchasing whatever we produced. I am grateful to all of you because you did not let us down. We managed to produce food surpluses and we stepped up food purchases, especially through the World Food Programme. At this juncture, I wish to express special thanks to World Food Programme for the good work it is doing in Uganda. Between 1989 and now, World Food Programme has purchased food from Uganda worth about US\$6 700 000.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Food security is a topic which has been debated in various fora. It is recognized that food self-sufficiency is the most practical and reliable way of achieving food security. There is need therefore to develop policies at both national and international level which will ensure food for the starving and hungry people of the world. It is also important for the international community to develop liberal trade policies that enable developing countries to achieve food security.

Quite often, weed management, which is an important crop husbandry practice in farming is not given its due attention. Weeds constitute a major factor in farming because yield losses between 10 and 30 percent and sometimes more have been recorded in some parts of the world due to weed/crop competition. Currently, Uganda is faced with the problem of the water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) on two of our major lakes. The weed, which is on the increase, is aquatic in nature and is an aggressive colonizer. The weed interferes with navigation and leads to the reduction of fish catch due to changes in the ecosystem. It is known to cause degradation of the aquatic environment through de-oxygenation of water, as a result of the decaying mats of the weed, and through disruption of the aquatic food chain suppressing the phytoplankton growth. The weed is likely to have negative effects on our commerce and national economy: we call upon the international community to give us a helping hand in the form of technical and financial assistance, so that we may eradicate this weed from our lakes and rivers; inevitably, the fisheries in Uganda are facing imminent danger.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now turn to some of the issues to be discussed in this Conference. During the last Conference, our delegation indicated strong support for the International Conference on Nutrition. We believe that during that Conference, appropriate recommendations on how to combat malnutrition will be formulated. At this juncture, we wish to state that our arrangements to have a country paper, and to hold seminars and workshops in connection with the Conference are already under way. We wish to thank FAO, WHO and other interested sponsors for the arrangements they are making to ensure that the Conference is held successfully.

Mr Chairman, we salute FAO for the efforts so far exhibited in the area of environment and sustainable development. We should strive to conserve resources rather than destroying them. In this context, we support applied research in biological control of pests, rather than using agricultural pesticides which kill even non-target species. We wholeheartedly support the effective implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and its recently endorsed Prior Informed Consent (PIC) clause. The development of this tool into a legally binding international instrument has our strong support. Furthermore, all developmental projects should take into account sustaining the land's productive capacity while reducing its vulnerability to environmental hazards. Soil conservation should be given high priority in all our endeavours.

It is regretted that, because of financial constraints, the Director-General has proposed a zero growth programme budget which will affect the operation of some programmes. Turning to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), it is regretted that Conference Resolution 9/89 is not going to be implemented. It is hoped that the Director-General will do everything possible in his power to restore the resources available to TCP to at least its former level of 14 percent of the total Regular Programme.

We are suggesting so because we are convinced that TCP is the life-blood of the countries with developing economies.

The role of women in various economies is of paramount importance. In Uganda, like in other developing countries, it is the women who produce the food consumed in the country. In our case, it is estimated that 95 percent of the food produced in the country is actually grown by women. My Government recognizes with satisfaction the important role played by women in our economy. It is because of their vital role in society that Government decided to create a whole Ministry for women - called the Ministry of Women in Development. It is headed by a woman Minister and, in addition to her, there are other well-placed women in the Government machinery, including the Cabinet. Furthermore, my Government recently created a whole faculty for women at one of our universities, to address the issues related to women-folk. We strongly suggest that FAO should continue to assist women in developing labour-saving and time-saving techniques and technologies in crop and livestock production, fish processing and food preparation. Improved technologies for food processing and preparation should be provided to reduce the drudgery of women in developing countries. In addition, women should be given the required training to enable them to progress in their advancement in the mainstream of development. Appropriate extension strategies should be put in place.

Mr Chairman, with regard to research, there is need to indicate that whenever possible emphasis should be placed on applied research rather than basic research. The latter tends to be costly, is a long-term venture and usually yields results which cannot be applied immediately. In addition, we are all well aware that technologies developed through adaptive research can easily be adopted by the beneficiaries - the farmers. Furthermore, it is important to ensure that the technologies developed do not remain on the shelves in laboratories or libraries. Mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate the transfer of the technologies developed to farmers.

The efforts made by the FAO Secretariat in the work related to the conservation of plant genetic resources are commendable. Our stand is that each country should have sovereign rights over its gene bank and that national in situ plant conservation programmes should be given maximum support. Training of national experts in countries where the resources exist is absolutely necessary and urgent. Mr Chairman, it is well known that biotechnology has great potential in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources and increasing food production. However, currently, most research on biotechnology takes place in the developed world. There is need to mount meaningful programmes in this area in developing countries.

Mr Chairman, before concluding I wish to inform the august assembly that Uganda welcomes you all to come and invest either individually or through joint ventures. The potential for investment for both the domestic and external markets is very high. In the case of annual crops, you only need three months to have the crop ready. Also, we have put in place an Investment Code which provides attractive incentives to investors.

Last, I wish to thank the Government and people of Italy for the hospitality accorded to us in this beautiful city of Rome, and to thank the Director-General and FAO Secretariat for the impressive arrangements they have made for this Conference.<sup>1</sup>

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Second Report of Credentials Committee

Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales

**CHAIRMAN:** I now invite His Excellency Fotis Poulides, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, to submit his Second Report for approval by the Conference.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman of the Credentials Committee):** Thank you Mr President. The Second Report of the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee held its Third meeting today, 13 November 1991 at 11.30 hours. In accordance with Rule III-2 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of 14 Member Nations and found them to be in order including those of the new applicant nations, thus bringing the total to 145 credentials.

Ten Member Nations have not registered to date. It is recalled that six countries have announced that they will not attend the Session. The Credentials Committee also examined the credentials of the new Associate Member of the Organization, Puerto Rico, and found them to be in order.

The Credentials Committee also examined the credentials of the United Nations, the United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations and found them to be in order.

The Committee wished to record its satisfaction at the number of credentials deposited by Member Nations which had been signed by Heads of State or Members of Governments of the highest rank.

Now I will deliver the additional list of Member Nations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order: Chad, Djibouti, Estonia, Guyana, Latvia, Lithuania, Paraguay, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Saint Lucia, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu. Total 14 Member Nations.

Lists of Member Nations which have not yet registered to date: Bahamas, Belize, Cambodia, Comoros, Fiji, Jamaica, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles. Total 10 Member Nations.

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<sup>1</sup>

Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

List of United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations whose delegations have presented credentials found to be in order: United Nations: United Nations Organization, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Office of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, World Food Programme. Specialized agencies and related organizations: International Labour Organization, Welfare Organization, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr President, the FAO membership is composed from 157 Member Nations. Three new Member Nations total 160 Member Nations. Credentials found to be valid: First Report 131. Credentials found to be valid, Second Report, 14. Member Nations not attending, 6. Member Nations not registered, 10. Total 161 because Barbados have listed with valid credentials, as in the list here, and then they have announced that they were not participating. This is the reason why non-participating and with valid credentials, you have 161 instead of 160. Barbados has been counted twice. Thank you Mr President.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on the Second Report of the Credentials Committee: No comments. The Second Report of the Credentials Committee is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La seance est levée a 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(14 November 1991)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.30 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 9.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia



## GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

### DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

### DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

United Arab Emirates, Madagascar, Jordan, Nigeria, Canada, Mexico, Mauritanie, Mauritius

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to our Plenary this morning. We will start with our first speaker, but before that I have to announce for your information that the Papal Audience, which was scheduled to be at 12 o'clock, will now be at 12.30. We will carry on with the session up to 11 o'clock. This will give us sufficient time to go to the transport line-up to move for the Papal Audience.

I will now begin with the first speaker and I will invite His Excellency Saeed Al Raqabani, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries from the United Arab Emirates.

**Saeed AL RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful, may the peace and blessing of God be with you all.

This session is being held at a time in history which is marked by economic cooperation between East and West. There is concern to make sure that human capacities are not used for destructive ends. We trust that the long-term effects of this new atmosphere will be felt in developing countries which at present suffer from the burden of foreign debt, inadequate infrastructures, inadequate mastery of modern technology and the constant threat which is brought to bear on their economic systems. All these problems and even others may be overcome as soon as these countries which are able to do so will have satisfied the requirements of developing countries and also overcome obstacles to their development.

FAO has always done its best to satisfy the increasing requirements of the poorest countries of the world, those which are most seriously affected by various natural disasters such as drought, floods, and the deterioration of natural resources. However, we should remember that the FAO will not be able to continue to carry out its lofty tasks if it does not receive sufficient support from the countries which are able to provide such support.

The United Arab Emirates would like to take this opportunity to reassert the importance of FAO's role inside and outside the United Nations system

- when it comes to dealing with agriculture, food and the environment.

We should stress the great responsibilities shouldered by the Director-General. We should like to thank our brother Edouard Saouma for having satisfied the dearest aims of the international community, as he has in this way established the strategic bases, the methodology and programmes

of FAO; we are sure that the role of FAO in the future will expand under the aegis of a new international order.

As you know already, the first aim established by FAO at the beginning of the 1980s for the concept of food security in terms of production and trade is to guarantee an adequate level of food supplies and to increase production in the deficit regions as a result of the maximum use of their resources. The second aim concerns the trade movements and the need to reduce fluctuations in supply and demand on international markets. The third concerns guaranteeing free access to food, liberalization of foreign trade and the need to make up the shortfall in international trade in agricultural commodities. FAO during the course of these recent years has constantly done its best to achieve these aims and although the results achieved are still lower than what we had hoped for because of certain obstacles beyond the control of the Organization, we very much hope that it will not hesitate to continue along this same path.

The United Arab Emirates on all occasions has given considerable importance to agriculture and fisheries. We have tried to master modern exploitation technologies. At present, statistics show that despite far from favourable climatic and ecological conditions and despite the low rainfall in this area, our country is now in a position to satisfy a large proportion of the increasing demand for food from our population. The Emirates' production covers the whole of our home consumption requirements for white meat, vegetables, milk, eggs and so on. However, some fishery sectors have surpluses which are exported to neighbouring countries. Special attention is given to date palms, the number of which is now 14 million, and considerable efforts are being devoted to reafforestation in our country where the forests now cover 280 000 hectares.

Within the framework of this policy aimed at encouraging agriculture, an International Congress on salt-tolerant plants in arid areas was held at the end of 1990 in the United Arab Emirates under the sponsorship of His Royal Highness in cooperation with international organizations concerned with this subject, especially FAO, with the participation of approximately 130 experts and scientists, various universities and scientific institutions.

The main aim of this meeting was to define modern methods and technologies which would be best suited to overcoming the problems deriving from the factors in our environment such as drought, salinity and water shortage, and to make sure that we make the best possible use of salt-tolerant plants in accordance with methods suited to our environment. This Congress is the first stage in the implementation of the Emir Said's world project for agricultural and ecological research. This at the same time will represent for scientists and researchers throughout the world a think-tank and a laboratory. It will provide them with an opportunity to make sure that their work is known in the course of this decade on the environment and its conservation. This Conference has a very heavy Agenda, and we would like to stress the importance of the subjects included on this Agenda, especially those concerning the international mechanisms which cover various highly specialized areas in the preparation of which FAO has played an important role: the world Food Security Charter, the International Agreement on Plant Genetic Resources and the Code of Conduct for Pesticides. Similarly, we will be called upon to examine FAO's activities on the environment and sustainable development. We are convinced that our planet will not be able to satisfy the food requirements of its inhabitants if the environment has

reduced scope for production. All of this is closely linked, and the role of UNDP and FAO in the preparation of international measures aimed at restoring and preserving national resources throughout the world, which are the very basis of economic progress and food security, is a genuine, decisive one.

The United Arab Emirates are highly appreciative of the efforts engaged in by international organizations concerned with environment, development, the struggle against the desertification, the conservation of forest resources and the biological diversity of the seas and oceans. Mankind as a whole is bound to aim at all forms of development, and we should step up our action and link our efforts. I trust that God will guide your efforts in order to achieve this success.

**Claude Rostand ANDREAS (Madagascar):** Honorables délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs. C'est un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole ce matin.

M. le Président, la délégation malgache vous adresse ses vives félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette importante session de la Conférence. Permettez-moi de féliciter aussi les Vice-Présidents et tous ceux qui dirigent les Commissions et Comités de la Conférence.

Sans exagérer, on peut affirmer que la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence se tient à un tournant de l'histoire car des événements auxquels on n'aurait même pas pensé 5 à 10 ans auparavant occupent actuellement l'actualité et la communauté internationale toute entière les encourage, les entretient, contribue à leur réalisation complète; inutile de les énumérer ces événements car nous savons de quoi il s'agit. Leurs retombées sur notre Organisation, donc sur l'avenir de nos pays méritent en revanche toute notre attention et pour certaines justifient notre préoccupation et requièrent de notre part de profondes réflexions.

Le climat de détente internationale ouvre la voie à une réduction généralisée des dépenses militaires, ce qui permettrait, sans pêcher dans un optimisme béat, d'espérer que les économies réalisées pourront servir à améliorer les conditions humaines; les pays industrialisés auront la possibilité enfin pendant la décennie présente de réaliser l'objectif international de consacrer 0,7 pour cent de leur PNB à l'aide au développement; la coopération aussi bien bilatérale que multilatérale en tirera certainement profit.

L'atténuation des conflits idéologiques facilite une meilleure coopération à tous les niveaux surtout au moment où les pays prennent conscience des conséquences planétaires des problèmes écologiques; la FAO a la possibilité de jouer un rôle de premier ordre dans les différentes conférences internationales qui vont traiter des sujets y afférents; ma délégation ne peut qu'appuyer toutes dispositions, toutes mesures qui vont dans le sens du soutien de la participation active et décisive de l'Organisation dans la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement et dans la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Un des impacts positifs des événements que j'ai évoqués précédemment est le renforcement de la FAO par l'adhésion de nouveaux Membres; nous aussi, nous sommes très heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue à l'Estonie, la Lettonie, la Lituanie et Porto Rico, et leur adresser nos vives félicitations; nous

sommes convaincus que leurs apports dans tous les domaines renforceront la capacité de l'Organisation à répondre aux nombreuses demandes et sollicitations qu'elle reçoit de nos pays, de ceux qui ont le plus besoin d'aide et d'assistance.

Dans cet ordre d'idée, ma délégation voudrait traiter de l'adhésion de la Communauté économique européenne (CEE) à la FAO. Dès que le Gouvernement malgache était saisi du désir de la CEE d'adhérer à la FAO comme membre, il a profité de toutes les occasions qui lui ont été offertes pour appuyer très chaleureusement ladite candidature et s'est employé pour que ladite adhésion puisse avoir lieu, au cours de la présente Conférence. Ce faisant, le Gouvernement malgache est convaincu que la CEE peut apporter plus à la FAO en qualité de membre que d'observateur. En effet, elle aura des obligations statutaires précises et sa participation aux travaux des organes de l'Organisation sera précieuse pour nos Etats eu égard à sa grande connaissance et à sa grande expérience des problèmes mondiaux de développement. Nous souhaitons naturellement qu'elle puisse apporter beaucoup au budget et ses contributions financières soulager l'Organisation en cette période de crise financière aiguë.

La capacité de l'Organisation de répondre efficacement aux priorités qui ont été définies par ses Organes directeurs, nous tenons, M. le Président, à ce qu'elle soit préservée.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous déplorons la situation financière critique dans laquelle se débat la FAO depuis 1986; c'est la raison pour laquelle aussi, malgré sa situation économique et financière extrêmement précaire, Madagascar a, au cours de cet exercice, effectué un paiement partiel de ses contributions. Nous lançons un appel à l'endroit de toutes les délégations ayant des arriérés en général et à celle du gros contributeur en particulier pour qu'elles interviennent auprès des autorités compétentes de leur pays pour qu'elles s'acquittent de leurs obligations statutaires. Pour que la FAO puisse également s'acquitter de son mandat, il faut que son principal outil de travail, à savoir le Programme de travail et de budget soit à un niveau convenable, c'est-à-dire, que ledit niveau puisse permettre de réaliser les programmes prioritaires déterminés par les différentes Conférences régionales et les Comités techniques au sein desquels les Etats Membres ont communiqué leurs besoins d'aide et d'assistance.

Le projet actuel qui accuse une croissance zéro par rapport au biennium précédent ne manque pas de nous inquiéter, mais pour favoriser le consensus lors de son adoption, nous lui accordons notre appui.

La délégation malgache n'éprouve aucune difficulté à adopter une attitude positive à l'endroit des priorités proposées aussi bien dans le Plan à moyen terme que dans le Programme de travail et de budget car elles coïncident avec nos propres priorités nationales. Ainsi, à Madagascar, la protection de l'environnement et le développement durable de l'agriculture est régi par une Charte, ce qui démontre, s'il en est encore besoin, que ces questions constituent une préoccupation prioritaire du Gouvernement; d'ailleurs un organe autonome d'exécution de la politique environnementale, l'Office national de l'environnement, a été créé depuis décembre 1990 et se trouve déjà en pleine activité car un programme à long terme portant application des dispositions de la Charte est en cours d'exécution. Si l'on se réfère à la priorité visant le renforcement des institutions nationales et l'appui à accorder aux pays mettant en oeuvre des mesures d'ajustement

sectoriel et structurel, il va de soi que nous accueillons avec ferveur ce programme dans la mesure où cela nous concerne à plus d'un titre; en effet, nous vivons actuellement les répercussions sociales très graves de telles mesures et souhaitons pouvoir y porter remède au plus tôt sans porter préjudice, cela s'entend, à la croissance économique que nous avons enregistrée ces deux dernières années.

Les autres priorités, à savoir: intégration des femmes dans le développement, développement des ressources humaines et coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement sont pour nous des programmes permanents, composantes indispensables de tout programme de développement, la question ne se pose donc même pas de les appuyer ou de ne pas les appuyer, ils sont toujours nécessaires et doivent être traités comme tels.

Tout en assurant de notre appui l'ensemble du Plan, nous voudrions manifester une appréciation particulière à l'endroit du Programme envisagé pour l'Afrique notamment la mise en oeuvre du Programme international pour la conservation et la restauration des terres agricoles africaines, la promotion des associations d'agriculteurs, le renforcement des capacités nationales en matière de statistiques agricoles, d'analyse et de planification, le soutien aux organismes intergouvernementaux régionaux et sous-régionaux de pêche et le développement de l'aquaculture.

En évoquant le Programme international pour la conservation et la restauration des terres agricoles africaines, je ne pourrais m'empêcher de dire quelques mots à propos de la phase II du Programme spécial pour l'Afrique du Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) car, pour ma délégation, les institutions spécialisées du système des Nations Unies à Rome oeuvrent de concert pour aider nos pays à relever leurs économies, à relancer leur développement. J'ai nommé le Programme alimentaire mondial, le Fonds international de développement agricole et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation.

S'agissant du Programme spécial pour l'Afrique, ma délégation souhaite vivement que la phase II connaisse le même succès que la phase I. Appel est donc lancé aux donateurs pour que l'ardeur qui a caractérisé la première phase se répète pour la seconde fois. Le FIDA est plus que jamais à même d'obtenir les performances les meilleures dès lors qu'il possède maintenant l'expérience suffisante et la connaissance requise des problèmes de ceux qui ont le plus besoin de ses services. En coopération étroite avec la FAO, le FIDA pourra pendant la décennie présente obtenir les résultats les meilleurs, nous en sommes convaincus.

A plusieurs occasions, notamment lors des réunions du Comité de l'agriculture, la délégation malgache avait mis en exergue le rôle primordial joué par les petits agriculteurs dans la sécurité alimentaire nationale. A ces occasions, elle avait demandé au Secrétariat d'intensifier son assistance auprès de nos gouvernements pour qu'ils puissent soutenir techniquement et si besoin financièrement les associations d'agriculteurs dans l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des petits bas fonds.

Nous avons également demandé que la FAO se penche tout particulièrement sur la maîtrise des cultures pluviales car l'on sait qu'en Afrique subsaharienne les cultures irriguées ne représentent encore qu'un pourcentage très faible et des possibilités d'extension très limitées.

Telles sont, M. le Président, les idées que nous apportons et les suggestions que nous formulons et voudrions soumettre à l'appréciation de cette auguste assemblée.

Tout au début de mon intervention, j'avais fait allusion à l'importance de cette session qui, avais-je dit, se trouve à un tournant de l'histoire. Elle est appelée, à mon sens, à rester dans les mémoires comme l'une des plus fondamentales qui auront été tenues à notre époque; nous souhaitons vivement qu'elle soit aussi la plus réussie et le prélude d'une coopération dense et féconde entre tous les pays et toutes les régions.

Pour clore mon discours, M. le Président, ma délégation voudrait joindre sa voix à la vôtre et à celle du Directeur général de la FAO lorsqu'au cours de la cérémonie de célébration du 40ème anniversaire du transfert de la FAO à Rome vous avez, au nom de l'Organisation et de ses Etats Membres, adressé au Gouvernement italien nos vifs remerciements pour le soutien précieux et permanent qu'il a accordé à ladite Organisation pendant ces 40 ans.

Je vous remercie.

**Hani HADADEIN (Jordan) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election as Chairman of our Conference, and I am fully confident that your extensive knowledge and experience with the issues under discussion and your wise guidance will ensure the success of our deliberations. Allow me also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and, on behalf of the Government of Jordan, to congratulate the Republics of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia on their admission as Members of our Organization, as well as Puerto Rico, admitted as Associate Member. There is no doubt that their active participation in FAO Programmes will enhance its potentials and contribute to wider international cooperation in the area of agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, the Jordanian delegation has listened with great interest to the Director-General's address and we have closely followed FAO activities and achievements over the past two years. We wish to place on record our deep gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General for his wise administration of the Organization which has managed despite the acute and persistent financial crisis for which many of our neighbour countries are responsible, has been able to make significant achievements and to meet the urgent needs of Member Nations over the past years.

It is our hope, Mr Chairman, that we will be able during this Session to provide the highest possible level of financial resources to the Organization to enable it to carry out the programmes that we are to approve by consensus.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, agricultural development has been at the centre of world attention for many years. Despite the efforts made at the international and national levels most developing countries have not been able to achieve a high degree of self-reliance in food production, and in the upgrading of the manpower engaged in that sector, both of which are essential for the eradication of poverty and malnutrition that continue to afflict many countries.

The Medium-Term Plan contained in document C 91/23 identifies the imbalances in the agricultural centres in the majority of these nations as well as the challenges facing them and which they cannot meet without the effective cooperation of the international community with a view to achieving the aspiration for food security and a decent living for their peoples.

The Near East region suffers from an ever widening food gap posed by the failure to increase food production at a rate equal to that of population growth, plus leading to increased reliance on imports and unsound exploitation of agricultural resources in many countries of the region in an attempt to increase production. Such practices now threaten available agricultural resources either through the destruction of natural grazing lands in semi-arid areas, giving rise to widespread desertification or through soil erosion, depletion of ground water, increased salinity and the removal of the remaining forest resources on slopes to put land thus cleared under cultivation, no matter how meagre their production may be.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Jordan has to face all the challenges I have just mentioned; nevertheless, we are doing our best to overcome difficulties and to achieve higher levels of development by removing the obstacles to agricultural development through an integrated agricultural policy aimed at achieving self-reliance in the farm sector, taking into consideration comparative advantages and agricultural conditions in neighbouring countries as well as at the regional level. Within this context, Jordan has been able to attain self-sufficiency in the production of vegetables and fruits and to export part of its production. This has been facilitated by irrigation schemes carried out by the Government in the Jordan Valley as well as by land reclamation and tree plantation projects in mountain areas with the kind assistance of the World Food Programme and concessionary loans from Arab and Islamic Funds.

In this connection we wish to thank FAO which has agreed to participate in the implementation of two such projects. One for the production of virus-free tree seedlings of fruit trees, and the other for producing non-hybrid vegetable seeds, both in the form of technical assistance under its TCP programme.

Mr Chairman, I should like to thank the Director-General for the prompt measures taken to bring the Regional Office back into operation, within the region. We hope that once it has completed its specialized task the Office will be a great help to the countries in the region in strengthening their technical and planning capacities in the area of agriculture.

I also wish to thank him for implementing the Resolution concerning providing technical assistance to the Palestinian people as described in document C 89/LIM/44 by sending a mission to study and assess the situation of agriculture in the Palestinian occupied territories in the light of the policies and practices applied under occupation, and preparing a report including the technical intervention carried out by FAO as well as holding a seminar on the Palestinian Agricultural Centre.

We hope that the recommendations formulated by that seminar recently held in Rome would be translated into an effective Plan of Action that would help alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people who have been living under the yoke of occupation for more than two decades.

The Director-General has agreed, in principle, to open an FAO country office in Jordan; nevertheless the financial situation of the Organization for the past two years did not make it possible to do so. Since such an office will be of great importance to Jordan as a channel for strengthening and expanding cooperation with the Organization, we hope that FAO's financial situation would make it possible for the Director-General to open such an office very soon.

Mr Chairman, it is our belief that among the programmes that need to be strengthened are those aimed at promoting scientific cooperation between universities and academic institutions on the one hand and ministries and agencies working in the sector on the other. This would cover applied research, technology transfer and development of the national scientific and technological capability in general. In fact, FAO has made pioneering efforts in this respect in recent years, and we hope that such efforts will be further strengthened and expanded as they offer promising possibilities for the mobilization of the efforts of developing countries for the development of agriculture during the next two decades.

Thank you, Mr Chairman. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Shettima MUSTAFA (Nigeria):** It is a great honour for me and members of my delegation to have this opportunity to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. I wish to congratulate Your Excellency, Sheikh Malik Abdul Majid, the Honourable Minister of Food, Agriculture and Cooperatives of Pakistan, on your election as Chairman of this Session. Similarly, I salute you for the manner in which you have been conducting this meeting since the Conference opened on the 9 of November 1991.

Let me also commend the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for his tremendous efforts in keeping the Organization vibrant and the Bureau for their excellent preparations for this Session. May I, at this juncture, congratulate the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for being admitted as full Members, and Puerto Rico for being elected Associate Member of FAO. My country warmly welcomes them.

I wish to express the continued confidence of Nigeria in, and its appreciation to, the FAO for the notable role the Organization is playing in the field of agricultural development in Nigeria. Similarly, the Organization's role in improving the precarious food situation in Africa and elsewhere is equally worthy of note. We understand that FAO accords priority to Africa in its Programme of Work and allocates as high as 40 percent of its programme budget to the region. In addition to this, FAO devotes extra-budgetary resources to special action programmes for Africa. These are, indeed, very commendable efforts.

At this juncture, may I also acknowledge the support and assistance given to the developing countries by other international organizations, notably the African Development Bank, the World Bank and IFAD.

During the last two decades, food production in most of sub-Saharan Africa has failed to keep pace with population growth and, for many people, access to available food supply is hampered by their low and declining incomes



At a period when mankind has recorded tremendous technological progress in agriculture, bringing about surpluses in global production of grains and other food items, the deteriorating food situation in Africa must, no doubt, be a source of concern to the world and should prick the conscience of mankind.

The situation now is that even without soliciting, the African continent should attract every possible assistance from the FAO, and indeed the whole donor community, for combatting its food insecurity. In order for the FAO to fulfil its mandate, Member Nations should endeavour to meet their primary financial obligations to the Organization. Whenever possible they should also provide further assistance, more so the well-to-do and developed countries.

While making the case for additional support and aid from the global community, let me remind my African colleagues that the task of reversing the continent's economic decline and restoring agricultural growth is primarily our own responsibility. Any external support or assistance should only complement the efforts of African peoples themselves, and cannot be a substitute for the much needed political and economic reforms necessary for the achievement of the stated objectives.

Certainly, a fair and favourable form of trade is far better than aid. While you can make reasonable planning of your programme with fair trade terms, you may not be able to do so with aid.

Mr Chairman, please note that I am only using the singular form of the word aid. I do not think anybody wants the plural of aid, and certainly not in Africa. Africa has vast, yet untapped resources, especially in agriculture and related areas. Its people are creative, hard working and possess immense energies waiting to be unleashed. The challenge is, therefore, to devise and implement suitable programmes and appropriate policies, to mobilize and energize the people, as well as create a conducive political climate. In a way, many countries have already put in place or are presently putting in place various policies and programmes to address the above issues, with varying degrees of success. Some of the difficulties that these countries continue to encounter are derived from the external environment over which they have virtually no control.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates. Partly as a strategy for overcoming these difficulties, African countries have renewed their commitment to economic and technical cooperation among themselves. Recently, at a historic gathering of the OAU member countries in Abuja, African leaders adopted and signed a treaty for the gradual establishment of an African Economic Community. In addition to this, efforts are also continuing at regional, subregional and other similar levels through institutions like the ECOWAS and UDEAC.

The renewed focus and initiatives are aimed at pooling Africa's resources, experiences and creative capabilities in finding solutions to its problems. They also seek to increase collective self-reliance in ways that are consistent with Africa's values and aspirations. We urge the international community to take cognizance of our new goal and aspirations, and to extend the necessary cooperation and assistance towards their realization.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude my statement, please allow me to briefly state some of the efforts we are making in Nigeria, towards achieving the goal of rapid agricultural development.

Major changes have been effected in trade, pricing, exchange rate and macro-economic policies which have conferred favourable incentives to agricultural producers. Government has also disengaged from direct agricultural production and now confines itself to the provision of supportive services such as technology, extension and the like. By this, agricultural production is now essentially a private sector affair in Nigeria.

In recognition of the fragility of our environment and its importance to sustainable agricultural development, the Government has established some agencies to cater for various environmental issues. Among these are the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Council and the National Parks Management System, to mention a few.

Another area of emphasis is the involvement of women in the agricultural and rural development process. Various programmes have been put in place, have been introduced, including the Better Life Programme for Rural Women and the Women in Agriculture Programme. These are aimed at developing women's productive skills and to realize their full potential as well as enhancing their social and economic status.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, it is in recognition by the international community of the positive contribution of the Better Life Programme that an award - The Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End to Hunger - was conferred on Nigeria's First Lady, Mrs Maryam Babangida, who is the initiator of the Programme. Despite her busy schedule, she continues to give active support and direction to the Programme as its Chairperson. My country feels honoured by this recognition and we once more thank the organizers of the Award.

Mr Chairman, Nigeria is appreciative of FAO's assistance in the development of a National Agricultural Data Bank; the establishment of a Crop Monitoring and Early Warning System, and the development of a Tropical Forestry Action Plan, among other things. We continue to count on the Organization's support and hope that its level of future assistance to us in the future will take due cognizance of our sheer size and enormous population. While it is true that Nigeria has some resources of her own, God in his ultimate wisdom also decided to put many people, too many people there. Similarly, we urge FAO in its recruitment of technical advisers and experts, that due consideration should be given to qualified nationals.

In conclusion, may I reiterate the call I made earlier for increased support, understanding and assistance from the developed countries and multilateral agencies. We should strive hard, jointly, to build a world community free of hunger, malnutrition and poverty as much as is practicable. It would indeed be a sad commentary on humanity if, in spite of man's fantastic technological advance, a considerable proportion of human beings on the face of the earth still suffer from threats of hunger, malnutrition and disease.

I thank you for your kind attention.

**Murray CARDIFF (Canada):** Ministers of Agriculture, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Mr Chairman, I have to say it is a pleasure to see you directing this Conference. As we all know, Pakistan is a country with which Canada has had a long history of close ties, and please be assured of our full cooperation in assisting you in ensuring the success of this Conference.

I would also like to make note that the very first Conference was held in Quebec City and chaired by a very illustrious Canadian, at that time the illustrious Mr Pearson, who later became the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, and that first thing was held October 16, 1945 in Quebec City. So I know we are all very proud of the Chairmen who have chaired previous sessions as well as of the Chairman of this session.

As our great country, Canada, is home to many people of Baltic origin, we are especially happy to welcome Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the FAO family of nations. We also extend a warm welcome to our Puerto Rican friends as associate members.

Mr Chairman, profound changes are taking place in the world today. In the two years since we last met, we have seen a ground swell of democratic change in the USSR and Eastern Europe, as well as in Latin America and Africa. At the same time, however, we have seen continuing turbulence in world affairs - turbulence caused by war, civic insurrection, difficult climatic conditions and the continuing problems of poverty, malnutrition and starvation. And, perhaps the most important of all in the long term, we are facing an environmental crisis which, if left unchecked, will cripple our planet.

These changes have serious effects on the agricultural sector. Developed and developing countries alike, facing problems with low commodity prices, especially for cereals, are creating very difficult conditions for our farmers. It is ironic that even though Canada has just finished harvesting another large and high quality grain crop, many grain farmers are facing financial difficulties and problems. It is more alarming still that while parts of the world are generating food surpluses, millions of people are facing starvation daily. We must deal with these issues effectively, with commitment, and with a view to finding long-term solutions.

More than one out of five people on this planet are so poor that they do not have access to adequate nutrition, housing, clothing, education or even basic health care. The largest concentration of poor people is found in rural areas, and their survival depends on agriculture. Preservation and protection of the valuable natural resources which agriculture depends on can only become a priority once the problem of poverty has been alleviated and dealt with. The alleviation of poverty in developing countries can only be achieved by the creation of wealth employment and value-added products in rural areas.

However, we must not only provide for policies to address sustainable development and to alleviate poverty; we must also revise international rules relating to trade and commerce. There is an essential link between poverty and sustainable development. Therefore, if we do not successfully reform the international trading system, we will effectively find ourselves working against sustainable development in the poorest nations.

We request that this Conference appeal for a successful and swift conclusion to the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations. The decisions made there are crucial for the future of the multilateral trading system. The outcome will determine if we can create a trading environment which stimulates growth, reduces poverty and encourages generation of wealth.

Indeed, nations have not fully adjusted to the political and economic imperatives of change. Trade tensions threaten to undermine our collective potential for prosperity and cooperation. Our common challenge is to resist protectionist and isolationist forces, and to avoid a continuation of the excesses of trade wars which serve no country's interest. The pressing need to access markets, investment and technology does not permit us to ignore the call for clearer and stronger GATT rules.

At this moment, subsidized exports continue to depress prices on world markets. Many industrialized countries are diverting precious financial resources to provide production incentives and export subsidies. In 1990 alone, OECD countries spent US\$299 billion through agricultural transfers of one form or another. In a time of constrained fiscal resources, is this a price which we can continue to pay? We just know we cannot do that.

We must especially consider the effects of subsidies on the people in developing countries. Last year, the International Monetary Fund estimated that farm subsidies were costing developing countries US\$50 billion a year in lost agricultural exports. Furthermore, the subsidies that encourage over-production result in greater use of marginal land that can only be productive with increased use of fertilizers and other production inputs. As a result, we run up environmental, social and economic bills that will have to be paid by future generations.

On the occasion of this year's World Food Day ceremonies organized by the FAO and held at the UN Headquarters in New York, Canada's Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Mr McNight, underlined the necessity for an end to this abuse of subsidies.

Trade barriers can be overcome. We are facing the imminent reality of a single European market at the end of 1992, and an increasing regional integration of trade. The trade agreement between Canada and the United States, and our negotiations toward a Trilateral Agreement with the United States and Mexico are examples of how trade barriers can be eliminated.

Mr Chairman, we will all have to make adjustments to adapt to the rapid pace of international events, changing market trends and environmental pressures. In Canada, we foresaw an urgent need to restructure and reform our agricultural sector, and, since the last FAO Conference, we have undertaken a major review of Canadian agri-food policy.

We set out with a vision of a strong, durable agri-food sector - well-positioned to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead, and able to adapt to changing conditions. Through a broad process of consultation involving governments, producers, processors, and other interest groups we developed our vision for a competitive agri-food sector. In doing so, we kept four principles in mind: environmental sustainability, self-reliance, regional diversity, and market responsiveness.

Mr Chairman, after many decades of mis-management, fundamental agricultural adjustment is essential to meet the needs of the peoples of Eastern Europe and an important element in the revitalization of their economies. Earlier this year, our Prime Minister urged the world to throw to these countries an economic lifeline. It should be emphasized, however, that Canada's position remains that any future assistance to Eastern Europe will not be at the expense of the regular ODA budget. Financial flows to developing countries will be maintained. Canada is an active supporter of the United Nations food and environmental agencies. Indeed, Canada continues to be the second largest donor to the World Food Programme and the largest per capita donor nation through our overall food aid budget.

Mr Chairman, in order to leave a healthy earth for future generations, we must move quickly toward adopting approaches based on the concept of sustainable development - approaches where environmental viability is at the heart of our economic, social, political and even cultural activities.

In Canada, with the implementation of our Green Plan, the issue of sustainability of the environment has been brought to centre stage. Canada's perspective is that environmental sustainability and preservation of air, water and soil as well as biological and genetic resources, need to become integral parts of agricultural development.

In this regard, we wish to underline the importance of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The experts at the joint FAO/Netherlands Government's meeting in Den Bosch, reminded us that agriculture is the sector which has the most impact on the natural environment, and at the same time, it is the sector that is the most dependent on the environment.

As the leading agency of the United Nations for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, the FAO must assume an essential leadership role in the UNCED process. Canada attaches great importance to the FAO's contribution to the UNCED process and would like to see this effort further strengthened as the UNCED Conference rapidly approaches. In particular, we believe that FAO should provide a full range of technical and other support to the UNCED preparatory process as it develops the authoritative statement on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

We look forward to this Conference's indication of support for the Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress which endorsed UNCED's work on guiding principles on forest management.

Regarding fisheries, Canada concurs that the strategy for fisheries management and development that was endorsed at the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference continues to provide valid and useful guidance for the development of appropriate fisheries policies and plans. The UN Resolution 44/225 endorsing a moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific by June 30 of next year is viewed as a major step forward in support of this strategy. We would also support the continuation of progress reports of the strategy at regular intervals.

International trade in fish products will become increasingly important, particularly if fisheries are to make a fundamental contribution to economic and social development in developing countries. Therefore, there is a growing need for further reductions in trade barriers, both tariff and

non-tariff, in order to foster full development of the global fisheries resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to comment briefly on areas of FAO activities of particular priority to Canada, some of which are currently before this Conference for its consideration. I would like to highlight the FAO's role as a repository and disseminator of data on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and as a provider of policy advice. Canada also strongly supports the work with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as the essential role of the Global Information and Early Warning System. We are particularly pleased with the growing emphasis on sustainable development and the role of women in the development process in all aspects of the Organization's programmes and operations.

We welcome the efforts made by the Director-General to implement Resolution 10/89 concerning the review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations. I would like to stress, however, that in our view, reform within the UN system should be seen to be a continuing process, in order that the challenges of a rapidly changing world can be met.

Canada is encouraged at the progress made in the dialogue on the financial situation of the Organization, notably the introduction of a no programme growth budget, based on prioritization of existing resources and the containment of cost increases. On the other hand, we have some consensus over such items as the lapse factor and special reserve accounts which we hope can be worked out during the course of the Conference. It is our sincere hope that the budget can be adopted by consensus.

I would like to say in conclusion, Mr Chairman, that in an increasingly inter-dependent world, cooperation between nations is the key to alleviation of the problems we face. The FAO has a vital role to play as an agent of change and leader in agricultural development. Canada is committed to assisting in this role.

**Carlos TORRES MANZO (México):** Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, distinguidos delegados, Sr. Director General de la FAO, señoras y señores, mi delegación ha entregado el documento y voy a leer algunos párrafos del mismo para ajustarme al tiempo permitido.

Asistimos a esta Conferencia animados por el espíritu solidario que caracteriza a la cooperación internacional, seguros del sentido profundo y de la trascendencia de los trabajos que aquí se realicen.

Encontramos un interesante y natural paralelismo entre las acciones que alienta la FAO y las que realiza el Gobierno de México.

Mi país se ha manifestado atento y activo en los trabajos realizados por la FAO durante el bienio que está por concluir. Hemos atendido las reuniones de los órganos como el Consejo y la Conferencia Regional y participado en eventos técnicos, destacándose nuestra concurrencia al sistema de Redes de Cooperación Técnica de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe.

Debo mencionar que en la perspectiva del próximo bienio estamos trabajando en vías a participar en la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo, en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición y en la realización de una Conferencia Internacional sobre Pesca Responsable.

En congruencia con nuestros propósitos de participación en las mencionadas conferencias, mi país hospedará durante el primer trimestre de 1992 la decimosexta reunión de la Comisión Forestal para América del Norte y la Reunión Regional de América Latina y el Caribe para la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

Durante el presente año, el Gobierno de México ha designado a la Comisión Nacional de Alimentación para coordinar la participación de las dependencias y entidades del sector público y organizaciones de los sectores social y privado en las actividades específicas referentes a los preparativos nacionales de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

México se pronuncia por avances significativos en la Ronda Uruguay y ve con preocupación el curso de las negociaciones ante la falta de voluntad política de algunos gobiernos para ordenar el comercio internacional de productos agropecuarios y limitar las prácticas de competencia desleal. En este contexto, México ha optado por buscar acuerdos subregionales, con el objeto de impulsar y perfeccionar el sistema multilateral de comercio.

No es posible transitar hacia formas más equánimes de comercio internacional si persisten en unos cuantos centros hegemónicos prácticas desleales de intercambio como el absurdo proteccionismo disfrazado de controles fitosanitarios o los altos aranceles a nuestras materias primas y productos de exportación.

Las negociaciones comerciales que ha emprendido México con Canadá y los Estados Unidos para la firma de un Tratado de Libre Comercio entre los tres países son de una importancia significativa para el desarrollo del sector agropecuario y forestal y para una inserción más adecuada del mismo en el ámbito internacional, que nos permita aprovechar las ventajas comparativas en América del Norte, mercado natural de nuestros productos.

El Tratado de Libre Comercio con los Estados Unidos y Canadá es una de las principales vertientes de acción dentro de la estrategia de integración del país en la economía internacional. Cabe destacar la decisión del Gobierno de México de fortalecer a través de acciones concretas sus vínculos con los distintos bloques económicos y el gran interés en promover el intercambio comercial con los países de América Latina.

Recientemente, en enero de 1991, se reunieron en México los cinco Presidentes centroamericanos con el Licenciado Salinas de Gortari, Presidente de mi país. En esta reunión se estableció un programa de liberalización económica que tiene como fin el establecimiento de una zona de libre comercio México-Centro América para fines de 1996.

Asimismo, se tienen pláticas con los otros miembros del Grupo de los Tres, Colombia y Venezuela, a fin de formalizar un acuerdo de complementación económica para fines de este año. Más aún, el pasado 22 de septiembre firmamos un Acuerdo de Libre Comercio con nuestra hermana República de Chile.

En este contexto, el Programa Nacional de Alimentación, que el Gobierno del Presidente Salinas de Gortari ha puesto en operación a partir de 1990, establece como objetivo de la política alimentaria asegurar el abasto de alimentos a la población en condiciones adecuadas de calidad y precio, sobre todo en beneficio de los grupos de más bajos ingresos. De manera específica, postula apoyar la soberanía alimentaria nacional y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria a la población en términos de suficiencia, disponibilidad y acceso. Para su cumplimiento, se han definido como estrategias centrales el establecimiento y operación de los Sistemas Nacionales de Seguridad Alimentaria y de Vigilancia Alimentaria y Nutricional.

Es por ello que nuestro país se pronuncia por el reconocimiento internacional de que el desarrollo en los métodos y medios para incrementar la producción primaria de poco servirían si no van articulados con una estrategia social que amplíe las posibilidades de acceso de la población a los alimentos, en especial de los grupos vulnerables y de los sectores más desprotegidos.

El multilateralismo y los procesos mismos de integración regional no excluyen el valor y la observancia de la soberanía de los Estados. Vemos así, con serenidad, algunos cambios recientes en el concierto internacional y nos sumamos a los propósitos de integración y cooperación.

Reconocemos el esfuerzo que ha realizado y los alcances que ha logrado la Secretaría de esta Organización en cumplimiento de la Resolución en que se pidió el examen de algunos aspectos de las metas y operaciones de la FAO.

El interés que ponemos en la FAO es la afirmación de nuestra creencia en la utilidad del Organismo. México ha participado activamente en sus tareas y ha asumido en plenitud su responsabilidad de Estado Miembro.

Por ello, nos preocupan sus problemas actuales y su desarrollo futuro. Advertimos serias dificultades en el horizonte si no se actúa con decisión y entereza para resolver sus problemas, muchos de ellos recurrentes y agravados.

Es indispensable planear el futuro.

Por estas razones la delegación mexicana propone que la Conferencia dé un mandato expreso al Comité del Programa para que elabore un documento propositivo de posibles acciones encaminadas a definir la fisionomía futura de la Organización.

Nuestro interés se explica por la importancia que atribuimos a la coordinación y al apoyo recíproco interagencial en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, de manera que las acciones que se emprendan tengan una sustentación amplia en los aspectos tecnológicos, los comerciales y los financieros.

Asimismo, los Estados Miembros podemos fortalecer los mecanismos gubernamentales y no gubernamentales de cooperación internacional, atendiendo de modo particular la vinculación y la participación en los foros, de manera que en la corresponsabilidad entre Secretariados y Estados Miembros el discurso y las ideas se reflejen en mejores políticas y en acciones de campo con alcances cada vez más valiosos.



**Mohamed OULD SID'AHMED LEKHAL (Mauritanie):** M. le Président, c'est pour moi un honneur et un privilège de m'adresser aujourd'hui à cette auguste et honorable assemblée où se trouvent réunis tous les principaux responsables de l'agriculture à l'échelle mondiale.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de saisir cette occasion pour rendre, au nom de la délégation mauritanienne, un hommage particulier à notre illustre Organisation pour son action inlassable au service du bien-être de l'humanité toute entière.

M. le Président, permettez-moi également de joindre ma voix à toutes celles qui m'ont précédé pour vous exprimer toutes mes félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence des assises de notre présente session.

Le choix qui s'est porté sur votre personne et à travers vous sur votre pays ami, constitue, j'en suis persuadé, un gage de succès de nos travaux.

Ces félicitations s'adressent également aux vice-présidents et aux autres membres du Bureau qui vous apporteront, sans nul doute, un concours précieux dans l'accomplissement de votre difficile et exaltante mission.

Je voudrais aussi saisir cette opportunité pour adresser nos vives félicitations à M. le Directeur général le Dr Edouard Saouma et à l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs pour le travail remarquable accompli depuis notre dernière session ainsi que pour les résultats obtenus dans l'exécution des programmes de notre Organisation, et ce, en dépit des multiples difficultés rencontrées.

Notre présente session, faut-il bien le souligner, s'ouvre dans un contexte international marqué par une conjoncture économique difficile dont les caractéristiques majeures sont l'augmentation de la dette extérieure des pays en voie de développement, la persistance de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, et la raréfaction des ressources financières nécessaires au financement des processus de croissance et de développement.

Ce contexte économique difficile a été rendu plus complexe par l'existence de foyers de tensions et de crises socio-économiques qui se manifestent dans plusieurs régions de notre planète.

En dépit des découvertes de la science et des remarquables progrès qui ont été réalisés, le spectre de pénurie alimentaire plane sur beaucoup de régions du monde et le nombre de mal nourris s'accroît inexorablement. Une grande partie de la population rurale des pays en développement est condamnée ainsi à la faim sur place ou à l'exode vers les centres urbains créant une prolifération des bidonvilles.

L'amélioration de la production agricole doit donc demeurer l'objectif majeur à atteindre pour un développement économique et social harmonieux dans les pays du tiers monde et pour la prospérité de la planète tout entière.

Les débats de notre présente session doivent donc être centrés sur les efforts à déployer en vue de promouvoir un développement intégré du secteur de l'alimentation et l'agriculture par l'adoption de recommandations répondant à nos préoccupations présentes et futures.

En ce qui la concerne, la Mauritanie a, au lendemain de la Restructuration du 12 décembre 1984, entrepris un certain nombre de mesures visant à concrétiser réellement la priorité accordée au secteur rural et en particulier au sous-secteur agricole.

En effet, dans le cadre du Programme de redressement économique et financier (1985-88) qui a réservé 36 pour cent des investissements au secteur rural et du Programme de consolidation et de relance, 34,3 pour cent des investissements publics pour la période 1989-91, mon Gouvernement a mis en oeuvre une politique énergique et résolue dans ce secteur pour réduire, d'une part la lourde charge des importations alimentaires, et d'autre part stimuler et renforcer les activités d'un secteur privé qui a donné les preuves de son dynamisme et de sa créativité.

Cette politique s'inscrit au sein d'un programme qui est axé sur un certain nombre d'éléments essentiels parmi lesquels on peut citer:

- l'accroissement du rôle du secteur privé relatif aux questions afférentes à la fixation des prix, la commercialisation des produits et des intrants agricoles,
- l'augmentation de la production agricole à travers l'émission et la propagation des techniques nouvelles,
- l'amélioration de la sécurité foncière,
- la protection de l'environnement,
- le développement des infrastructures rurales.

Ce programme ambitieux se base sur certaines mesures de démonopolisation, de libéralisation et d'encouragement du secteur privé. Il a obtenu l'aval de nos partenaires de développement (Banque mondiale, Ministère français de la coopération économique - Caisse centrale de coopération économique) qui nous ont fait bénéficier d'un crédit d'ajustement structurel.

Mon intervention aujourd'hui devant cette honorable assemblée m'offre l'occasion de leur exprimer, et à travers eux, à l'ensemble des autres bailleurs de fonds, notre profonde reconnaissance pour la confiance accordée à nos choix économiques, structurels, ainsi que pour l'apport de capitaux substantiels nécessaires à leur matérialisation.

Parmi ces bailleurs de fonds, la Communauté économique européenne, le Danemark, la Norvège, la Hollande, le Japon, la Suède, le PNUD et les Organisations non gouvernementales (Fédération luthérienne mondiale, Caritas, OXFAM, etc.) occupent une place de choix.

Une place spéciale dans l'intervention de ceux-ci doit être cependant accordée à la République fédérale d'Allemagne pour le volume de sa contribution et sa promptitude.

Au nom de mon gouvernement et du peuple mauritanien je tiens, du haut de cette tribune, à leur transmettre mes remerciements les plus sincères.

C'est pour moi aussi l'occasion d'apporter le soutien de mon pays à l'adhésion de la CEE à notre Organisation.

De même, parmi ces bailleurs de fonds, une place particulière revient au Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA) qui nous a fourni un soutien constant dans des domaines aussi variés que le développement des oasis, l'irrigation, la formation des agriculteurs et le redressement des projets agricoles.

Que M. Idriss Jezairy, Président de cette importante institution financière des Nations Unies qui veut opérer une liaison étroite entre ajustement structurel, progrès social et recul de la pauvreté, trouve ici l'expression de notre profonde gratitude.

Les efforts de mon Gouvernement, soutenus par l'action de nos partenaires de coopération ont permis, entre autres, d'atteindre au cours des campagnes agricoles 1987/88, 1988/89 et 1989/90 des productions céréalières nettes chiffrées respectivement à 120 000, 140 000 et 142 000 tonnes.

Si ces résultats sont largement encourageants, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'ils ne représentaient respectivement que 35 pour cent, 41 pour cent et 42 pour cent des besoins céréaliers nationaux.

Certes, ces productions auraient pu être plus importantes surtout en 1990/91 mais la combinaison d'un déficit pluviométrique et hydrologique important avec l'action dévastatrice des ravageurs de tous genres a réduit considérablement l'effet bénéfique et substantiel des moyens matériels et humains mis en oeuvre par l'Etat et les agriculteurs.

L'importance du déficit céréalier du pays a rendu nécessaire le recours à différents partenaires étrangers pour le combler. A ce titre, mon pays a eu à apprécier l'action généreuse du Programme alimentaire mondial qui lui a apporté un appui réel dans différents domaines jugés essentiels face aux conséquences de la sécheresse persistante et de la crise économique mondiale.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour adresser au Directeur exécutif, au nom de mon gouvernement, mes vifs remerciements pour l'efficacité et le sérieux dont a fait preuve son institution dans le cadre de ses activités dans mon pays.

Mon Gouvernement a initié récemment un important programme d'alimentation ciblant essentiellement les groupes les plus vulnérables de notre population, mais aussi et surtout la promotion de petits projets de production alimentaire au bénéfice des plus démunis dans les agglomérations urbaines et les zones rurales.

Dans ce programme et ces projets une place de choix a été accordée à la promotion de la femme particulièrement dans les zones rurales. C'est pourquoi, mon Gouvernement recommande à la Conférence d'insister sur la prise en considération du plan d'action sur l'intégration de la femme dans le processus du développement rural.

Il est également favorable à la prise par notre session d'une résolution relative à ce sujet. Dans cette optique, le Directeur général de notre Organisation doit poursuivre les efforts déjà déployés pour la mise en oeuvre des actions programmées dans le plan en relation étroite avec les pays membres.

Les progrès réalisés par la science dans les divers domaines démontrent éloquemment le génie créateur de l'homme. Puisse ce génie être mis au service d'un meilleur bien-être de l'humanité toute entière.

Sur cette note d'espoir, nourrie en faveur de celle-ci, je souhaite plein de succès aux travaux de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation.

Je vous remercie.

**Murlidas DULLOO (Mauritius):** It is my great pleasure to be here again amidst world policy makers and experts on agriculture and food production and to be addressing this Conference for the third time. I extend the greetings of the Government and people of Mauritius to all my Colleagues, Ministers and other Delegates present, to the Director-General and his staff, to members of the FAO Secretariat.

I also wish to associate myself with the congratulations addressed to you by previous speakers upon your election as Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO General Conference. Our warm felicitations also go to members of the Bureau. I am confident that our deliberations will be conducted with consummate skill and clarity under your wise and able leadership. I welcome the accession of the new members to FAO. We are confident that they will bring their new expertise and aspirations to enrich the work of the Organization.

Regarding the Agenda for this Session, let me express, Mr Chairman, my delegation's endorsement of the main issues to be discussed and the various courses of action outlined in the Director-General's statement. It is a well-prepared agenda and takes into account current priorities as well as long-term objectives, and the statement of the Director-General very appropriately brings into focus those areas on which we should concentrate in the course of our deliberations.

We are particularly concerned with the relevance of the issues that relate to the assessment of the current world food and agriculture situation, FAO activities related to environment and sustainable development, nutrition, fisheries development, forestry and integration of women into agriculture and rural development. We particularly appreciate the inter-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach that is being increasingly adopted in FAO's formulation of programmes and activities.

We would like to commend the Director-General's efforts to muster resources to maintain the viability and credibility of FAO's action in the field programme. We do appreciate the financial constraints he has been facing but we appeal to all Member States and donors to support existing programmes with their regular and prompt contributions.

We consider the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97 a blueprint and landmark in FAO's programming exercise. It is high time we reviewed the comparative advantages that we derive from our belonging to FAO. We feel especially that it should keep to an action-oriented and operational strategy and keep its privileged position as a world think tank in the field of food and agriculture. We strongly believe that FAO should also have some specific programmes relating to small island states.

We fully subscribe to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Of course, the thrust is on environment, nutrition, and agricultural data development. However, we have some misgivings when some operational and field activities may be at stake when there is a redistribution of resources. In this process, we strongly support all those efforts that will be deployed to make resources available but which should not be detrimental for the developing world.

When we were meeting here for the Twenty-fifth Session the Berlin Wall was falling and talks on disarmament and arms reduction heralded a new era in the cooperation between East and West. Coming from a net food importing country I was thrilled to hear some fellow members, including developed countries, advocating that funds diverted from arms production and military spending be put at the disposal of developing countries for agricultural and food production. As a representative of a young small island state where democracy and freedom thrive in a mixed economy, where the private sector plays an eminently predominant role, I was elated to welcome the wind of democracy, freedom and concern for fundamental human rights blowing over the whole world. But I also sounded a word of caution that all our efforts for peace, unification, stability and progress would be nullified if our food and nutrition problems were not solved.

In fact, I stand here today a little bit disillusioned and less optimistic than I was on the last occasion. The Report submitted by the Secretariat of the FAO to this Session indicates that the world food situation is less favourable and the perspectives are gloomier. In fact, food production, especially in less developed countries, has gone down with serious shortages in some regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America, whereas other countries have suffered serious cuts in their income from export of agricultural products with disastrous impact on their economies and development plans.

The staggering truth is that the various progress achieved recently on the political and economic front with, inter alia, the emergence of new democracy or market-oriented economies and the efforts at detente, peace and stability are being nullified by food and nutrition problems. It is food insecurity and the need for food which is actually shaking up and destabilizing whole political and socio-economic systems. After what we have witnessed for decades in Third World Countries, the current events in Eastern Europe and the USSR now come to confirm this view. On the last two occasions I addressed this Conference I asked myself the question whether we were not putting into place a new world order whereby military, political and economic domination were being replaced by food domination and food dependency. Recent world events tend to prove that, indeed, food dependency can constitute a terrific weapon.

All reports and analysis, especially those submitted to us by the FAO for this Session, point to a slackening in world economic growth; the debt burden is getting heavier and unbearable for most developing countries, commodity prices are constantly falling, world inflation and interest rates are escalating and we are still witnessing a consistent decrease in resource flows culminating in net negative outflows of capital from developing countries. This means that more people will die of hunger and malnutrition, more countries will fail to attain their development objectives, and more populations will have to call for help and assistance in despair.

Many of my colleagues speaking before me have acknowledged that the situation is desperate unless something dramatic and positive takes place. Many have suggested that the solution lies in an increase in food aid. Food aid provides relief. It certainly should be stepped up urgently, especially for those countries that are so seriously hit. But trade is as important as, if not more important than, food aid.

On the last occasion, I expressed the hope that the conclusion of the Lomé IV Convention between the ACP and EEC countries, the establishment of the European Single Market, the negotiations of new International Commodity Agreement, with the entry into force of the Common Fund for Commodities, and GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations could afford opportunities for improving the general agricultural trade environment and for improving the prospects of agricultural export earnings of developing countries, in particular, against protectionism and non-tariff barriers.

The Lomé IV Convention certainly responded to the ACP countries' need for reforms and structural adjustments by affording the necessary instrument and support. Likewise, the preferential market access afforded to the ACP countries for agricultural products in the Convention and under various protocols attached thereto are very vital for the continued survival and development of this group of countries. However, it is feared that other developments may frustrate these countries and deprive them of their *acquis*. We have been assured that the development in Eastern Europe, the setting up of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the creation of the Single European Market and the European Economic Area with the EFTA group of countries forming a larger trade area should, far from constituting a threat to the access of ACP countries on the European Market, offer greater and better possibilities. We hope that this will be the case and that our interest will be safeguarded. This is why the Mauritian delegation welcomes the EEC as a member of this Organization so that we can, at our level here, better coordinate on all these issues.

We are told that the liberalization of trade in agricultural products with the conclusion of the GATT negotiations could be a panacea to many of our ills. But I support the view of those who have spoken before me that liberalization per se can, while benefiting some countries, disrupt the economy of small vulnerable countries with limited resources which depend (for their continued survival and development) on special trade arrangements for certain agricultural commodities.

While Mauritius recognizes the need for trade liberalization in agricultural products and the harmonization of rules of origin, it feels that these rules should not relate to contractual trade regimes under which tariff preferences are granted.

The question of food security is of paramount importance. If net food importing countries like Mauritius are to benefit from the final package on agriculture, this aspect of the agreement must be fully taken into account. In line with the agreement reached at the mid-term review, possible negative effects of the reform process on net food importing developing countries must at all cost be averted.

A similar upsurge in the import bills may adversely affect our balance of payments; hence, the need to retain the acquired rights under the current Article 18(b) of the General Agreement. We cannot contemplate any change of this article.

There is again in any package to be devised for trade in agriculture the crucial necessity of maintaining the continued viability of preferential trade arrangements entered into between a group of developed and a group of developing countries on agricultural products, the production and export of which are vital for the livelihood and well-being of their populations, their economic development and social progress.

It has been clearly stated before this Conference that with the liberalization of trade in the wake of GATT, developed countries like Europe will adopt substantial reforms resulting in major reductions in prices of agricultural products on their internal market and supply control measures. The European farmers, for example, will obtain substantial compensation for such price reductions and other supply control measures. On the other hand, it has been clearly stated also that the prices of food exports on the world market will go up. So, net food importing countries like Mauritius that purchase its food from the foreign exchange earned from the export of one particular commodity on the EEC market at the internal EEC price, will find its food import bills increasing while its vital foreign exchange earnings decrease.

This is why we plead that small countries like Mauritius be afforded enough safeguard and protection and that we should aim at a successful balanced outcome of the GATT negotiations where all participants will find advantages. We trust and rely on FAO to ensure that our needs be recognized and met in the final outcome of these negotiations.

Sir, Mauritius, in spite of its very limited natural resources, has been quoted as a success story in terms of economic development, especially for its ability to diversify away from a monoculture economy. We have so far succeeded by relying on the support we could muster from friendly countries and international institutions like the FAO. We have adopted the guidelines and objectives set by FAO for the attainment of food security and sustainable agriculture. However, we still depend on our exports from sugar, which represents about 65 percent of our net export earnings.

We have, therefore, in December 1990, submitted to the international community at an international meeting on the agricultural sector of Mauritius a programme of investment for the agricultural sector, including the sugar industry, to ensure the long-term viability of the Mauritian sugar industry and to implement an agricultural modernization programme focusing on a reasonable degree of food security for a densely populated, land-scarce, and geographically isolated country. The main priority areas for future investment have been summarized as follows: (i) modernization of the sugar industry to maintain its long-term efficiency and competitiveness; (ii) optimum utilization of sugar by-products, especially production of energy from sugar cane biomass (bagasse); (iii) water conservation and storage programme to enable expansion of irrigation network; (iv) better management and optimum use of our limited agricultural land resources through land preparation, derocking and mechanization, especially to offset labour shortages; (v) to increase the efficiency and productivity of small planters; (vi) research and development and the introduction of appropriate technology, especially post-harvest technology, to support diversification; (vii) reorganization and modernization of key agricultural institutions and services, including the Ministry of Agriculture, to improve their planning and creative capacity; (viii) fisheries research and development, especially in aquaculture.

We are conscious that the ill effects of ecological degradation can be particularly devastating in confined island ecosystems, hence the need to be particularly careful to maintain the balance between economic gain, the need to exploit our resources rationally, and our responsibility towards future generations. Mauritius has recently adopted a National Environmental Investment Programme. Several projects have been undertaken by the agricultural sector, namely, on reafforestation, the conservation and protection of a number of endemic species of plants and breeds of animals, because we are known for the dodos, and we do not want these species to become as dead as the dodo, the setting up of a national park in the Black River Gorges in the western part of Mauritius, the rehabilitation of nature reserves and outer islets around mainland Mauritius for nature conservation activities, and the preservation of marine ecology, integrated pest management and research, determining norms of pollution by the sugar industry, management of marine and terrestrial natural resources.

We should here thank FAO for its support and advice on these various projects.

Agriculture is expected, in Mauritius, not only to be a producer of export crops, local food crops, feeds and fibre, but also to be an important producer of energy from its agricultural residues resource base. We are, therefore, embarking on an ambitious programme of investment in the sugar industry for the production of electricity from bagasse and other biomass to supply the national grid. The sugar industry can be expected to supply about 25 percent of the ever increasing energy need of Mauritius. Sugar cane bagasse, apart from being environment friendly will save us precious foreign exchange by reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuel.

We commend and support FAO in its contribution for the preparation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development and the World Nutrition Conference. Mauritius is looking forward to participating fully in these two conferences.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, we feel that FAO, despite the major problem it has to confront at the international level and internally as an organization, still has a significant role to play in coordinating efforts to alleviate hunger and promote food production and agricultural development. We hope that our deliberations and decisions at this Session will strengthen further our Organization and help it to attain the various objectives we have set. I therefore wish our Conference all the success it deserves. May God bless you all.

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas.





## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**C 91/PV/9**

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(14 November 1991)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Kuwait, Iceland, Pologne, Gabon, Samoa, Maroc, Dominica, El Salvador, Tonga, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Bhutan, Burundi, Maldives, Namibia, Mozambique

**CHAIRMAN:** Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to the afternoon session. I invite our friend and brother from Kuwait, His Excellency Fahad Al-Hassawi, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Reserves.

**Fahad AL-HASSAWI (Kuwait):** In the name of Allah, the Merciful and Compassionate. Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Honourable Delegates, Members of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am greatly honoured to address this august assembly as the representative of the Free State of Kuwait. This session of the general Conference is being held during the first year of the liberation of Kuwait from the disaster that was ended, thank God, by the combined efforts of the forces of good in the world, and by the efforts of the international community of which you are a vital part.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to FAO and its administration headed by the Director-General, the greetings of His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, and the greetings of the steadfast people and Government of Kuwait.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency, the Pakistani Minister of Agriculture, Mr Abdel Majid Malik, on his election as Chairman of this General Conference. I am convinced that he will lead our deliberations with his well-known abilities and wisdom to complete success. I would also like to express my appreciation for the role being played by the member countries in order to make this Conference a success.

Mr Chairman, the responsibility you are shouldering at the beginning of the new era of understanding between the two superpowers on the international arena, an era in which the world has been able to make considerable strides towards peace and cooperation but still has a long way to go, will undoubtedly lead, thanks to this august body, to achieving a more positive cooperation in the fields of agriculture, fish resources and food in order to make positive steps towards building a less hungry world if not a world free of hunger.

The international community has proved its effective ability to correct mistakes and to make the peoples of the world avoid the disasters of war and destruction. The United Nations organization has proudly made history in this respect.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, the objectives of FAO's General Conference are, as usual, combatting hunger and dealing with the problem of food by increasing its quantity and improving its quality. This means helping the developing countries overcome the difficulties they face in order to be able to improve the agricultural sector and to provide basic food requirements, to better manage and utilize their resources, and to use the appropriate technologies that suit their economic and social conditions.

In the field of food, Kuwait achieved a lot before the Iraqi invasion in 1990. The extensive experiments carried out to produce wheat as food and barley as fodder have yielded positive results. We achieved an increasing degree of self-sufficiency in white meat, eggs and vegetables in addition to the success we achieved in marine resource, conservation and development, thereby playing a leading role in this field in the whole Gulf Area and maybe beyond the Gulf area.

In the field of landscape farming Kuwait adopted an ambitious plan aimed at greening Kuwait. The preliminary results of this ambitious plan were reflected in the expansion of forestry projects, tree-planting, public green parks and highways and road building. The aim of these efforts was to overcome the harsh climatic conditions due to our geographical position.

It is really saddening to witness the massive destruction of this wealth and these riches by the Iraqi invasion; the Iraqi invasion which destroyed our infrastructure which was built during 30 years to be a source of pride for the Kuwaiti people. The deliberate destruction and damage done to our agriculture and environment by the ruthless Iraqi invasion, and the torching of more than 700 oil wells - our only source of income - is unprecedented in history and could rightly be called the crime of our age, if not the crime of all ages.

What happened to our generous land and its good people is unprecedented in history and by far exceeds what happened during the fiercest of wars and the darkest of ages. In addition to the heavy financial losses resulting from the torching of our oil wells, and in addition to the deliberate pouring of millions of barrels of oil into the sea, the consequences of the invasion included the biggest environmental disaster in history. This crime will forever remain a shame on its perpetrators.

Although the effects and dangers of this environmental pollution to the humans, animals, birds and marine resources of the area have not yet been scientifically evaluated, the findings and the reports published by experts and scientists so far all indicate that this will have serious consequences and will cause health damage the results of which will affect human beings for a long time to come. The destruction included both terrestrial and marine environments in addition to air and soil pollution.

Dear delegates, as a result of these acts that led to destruction and devastation, productive farming ground came to a complete halt this year in Kuwait because of the looting of government and private farms and because farm workers fled the invaders. Some of them were made prisoners and are still held by the Iraqis. Instead of being cultivated with food and vegetables our farms today are full of mines and explosives.

As for the farm workers, we do not know what happened to them, nor do we know their whereabouts. From this rostrum I would like to remind the whole world of the problem of our people made prisoners by coercion by the Iraqi regime which has flouted and defied international conventions and agreements. A great number of these prisoners are children, women and old people who were captured and taken to Iraq prisons and camps.

Since our country was liberated, thanks to the efforts of the international community, we are appealing once again to this same international community to hear the cries of the children yearning to see their parents and families and to heed the calls made by the same parents with broken hearts for the return of their beloved ones.

His Highness, the Emir of Kuwait, is touring the friendly countries and addressing the United Nations agencies, accompanied by some children of the bereaved, in the hope that their appeal will be heeded and adopted as an urgent human cause without any delay or complacency.

Finally, we cannot really describe our sorrow at the devastation of our scientific and agricultural research capabilities. You are certainly aware of the eminent scientific role played by the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, especially in the area of food and agriculture. Nothing remains of that Institute. Research material has been plundered, looted, burnt and destroyed, making it necessary to rebuild that precious and valuable library from scratch.

In this respect I would like to appeal to FAO to help us rebuild and enrich the agricultural reference library of the State of Kuwait because we are determined to resume a dignified and free life based on learning and knowledge.

We look forward to coordinating our actions with FAO to help rebuild our agricultural sector and provide us with the necessary technical advice to further expand the area under cultivation and to enhance productivity up to previous levels.

We also appeal to FAO to study the disaster of environmental pollution, its impact and the implications on man, fauna, flora and marine living resources and to help explore ways and means of overcoming the effects of pollution in the air and on the terrestrial and marine environment in the region.

Allow me from this rostrum to hail the memory of our martyrs who gave their lives in defence of their homeland.

I also wish to remember the martyrs from sisterly and friendly countries who stood by our side in the face of injustice and aggression and sacrificed their lives so that the principles of right and justice would prevail.

We hearken to God Almighty to have mercy on them. We will always keep their memory alive in the hearts of all Kuwaitis and all justice-loving people.

In conclusion, I wish to highlight the determined efforts made by the Kuwaiti Government and people on the reconstruction of Kuwait. They have

managed to cap 700 oil wells within the record time of less than seven months.

Kuwait is a country small in size but strong in its faith. We are determined to bring life back to Kuwait and to make it an even better place than it was before through cooperation with the forces of good and justice and the peace and freedom-loving community of nations.

May God bless our efforts and guide our steps to a future of freedom for all mankind.

**Halldór BLÖNDAL (Iceland):** The words environment and sustainable development appear as one of the main themes in FAO's programmes for its future activities. These words also characterize pronouncements by agricultural authorities on environmental issues and calls for sustainable agriculture have replaced the urgent calls once heard for the use of increased inputs to maximize food production.

While it is certainly possible to sharply increase food production by increased inputs of fertilizer and other chemicals in many parts of the world without undue harm to the environment, it is gradually becoming clear to agricultural policy-makers and planners that Mother Nature can only respond to increased inputs up to a limit. When that limit is passed there is rapid environmental deterioration, soil depletion and erosion, water pollution and indeed decreased agricultural output.

The sudden chorus of calls for sustainable agricultural development gives one the feeling that this is a sudden discovery of a new concept for agriculture. The fact is that the word agriculture from the standpoint of a good farmer has always been synonymous with the words sustainable agriculture.

There is no alternative.

The only conceivable alternative to sustainable agriculture would be mining or exploitation but not agriculture. This has been clear to farmers over the centuries and millennia and is also becoming painfully clear to fishermen as overfishing has resulted in decreasing catches. The fishing industry would quickly commit suicide if it were not operated on a sustainable basis.

Nobody is as keenly aware of the necessity of sustaining Nature's agricultural resources as those who use those resources for their own livelihood, the farmers and the fishermen. Too often one gets the feeling that the so-called environmentalists only seem to be interested in preserving intact nature without the presence of man and his needs in nature. They would prefer to see the countryside turned into protected nature parks with wild plants and animals, protected from the farmer and his crops and livestock.

But we do not have a choice of either - or - protection or farming. We cannot only live on this earth, but we must also derive our livelihood from this Earth and what it produces. Thus the responsibility for using and sustaining our agricultural and ocean resources, including protection and reclamation, where necessary, must be entrusted to those who use the land, the soil, the vegetation, the animals, the water and ocean for the

production of our food and other agricultural products. Protection of our agricultural environment must be implemented together with the farmers and their communities.

This responsibility cannot be totally delegated to those who do not live off the land and have little appreciation of what it takes to assure good farming practices of the type that ensures good environmental management.

The first humans came to my country, Iceland, over 1100 years ago. The land and its vegetation had never been seen or touched by man before. At that moment Iceland had a nature without man, indeed nature without any land mammals, a unique situation on this earth in such relatively recent times. In the struggle to derive a living over these 1100 years from a nature located so far north towards the Arctic exerted an enormous toll on the Icelandic nature.

Now, 1100 years later, we realize that our nature has suffered from the presence of man and his needs through exploitation of its woodlands, its grasslands and now its fishbanks.

Some people advocate that we turn the clock back, take man out of the equation and turn the country into a national park with wild flowers and animals.

A utopian but unrealistic approach.

Farmers have come to realize that exploitation of nature has nothing to do with farming and are closely cooperating with the agricultural authorities in adjusting the grazing pressures in our highlands and diverting grazing flocks of livestock from those areas that are too vulnerable and will not sustain grazing. Without their cooperation and without an understanding of the needs and aspirations of the farming community, who indeed only respond to the needs of the consumer, there is no hope for a sustainable agriculture - for assuring adequate supplies of food without degrading our natural environment.

This concept was strongly emphasized at the Conference of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, held in Iceland last October and entitled: The Environment and Sustainable Growth: The Key Role of Farmers.

At this Conference the Dutch Minister of Agriculture said that his Government had set out a policy for environmental protection, the central idea for this policy being that only an efficient, profitable agricultural sector can afford the costs of the measures to protect the environment. He stressed the importance of the fact that each individual farmer bears responsibility for the effects of his farming on the environment and that farmers play a key role in the reconciliation of agriculture and the environment.

In Iceland we are faced with serious soil erosion. Our sensitive ecosystem must be treated with care to prevent loss of soil. Our farmers are determined to rise to this challenge and work hand in hand with our Soil Conservation and our Forestry Service to ensure, through the concept of good farming, a truly sustainable agriculture, which will leave to our children and their descendants a land and a home as good or better than the one we inherited.

I would like to congratulate the Director-General on the emphasis he has placed on environment and sustainable development issues in his Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 and for the medium term. I trust that the voice of FAO, and through it, the voice of the farmer and the fisherman, will be clearly heard in Rio at next year's UN Conference on the Environment and Development. FAO must be the leading voice in promoting a sustainable growth in food production within the concept of proper use of our land and water resources and preservation of our plant and animal biodiversity. Although more urgent in the industrialized countries for the moment, this will soon become a major challenge for many developing countries.

FAO must therefore take the lead in helping its developing Member Nations to make available to them the experience and the knowledge in this field already existing in those countries which have come to terms with their environment and achieved balanced sustainable agricultural systems. FAO must also take the lead in transferring to those countries the new biotechnologies which hold a promise for applying the new, sometimes revolutionary, concepts that have been developed in biology in the industrial world, to solving our environmental problems by allowing us to meet the food needs of the fast growing world population without at the same time harming or even destroying our common home, planet earth.

**Slawomir GBURCZYK (Pologne):** M. le Président, au nom de la délégation polonaise et aussi à mon nom personnel je suis heureux de rejoindre les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, avec les félicitations cordiales à l'occasion de votre élection au poste de Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de cette noble Organisation.

Comme le représentant d'un pays voisin, j'exprime la joie de ma délégation à l'accession de la Lituanie, la Lettonie et l'Estonie à l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture comme Etats indépendants et aussi de Porto Rico comme un Membre Associé de cette Organisation.

Cette conférence a lieu à un moment particulier. En l'espace d'à peine deux ans dans le monde entier, et notamment en Europe, se sont produits de profonds changements. Dans nombre de pays le retour à la liberté s'accompagne de transformations socio-économiques. Tout cela constitue un nouveau défi pour tout le système de l'ONU dont la FAO fait partie.

Dans ces nouvelles conditions, la résolution des problèmes du développement de l'agriculture et de l'amélioration de l'alimentation dans les pays en voie de développement reste toujours une tâche particulièrement importante dans l'ensemble des activités de la FAO.

Néanmoins, nous devons désormais considérer les problèmes de l'alimentation globalement, rechercher l'équilibre entre la production et la consommation et permettre la création d'une agriculture durable à l'échelle globale.

Les problèmes de l'agriculture liés au passage de l'économie planifiée à l'économie de marché constituent pour la FAO un domaine jusqu'à présent inconnu.



La Pologne a déjà une certaine expérience dans ce domaine.

Je voudrais la présenter brièvement.

Depuis deux ans, la Pologne vit de profondes réformes économiques. Les bases juridiques de l'économie de marché doivent être créées et l'héritage de l'ancien système économique doit être, le plus vite possible, éliminé.

La politique agricole dépend des objectifs généraux de la politique économique.

L'agriculture était pratiquement considérée sur un pied d'égalité avec les autres secteurs économiques. Et c'est sur ces bases que la campagne supportait sa part des coûts sociaux des réformes.

L'agriculture polonaise, où heureusement ont toujours dominé les exploitations familiales, a fait preuve d'une grande capacité d'adaptation aux nouvelles conditions. En dépit de très grands changements économiques et de suppression presque totale de dotations pour la production agricole, l'agriculture a maintenu un niveau élevé de production. L'exportation des produits agricoles a subitement augmenté et on a pu observer une nette amélioration de l'efficacité de l'exploitation.

La structure de la production s'adapte rapidement aux exigences aussi bien du marché national qu'étranger.

L'agriculture polonaise, dans sa majeure partie est un secteur privé, comme je l'ai évoqué tout à l'heure, et exige une transformation de la propriété bien moins importante que le reste de notre économie.

Par contre, tout l'environnement de l'agriculture, de l'industrie agro-alimentaire au commerce, en passant par le système bancaire, l'enseignement et jusqu'à l'organisation de la formation et de la vulgarisation agricoles, demande à être profondément modifié.

Nous avons une certaine expérience dans ce domaine. Nous la communiquerons bien volontiers à d'autres pays envisageant l'introduction de réformes comparables.

Nous sommes partisans de la libéralisation du commerce et la Pologne soutient pleinement l'activité de la FAO visant la restriction du protectionnisme de l'Etat sur les marchés des produits agricoles.

Le principe d'indépendance alimentaire de chaque pays devrait dans l'avenir faire place au système de sécurité alimentaire établi d'abord au niveau régional et ensuite au niveau mondial.

Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO est prédestinée à entreprendre la création d'un tel système dans le futur.

La délégation polonaise apprécie hautement l'activité de la FAO en faveur de la croissance de la production agricole et du niveau de l'alimentation. Néanmoins, un problème également important, est constitué à notre avis par le développement de la campagne - comprise dans le sens le plus large de ce terme - comme lieu de production agricole et non agricole et comme habitat de la population agricole et non agricole.

La campagne devrait être à la fois le lieu d'une harmonieuse cohabitation de l'homme et de son environnement naturel et celui où est cultivée la spécificité de la culture rurale.

La délégation polonaise se prononce pour que les problèmes relatifs aux espaces ruraux, dans toute leur complexité, tout autant que le soutien à la production agricole, deviennent un domaine d'activité à part entière de la FAO.

C'est cela qui permettra d'obtenir la nécessaire harmonie et l'équilibre entre la production agricole et la fonction sociale et écologique de l'agriculture à l'échelle aussi bien nationale que globale.

A nos yeux, l'établissement de cet équilibre est un des défis majeurs du XXIème siècle qui constitue une chance unique pour la FAO – celle de faire fructifier son énorme potentiel intellectuel, technique et organisationnel.

C'est par votre intermédiaire que je voudrais remercier le Directeur général, le Secrétariat ainsi que toute le personnel de la FAO pour le soutien à nos efforts en faveur de la transformation de notre économie et notamment de l'agriculture.

Les réformes économiques dans l'Europe de l'Est et dans l'Europe centrale se poursuivent en dépit de nombreux obstacles. Nous comptons donc toujours sur le soutien de la FAO à la réalisation de cette tâche.

La Pologne, non seulement apporte son plein soutien à l'activité de la FAO pour la transformation de l'agriculture des pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale, mais également lui offre son aide-.

Nous sommes en train de conclure des accords avec des républiques de l'Union soviétique sur l'aide à la privatisation de l'agriculture. Nous offrons, entre autres, notre aide pour le développement d'un véritable mouvement coopératif rural, dans la formation pratique de jeunes agriculteurs, dans le perfectionnement du système d'éducation agricole ainsi que dans l'application pratique de nouvelles technologies de production. Nous considérons que dans ces pays, il est plus facile d'appliquer les expériences polonaises dans le domaine des technologies et de l'organisation que celles des pays les plus industrialisés d'Europe.

Nous voudrions pouvoir compter aussi sur l'aide de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Les transformations qui s'opèrent actuellement en Europe centrale et orientale ainsi que dans bien d'autres régions du monde constituent à la fois un grand défi et une grande chance pour notre Organisation.

La transformation de l'agriculture de ces régions, si elle est bien guidée, devrait contribuer à la rendre plutôt complémentaire que concurrentielle par rapport aux principaux producteurs alimentaires dans le monde. C'est une nouvelle chance et en même temps un nouveau risque.

En sous-estimant l'importance des transformations dynamiques qui s'opèrent actuellement et en livrant ces pays à eux-mêmes, nous risquerions de faire apparaître dans le monde de nouvelles régions de surproduction alimentaire et simultanément de nouvelles régions de sous-alimentation.

**Eugène Kakou MAYAZA (Gabon):** La vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO se tient au moment où nous célébrons le 40ème anniversaire du transfert du siège de la FAO à Rome.

C'est une occasion pour nous de rendre un hommage mérité à cette ville dont la vocation agricole a été affirmée dès sa fondation par Romulus.

Permettez-moi de saisir cette occasion pour vous adresser les chaleureuses félicitations de la délégation de mon pays pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de la Conférence générale. Mes félicitations s'adressent également à tous les membres du bureau qui vous entourent et qui contribueront avec vous au bon déroulement de nos travaux.

Je suis également satisfait de saluer aujourd'hui les nouveaux membres de l'Organisation à qui je présente mes sincères félicitations et mes meilleurs souhaits de bienvenue parmi nous.

La vingt-sixième session de notre Conférence se déroule juste après qu'un pays membre de notre Organisation, la République des Philippines, a été victime d'une calamité naturelle d'une rare violence. Ce malheureux événement vient encore nous rappeler que nous devons mieux nous organiser et mieux nous préparer à affronter des événements semblables à travers le monde et faire davantage preuve de solidarité avec les peuples qui sont frappés. Que le peuple philippin trouve ici l'expression de la solidarité du peuple gabonais. La solidarité que nous souhaitons pour notre Organisation doit être guidée par la nécessité d'améliorer la situation alimentaire dans le monde et non par la seule volonté de satisfaire nos intérêts particuliers.

Le contexte économique actuel se caractérise par une crise généralisée dont les répercussions sont très graves pour les pays en développement.

Devant faire face à une dette de plus en plus lourde, ces pays sont appelés à faire des choix parfois douloureux qui les conduisent parfois à privilégier les contraintes extérieures par rapport aux besoins vitaux de leurs peuples. C'est dans ce contexte que l'on observe que la situation alimentaire dans la plupart de ces pays ne cesse de se détériorer.

Il est bon d'affirmer que la dignité de l'homme va de pair avec ses droits fondamentaux qui sont, entre autres, le droit à la vie, à une meilleure éducation, à de meilleurs soins, à la justice, à la parole, à une bonne alimentation, mais il est impérieux de voir cette affirmation se traduire par des actes concrets à travers le monde car tous ces droits sont intimement liés.

Les problèmes de l'environnement se situent de nos jours au même titre que ceux de la démocratie pluraliste, c'est-à-dire au centre de nos préoccupations. Les pays en développement, dont le Gabon, déploient des efforts considérables pour consolider le système démocratique pluraliste qu'ils ont librement choisi.

Ce choix pour une démocratie pluraliste ne doit en aucun cas nous faire perdre de vue que ces pays doivent être construits et que pour ce faire, toutes leurs ressources seront utilisées à cette fin.

Les populations de nos pays ont toujours su préserver l'environnement dans lequel elles vivent. Il leur est difficile de le détruire. Les nouvelles formes de protection de l'environnement seront mises en place, mais elles devront tenir nécessairement compte du besoin vital de nos économies en ressources financières dont elles sont privées à l'heure actuelle.

Pour des pays qui tirent une partie essentielle de leurs ressources de la forêt, il est parfois difficile de concilier de tels objectifs sans l'appui effectif et entier de la communauté internationale; le débat sur la protection de l'environnement est devenu un débat économique et peut-être même un débat pour la survie des pays en développement.

La sécurité alimentaire des gabonais est une question prioritaire pour le gouvernement de mon pays qui a placé l'autosuffisance alimentaire au centre de ses préoccupations.

La faiblesse de la population rurale et l'importance de l'exode rural ont conduit le Gouvernement de la République gabonaise à développer des actions qui visent à ramener les jeunes vers la terre. C'est dans ce cadre que des efforts financiers importants ont été consentis en vue de créer des unités agro-industrielles qui doivent servir de base à un développement soutenu du monde rural.

Dans presque tous les domaines, des actions vont être entreprises:

Action d'éducation, destinée à améliorer les conditions de vie des agriculteurs; action de vulgarisation destinée à accroître la production par l'introduction de cultures améliorées à haut rendement; incitation au développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche.

A terme, le Gabon devra se suffire sur le plan alimentaire et mettre à la disposition des autres Etats ses excédents de production.

Le Directeur général nous propose d'approuver par consensus le budget prévu pour la période 1992-93, après avoir reconnu que de nombreux Etats Membres ne parviennent pas à s'acquitter de leurs obligations actuelles. Une augmentation du budget se traduirait par une augmentation des cotisations réelles des Etats Membres. Bien que notre Organisation soit de plus en plus sollicitée, il nous revient d'adapter nos moyens à nos besoins en invitant les pays riches à manifester plus de solidarité envers les pays en développement et en contribuant davantage aux programmes de la FAO.

Nous apprécions hautement la contribution de la FAO à nos programmes nationaux, ainsi que celle d'organismes tels que le FIDA, qui nous aide à mettre en place des programmes de développement villageois car, pour nous, il n'est pas réaliste de laisser le monde rural à l'écart des grands changements que connaît l'humanité. En effet, en dehors des problèmes d'endettement, de matières premières, d'immigration et d'environnement, les problèmes de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement sont au coeur du devenir de l'humanité, et particulièrement ceux de l'agriculture en Afrique. Dans cette perspective, nous réitérons nos vœux de voir les Organisations des Nations Unies présentes à Rome oeuvrer pour une collaboration plus étroite à cette grande tâche.

Depuis sa création, la FAO a déployé d'immenses efforts en faveur de différents pays. Par ses prises de position et ses activités bien adaptées, elle a su lutter contre la famine et bien d'autres calamités. Nous croyons

qu'elle peut encore jouer un rôle éminemment positif dans le renforcement de la coopération entre les pays du Nord, riches, et ceux du Sud, pauvres.

**Tavita TUPUOLA LEUPOLU (Samoa):** I bring greetings from our Prime Minister and our Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries, to this Twenty-sixth Session of FAO's supreme governing body.

It is my pleasure to be here to speak on behalf of the Government and people of Western Samoa. For most of you, our small country may be a dot on the global map, but we are a nation of some 160 000 people with a culture as distinguished as it is ancient. Some of you may have heard of Samoa through the recently completed Rugby World Cup in Europe. We have traditions and customs that give our people a stability that the rest of the world would envy; a stability which also ensures cohesiveness and equity in our society. Development and progress can only happen in an environment where political and social stability prevails. This we have over 29 years of independence. However, our region has its special features and unique economic and developmental problems and needs some effort at understanding.

To you, Mr Director-General, we would like to express our appreciation for the very valuable support your representatives and experts have provided over the years. Our relations with FAO have been long, cordial and highly beneficial. We greatly prize this association and look forward to its enhancement and more varied development. In this context, we would like to recall two innovations of the many Mr Edouard Saouma has made, which have particularly impressed us. Both are, in fact, two faces of the same coin, namely, decentralization and the Technical Cooperation Programme.

My delegation, then led by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, had proposed to the Conference in 1989 that the status and responsibilities of the FAO Representation in Samoa be further enhanced as a regional or sub-regional office for the South Pacific. We regret that the people who prepared the Conference report somewhat omitted to mention our suggestion which had been made on behalf of two delegations then present. I am repeating it now in the hope that efforts can be initiated by the Director-General to achieve this objective, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

We have been grouped together with Asia, and the regional activities, inevitably, give concentration to problems that are grand in scale and intensity, corresponding to the much larger populations that inhabit Asia. In this multitude, our small island nations and their unique problems get ignored. It has not been surprising, therefore, that within the UNDP programming exercises, Maldives have asked for a place in the South Pacific sub-region where their identity would be more pronounced. I would not like to labour on this, for I do not intend to criticize the Regional Office in Bangkok. My only humble intention is to point out the generic difference. Our countries find it difficult, almost impossible, to participate in the governance of FAO's Regular Programme in the Region, because costs are high. A restructuring of some kind would remove this anomaly, thus making us genuine and active partners in the Organization which we revere and whose Director-General we greatly admire.

As to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), we welcome the slight increase the Director-General has proposed for the next biennium. However, some aspects of Chapter 4 of Conference document C 91/3 bother us. While we

consider some of the criteria for approvals somewhat restrictive, we have abided by them because we appreciate the constraints within which they are laid. But, we are disturbed by the formula of country allocations proposed on pages 243-246 of the document. These negate the very basic premise for TCP, i.e., its urgency, unprogrammed character and pressure of need. Each one of the countries in the South Pacific will receive a scanty sum of US\$140 000 in two years, which suggests that not even one decent project can be undertaken. TCP's field operations and their impact would, consequently, be lost. This would be an invitation to long distance, academic consultancies and we would have no opportunity to have training and advices tested. It is our view that the present system of hard-boiled technical evaluation of requests and insistence on 'ground implementation' of projects be maintained. The formula militates against the integrity of FAO's Regular Programme.

There is one aspect of the Field Programme that also worries us, through the problem is not caused by FAO. This is the very high cost of a good expert. Every time wise men come together to determine yardsticks for United Nations development assistance, they are so made that after every five years the real quantum declines, and for smaller countries, with minuscule IPF, it becomes very difficult to programme for development. While we must have high quality experts - for we will settle for no less - could we find a way to obtain them at less cost to smaller and less affluent nations? FAO has been a forerunner in promoting networks, supporting local institutions and government execution where feasible. Is it not possible for FAO to vigorously and deliberately try to move towards a new set of arrangements that will give us some breathing space? It is our hope that FAO will link up TCDC more closely with project and programme implementation wherever relevant expertise is obtainable. Maybe this could be tried with TCP to gain experience.

On the substance of Programme of Work and Budget we do have many comments, however, some observations may be in order.

First, we are a little surprised that in the whole document, not once did we find mention of our South Pacific sub-region. No. Let me be absolutely honest. We particularly regret the absence of reference to the establishment of special mechanisms for plant quarantine since the Asia-Pacific Plant Protection Commission has been found inadequate for our sub-region. Our region suffers regularly, perhaps more so than any other region, from natural disasters. In one such calamity in 1990 alone, more than one year of GDP was completely destroyed. Damage to our rainforests which Tropical Forests Action Plan (TFAD) so imaginatively initiated by FAO hopes to preserve, was colossal. Perhaps something can be done to mitigate the suffering. There are other special needs like Forestry and Fishery, and root crops are our major assets, thus much of our progress hinges on them. While special research institutions have been established in other parts of the world, our unique farming systems remain unresearched. Our individual countries cannot muster those resources. Our trade problems are similarly unique, and we would like all these to be addressed within the limits of FAO's mandate.

We applaud the New Zealand's stand on the GATT round on trade. These free countries we feel should give more open and fairer conditions for produce from other countries, particularly where developing countries have surplus produce that needs some comparative marketing edge. However we also take this opportunity to ask our more affluent neighbours in the South Pacific

to be less restrictive in their own policy on quarantine. Thus allowing our neighbouring island countries to export to their countries and to lavish less favour on trade to the far away South American countries.

Other observations we wish to make include: (a) the Plant Protection Commission, based in Thailand for the Asia and Pacific Region. Despite our willingness to attend regular meetings of the Commission, financial constraints prohibit us from participating, and I am sure my other colleagues from the South Pacific who are here will agree with me on this. We are happy that FAO has agreed to set up a South Pacific Protection Commission to address the needs of the South Pacific countries, relevant and applicable to their own unique situations; (b) Second, Mr Chairman, there is a Ministers of Agriculture' Conference held every two years in Thailand for Asia and the Pacific Region. Again participation by South Pacific island countries is irregular due mainly to financial constraints. Besides, the problems of Asia and the Pacific are not the same. I therefore strongly recommend for consideration by this Conference, perhaps a South Pacific Office to address problems unique to the South Pacific Region. It is much better to have on hand technical expertise on fisheries, forestry, agronomy, plant protection to deal with problems, than having to seek help when problems arise; (c) Third, Mr Chairman, in view of the increased membership of the South Pacific countries over the last few years it is suggested that the number of seats for the South Pacific Region be increased from one (1) to two (2), in the FAO Council. In suggesting this Mr Chairman, I am well aware of the importance and the progress being made in the field of agriculture in both Australia and New Zealand, and therefore suggest that one seat be set aside for them, while the other be allocated for the rest of the region in the FAO Council; (d) Finally, Mr Chairman, we ask that FAO give more support to the use of national expertise, wherever possible within the South Pacific Region, the opportunity for improved manpower development can only be enhanced by practical participation in the decision-making process.

Otherwise we support the work programme as formulated by the Director-General. We have also a regional organization on environmental issues (SPREP) which will have its headquarters in Apia, Western Samoa. There is so much in the programme that can usefully cooperate with FAO and reinforce their activities.

We hope our observations have been constructive. We would like to reiterate our support to FAO whose multilateral and neutral character we appreciate. That is why we have consistently advocated its greater involvement in the execution of projects funded by ADB, IFAD, World Bank and UNDP. We also support the Budget proposals made by the Director-General. Budget making is never an easy task; but, with all the constraints, we consider the Budget broadly acceptable.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, I would like to restate my Government's assurance of its support of FAO Programmes, and the Director-General's proposal on Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years.

**Zine EL ABIDINE SEBTI (Maroc):** Permettez-moi de présenter, au nom de la délégation marocaine, mes félicitations à M. Malik Abdul Majid pour la confiance que les pays membres de la FAO lui ont témoignée en lui confiant la présidence de cette Conférence.

Mes félicitations vont également à mes collègues, les Ambassadeurs du Lesotho, de la Colombie et de la Tchécoslovaquie pour leur élection à la Vice-Présidence.

Permettez-moi aussi d'adresser mes félicitations à M. Saouma et au secrétariat pour la qualité des documents établis pour la préparation de cette Conférence. Leur contenu et leur présentation ont grandement facilité le travail de la délégation que je préside.

Notre joie est grande d'avoir parmi nous la Lituanie, l'Estonie, la Lettonie et Porto Rico. Je suis certain que leur présence parmi nous apportera une contribution efficace à nos travaux présents et futurs.

Il y a deux ans se tenait, ici même, la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO. A cette occasion, la situation mondiale en matière de développement, de nutrition et d'alimentation, de dégradation de l'environnement, de commerce international de produits agricoles... avait été soulevée et discutée. Elle était, de l'avis de tous, inquiétante.

Pour tenter de faire face à cette situation, des directives et recommandations avaient alors été prises par les pays membres de la FAO. Elles suggéraient les moyens et mesures à mettre en oeuvre.

Pour que, dans la majorité des pays en développement, la production agricole puisse être améliorée et tendre à rejoindre le niveau des besoins; pour vaincre la faim qui continue à hanter bon nombre de pays; pour promouvoir et intensifier les efforts visant à assurer un développement durable; pour protéger l'environnement dans le cadre d'une bonne gestion des ressources naturelles; pour faire en sorte que soient supprimées les barrières commerciales et le protectionnisme qui bloquent les échanges mondiaux des produits agricoles et alimentaires, désavantageant ainsi les pays en développement vis-à-vis des pays développés.

Il n'y a bien sûr aucun doute sur le fait que ces directives et recommandations avaient un caractère d'urgence. Ceci reste vrai aujourd'hui étant donné que les situations dont elles visaient l'amélioration n'ont guère évolué durant les deux dernières années.

La mise en application des aspects de ces directives et orientations qui entrent dans le cadre du mandat de la FAO a été extrêmement timide. Il y avait d'un côté l'ambition des objectifs et de l'autre un organisme se débattant dans une situation financière difficile. Les retombées de la situation qu'a vécue et que continue à vivre la FAO ont été négatives sur toutes ses activités, et particulièrement en ce qui concerne l'assistance aux pays en développement.

Le Maroc a confiance dans le rôle que joue notre Organisation. Cette position semble être aussi celle de l'ensemble des pays membres qui avaient donné la preuve de ce sentiment en adoptant, en 1989, dans une ambiance de consensus général, la Résolution 10/89 sur l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

A la veille du démarrage du cinquième cycle du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) et dans le climat de détente que connaît le monde, mais aussi et malheureusement dans un environnement macro-économique défavorable pour la majorité des pays, le Maroc souhaite que tous les pays membres renouvellent leur confiance dans les potentialités d'action de



cette Organisation. Et cela devrait, nous semble-t-il, se traduire, à l'occasion de cette Conférence, par l'adoption d'une stratégie adéquate qui s'articulerait autour des axes suivants:

Rappeler l'importance des directives et orientations déjà adoptées; insister auprès des pays membres pour qu'ils prévoient les moyens et les mesures nécessaires à l'application de ces directives et orientations; mettre tout en oeuvre pour que les décisions de cette Conférence puissent être prises par consensus.

La FAO, forte de l'appui de tous ses membres, pourra apporter une contribution à la solution des problèmes entravant le développement, et notamment celui des échanges internationaux qui constitue un des facteurs principaux auxquels se heurtent, dans leurs efforts de développement, les pays du tiers monde.

Nombre d'entre eux, dont le Maroc, ont adhéré à la politique d'ajustement structurel leur imposant des contraintes souvent plus strictes que celles en vigueur dans les pays développés. Quand les effets de cette politique commencent à se faire sentir positivement sur le niveau de la production, les nombreuses barrières commerciales et le protectionnisme ne leur laissent aucune chance de se placer sur le marché international.

C'est pourquoi il est indispensable que l'ensemble des pays concernés prennent conscience qu'il ne peut y avoir développement sans échanges et qu'ils fassent l'effort nécessaire pour que les règles du commerce international, telles que pratiquées dans les faits, ne constituent pas une entrave supplémentaire au développement.

Une des préoccupations importantes de la communauté internationale est de protéger l'environnement et de sauvegarder les ressources naturelles.

Nombreux sont ceux qui pensent que l'avenir de la planète dépend de la capacité de l'humanité à protéger et à restaurer les équilibres naturels.

Mais cette bataille ne peut être gagnée qu'avec la participation active de l'ensemble des habitants de cette planète, dont une grande partie vit au-dessous du seuil de pauvreté. Or, ces populations ne peuvent souvent survivre qu'au détriment de leur environnement. Ainsi, dans ce domaine aussi, tous les pays sont concernés et aucun résultat important dans les régions pauvres ne peut être obtenu dans la sauvegarde des ressources naturelles sans une intervention massive permettant d'accroître le revenu de ces populations.

Le monde a pris conscience que l'accentuation des différences entre riches et pauvres menace son équilibre même. Il doit aujourd'hui mettre en place les moyens permettant de faire face à cette situation.

La FAO est l'un des cadres dans lesquels la communauté internationale peut intervenir pour créer les conditions adéquates à un développement durable. Il nous appartient à tous, dans le cadre de cette Conférence, d'en tirer les conclusions et de prendre les décisions adéquates.

**Maynard JOSEPH (Dominica):** Mr Chairman, the Director-General, Excellencies, Delegates and Observers. Mr Chairman, permit me as a result of the time limit to merely make excerpts from my prepared speech.

It is for me an honour to be here to address you at this, the Twenty-sixth Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Let me extend to you, and in a very special way to the Director-General, very warm greetings on behalf of the government of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

A review of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 will reveal a number of significant areas for our attention. You will note in particular that FAO must continue to operate within a dynamic system. Between the time of the preparation of the work programme, events were changing within an international context at such a pace that it would be surprising if the final product turned out by the planner was indeed quite the same as the final output.

Mr Chairman, with regard to the points on agriculture, while it is true that tourism has had considerable impact and a demonstrable potential for increasing that impact on the economies of the Caribbean states, agriculture still remains a dominant economic sector. In some islands, agriculture constitutes 40 percent of the GDP and employs 40 percent of the labour force. In others, agriculture is responsible or accounts for 80 percent of the total export earnings, and in my own country, Dominica, foreign earnings from agriculture account for 70 percent of the total. Therefore, the growing demand and exposure of agriculture to global competition demands that the sector adopts policies and strategies which will increase productivity and enhance market capability. This also brings to the fore the very great and very many challenges which we in the small island economies must face. It also brings into focus our dependence on international support if we are to survive these challenges.

The Conference of the FAO will, at the request of Council, focus on priority areas of increased resources for environment and sustainable development. The meeting will also focus on agriculture, data development, women in development and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Also significant will be the proposed international Conference on Nutrition and the initiative in forestry under the Tropical Forestry Action Programme. All of these actions will continue to make considerable demands on FAO and on member states in particular. These demands dictate that there be increased collaboration with NGOs both at the local and international level.

The challenges to FAO and indeed the challenges which are being posed to developing countries are made greater in the light of the demands for competitive production. Very often these challenges increasingly call for appropriate adjustments in the structure of the economies of many of the developing states. Many of the problems affecting agricultural production can be seen either as physical input factors, economic factors, cultural and environmental factors, and knowledge factors. If we therefore examine these problem areas more closely we will realize that any programme which would provide for the active collaboration of the FAO and the Member States require considerable resources to ensure adaptation to the circumstances as we move from one region of the world to another. It is in this regard that attention will therefore have to be focused on the FAO's Programme of Technical Cooperation.

The agricultural sector has significance in the process of economic growth and development based on its direct contribution to employment, its role as foreign exchange earner and import substitution in food and raw material.

Agriculture and the agricultural sector continue to make a significant impact on the balance of payment performance and to employment in particular. As earlier indicated, the agricultural sector in the Caribbean region continues to absorb considerable levels of the labour force and with few exceptions remains an area of potential growth. Yet it is ironic perhaps that in a region where food production and primary agricultural exports remain major income earners, there should be such high dependence on the imported supplies of food. However, when one considers the interdependence of Member Nations on each other this therefore is understandable.

Food also has another important policy impact as it relates to social stability, and this assumes that certain minimum quantities in the right nutritional levels should always be available, and while this may be so in the context of the Commonwealth Caribbean for the most part, this is not necessarily the position globally. Therefore it seems imperative that the FAO must continue to emphasize its technical cooperation programmes as a way of helping Member States to develop their food production capacities both for the purposes of export and domestic food security. These technical cooperation programmes may be required in production programmes, soil conservation, husbandry, pest and disease control, and indeed in very important areas of reducing post-harvest losses. It should also be technical assistance which does not only emphasize production, but equally emphasizing productivity, for therein lies one of the major challenges which now faces Caribbean agriculture.

In recent years the efforts of FAO in my own country have been laudable. We have received considerable Technical Cooperation Programme support in many areas, namely, post-harvest, water conservation, forestry and fisheries management, in library and agricultural information documentation, agricultural policy analysis, forest inventory and in rural communications. All of these efforts have had the fundamental and critical aim of helping to make Dominica's agricultural production more efficient.

The recent programme in video and rural communications is of particular significance, since through this programme we expect to change the perception of many farmers so that agriculture can be seen more from a business perspective. Thus, our diversification effort will also focus on the policy objective of import substitution. Conscious always that even these efforts and initiatives must be price competitive and seen by our consumers as viable alternatives to imports of similar nutritional value. Increasingly also our newly established video facility will be used to inculcate in our consumers an appreciation for locally produced commodities.

These initiatives will also assist with the modernization of our agriculture so that critical minimum levels of mechanization can be employed notwithstanding the difficult terrain on which our farmers must produce.

In 1989, following hurricane Hugo and the devastation to agriculture and losses sustained in fisheries, the Director-General launched an appeal at the Twenty-fifth Conference urging Member Governments to support the rehabilitation and reactivation of agriculture and fisheries. I regret that I am not able to report any significant success from this appeal. However, the timeliness with which the FAO itself responded to our appeal by providing short-term assistance to our farmers and fishermen is a testimony

of the capacity of this Organization to respond promptly within its limited resources to the needs of Member States. With these limited resources external loans and support from two friendly countries, we were able to rehabilitate our agriculture.

With regard to the world economic environment, many are of the view that the overall economic environment has been generally unfavourable to agriculture in both 1990 and 1991. The economic slowdown already under way in industrialized nations was perhaps accentuated by the effects of the Gulf crisis with its many negative effects on the economies of the developing world. The overall economic impact and agricultural systems were hit by slower growth.

High levels of farm support and protection, particularly in the developed countries, continue to distort resource allocation. It is against this background that the outcome of the Uruguay Round remains in question because the developed world has indeed a considerable task to dismount its programmes of subsidies to agriculture. These difficulties and problems are made more complex because these economies depend on the natural resource base for their very survival, and yet to produce on a sustainable basis demands that we must be alert and conscious of the environment in which these productive processes take place. The actions of the international community therefore must be multifaceted. It must be actions aimed at environmental protection within their own national boundaries. It must be actions aimed at helping with technological advances which are environmentally safe. The actions must also reflect a certain level of appreciation of the problems of the developing world in their ability to utilize their resources of land, water and forest for employment and social and economic well-being of their people. It follows therefore, that developing countries would be hard pressed to achieve either competitiveness in primary production or sustainability in agriculture without adequate inflows of external resources. These external resources are a prerequisite in the transformation of economic activity.

In this new world environment, Mr Chairman, the Caribbean countries which had been marketing their primary agriculture under preferential arrangements will be asked to compete openly. We are satisfied that while trade liberalization in agriculture may eventually hold positive benefits to the world economies, in the short run the economies of the developing world, particularly those which are primary agriculture producers, will be considerably affected in a negative way. How, then do we address this potential for political instability while at the same time maintaining foreign debt servicing at acceptable levels? It seems to me that as we move more closely toward agricultural trade liberalization our capital investment requirements will increase at a substantial rate.

If we are to survive and indeed provide our people with the basic requirements of housing, education, health care and employment, we must adopt new approaches toward agriculture, and in this regard agricultural diversification holds some potential.

But these agricultural diversification efforts worldwide reveal a need for substantial inflows in capital, mechanization, technical expertise and marketing support arrangements. It will also require conscious development of new export areas and substantial policy definition and adoption in export marketing and export financing initiatives which until now have largely been available to the manufacturing sector, particularly in the

areas of guaranteed export credit schemes. These schemes will have to be extended to agriculture and the related area of fisheries.

In conclusion, it seems evident that in order to achieve competitiveness in agriculture and self-sustaining growth, this will only be done with the injection of considerable external resources both human and financial. Given the absence of these resources in adequate levels in our sub-region, the donor countries will have to assist in providing necessary macro-economic analytical support which will help us develop appropriate policies so that maximum use can be made of development aid resources. Agriculture will therefore remain a central feature of our economic development model, not only because of its high employment capability and its export earning potential but also because of the important considerations for food security and social stability.

In all this a very critical challenge which faces the FAO, my own country and indeed the Member Nations has to do with the management of resources in both the private and public sector which must ensure effective people's participation. It is my hope that the adoption and implementation of the work programme for the biennium 1992-93 will record us as having made considerable progress towards ensuring a better life for many who still see the world as an uncaring place. The greater good must be the consolidation of all efforts towards a world where the resources are more evenly distributed.

**Jaime Mauricio SALAZAR (El Salvador):** Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, Malik Abdul Majid, Sr. Director General de la FAO, Sres. Ministros de Agricultura de los Países Miembros, señores invitados especiales, señoras y señores.

Permítaseme felicitar al Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, Malik Abdul Majid, por el honor que nos confiere al poder liderar este foro tan importante. Felicitar también al Sr. Director General de la FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, por su incansable labor en pro de todos los países y de los sectores agrícolas del mundo.

Este foro también se ha enriquecido y felicitamos muy atentamente a los nuevos Estados Miembros de Letonia, Lituania y Estonia, y al Estado Asociado de Puerto Rico. Asimismo, presentar a esta augusta Asamblea el más atento saludo, en nombre del Gobierno y el pueblo de El Salvador, con nuestro reconocimiento a la vez por la brillante oportunidad que se nos brinda de intercambiar ideas y experiencias sobre el trabajo en común de todos los países con la FAO, a nivel mundial; y poder plantear, además, una relación sucinta sobre el ser y quehacer particular de mi país, especialmente en lo relativo al sector agropecuario salvadoreño, de cuyo evidente proceso actual de desarrollo la FAO no es ajena.

Por eso, estimo un alto honor y una ocasión privilegiada el hecho de mi presencia y mi exposición de hoy, aquí, durante el 26º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Cuando el contexto mundial nos sorprende con cambios muy significativos en lo político-social, con giros irreversibles hacia procesos de real democratización; y cuando, de igual manera, ese mismo contexto, también de manera sorprendente, nos presenta enormes avances técnico-científicos, como incuestionable evidencia del proceso de desarrollo de la humanidad, pareciera que, como algo paradójico, todas, o casi todas las naciones, enfrentan circunstancias adversas que les son comunes, tales como: la inflación, la recesión económica, la devaluación, la inestabilidad política y el desequilibrio social, entre otras, las cuales, sin duda, constituyen un reto que nos impone un esfuerzo cada vez mayor, para obtener los beneficios que nos permitan un mejoramiento integral y creciente en todos los campos, como corresponde realmente a toda nación libre y soberana.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, El Salvador inició desde los primeros días de gobierno, en junio de 1989, su programa de ajuste estructural, con verdadero entusiasmo y responsabilidad, reconociendo este ajuste como una medida esencial para el ordenamiento económico nacional, con el fin de lograr la inserción de la economía salvadoreña en el contexto de la economía mundial.

El programa de gobierno ha emprendido también la apertura económica al comercio y el alejamiento del control estatal sobre los entes productivos de la nación, como la banca, el comercio exterior y las regulaciones comerciales internas. Puedo con mucha satisfacción, informarles que el sector agropecuario está volviendo a ser responsabilidad de la iniciativa de productores, y no sujeto a dictámenes estatales.

Aunado al programa económico, también está en marcha el programa social de la nación, dirigido especialmente a los salvadoreños más necesitados que deben recibir ayuda compensatoria en los programas de ajuste estructural.

Gracias a una férrea disciplina económica y fiscal, El Salvador está recibiendo ayuda financiera de organismos internacionales que le permiten accionar en el campo económico, como en el social.

Hemos contado, y contamos, con respuestas positivas e inmediatas; y nuestra economía, si bien todavía atraviesa por momentos difíciles, en gran medida nos ofrece perspectivas halagadoras en el contexto de una economía social de mercado, cuyo futuro es altamente esperanzador.

En congruencia con las políticas económicas, se han puesto en marcha políticas sectoriales agropecuarias. En el caso de los granos básicos, principal modo de subsistencia de los salvadoreños, se han liberalizado los precios, se ha clausurado la Institución Estatal de Regulación de Abastecimientos, se opera un sistema de banda de precios, para la importación de granos básicos, se opera un centro de información de precios de granos básicos, se incentiva la comercialización privada de los mismos y se mantiene una reserva estratégica de granos básicos.

Se trabaja, además, árdidamente en un plan de inversión y modernización de los programas de investigación y extensión para responder a las urgentes necesidades del mejoramiento del sector y de sus pequeños productores bajo esquemas de sostenibilidad y protección del medio ambiente.

El área de sanidad animal y vegetal, también está siendo objeto de inversión para su modernización y poder dotarla de la capacidad necesaria que permita proteger a los consumidores nacionales, así como también facilitar la exportación de productos a mercados internacionales.

El presente Gobierno ha tomado pasos positivos para la consolidación del proceso agrario en El Salvador, especialmente a través de dos instrumentos esenciales:

La creación de la Ley del Régimen Especial del dominio de la tierra, cuyo objetivo primordial es conseguirle la libertad de escogencia de tenencia, a los beneficiarios de la fase I de la Reforma Agraria que comprenden 35 000 familias salvadoreñas, y una extensión de más de 200 000 hectáreas de las tierras más fértiles del país; la creación y el funcionamiento del Banco de Tierras, una entidad autónoma intermediaria financiera, que une los deseos del vendedor con los de muchos compradores campesinos, para otorgarles bajo un esquema de justicia y a través de créditos, el acceso a la tierra a los pequeños productores que así lo solicitan.

El Salvador, siendo uno de los países más degradados de la América Latina, requiere de programas agresivos para recuperar el medio ambiente a todo nivel. La FAO, en este sentido, ha estado apoyando los esfuerzos de la Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente, presidida por el Sr. Presidente Constitucional de la República, y se está trabajando en la formulación del Plan de Acción Forestal para El Salvador, y además, se cuenta con apoyo relacionado a la política forestal y el Plan Nacional de Reforestación, que comprende propuestas para la actualización de la Ley Forestal y la creación de la Ley de Incentivos Forestales, un Plan de Reforestación Nacional y la Ley de Protección para la Vida Silvestre.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, como parte del Programa Económico del Gobierno, y desde hace más de dos años, se eliminaron todas las leyes de fomento a diferentes sectores productivos, incluyendo al sector agropecuario. Nuestros agricultores no reciben subsidio de ninguna clase, ni en la compra de insumos, ni en las tasas de intereses de sus créditos, ni reciben precios preferenciales por sus productos. Compiten por bienes y servicios con ciudadanos que se ocupan en otros sectores.

Sin embargo, sí puedo informarles con mucha satisfacción, que el sector agropecuario no está deprimido; al contrario, ha sido el sector que creció más alto durante 1990, alcanzando una tasa de crecimiento anual del 7,4 por ciento.

El Salvador, está consciente que tiene en sus agricultores y en su capacidad de trabajo, una riqueza incalculable con un potencial de desarrollo ilimitado, que se verá plenamente realizado con el advenimiento de la paz.

El Salvador ha hecho muchas de las tareas de ordenamiento de la economía interna y, junto con otros países centroamericanos, ha tomado medidas concretas en pro de la integración económica de Centroamérica. Las reuniones cumbres de Presidentes de Centroamérica y Panamá han sido el escenario de tales acuerdos, el acuerdo más importante es el de libre comercio de productos agropecuarios que se iniciará entre todos los países de Centroamérica y Panamá, a partir de junio de 1992. Este acuerdo se produjo en la Décima Cumbre de Presidentes y está contemplado en la Declaración de San Salvador del 17 de julio del presente año.

Sr. Presidente, los países centroamericanos están tomando las medidas necesarias para ordenarse internamente y lograr su inserción en la corriente económica mundial. Debo aprovechar este momento para instar a otros países aquí representados, especialmente a los países desarrollados, a que tomen las medidas necesarias con sus economías, de tal manera que permita a nuestros agricultores competir en un marco de lealtad y justicia en los mercados internacionales.

Si así lo hicieran, sería uno de los medios más importantes para aliviar de la pobreza a miles de pequeños agricultores, que, en el caso de Centroamérica, el 75 por ciento de los mismos se clasifican como pobres o extremadamente pobres.

Para terminar Sr. Presidente, debo hacer referencia al texto de la declaración del Director General, Dr. Saouma, en este período de sesiones, cuando se refirió al apaciguamiento progresivo de los dramas que sufren El Salvador, Afganistán y tantos otros países.

El pueblo salvadoreño ha sido víctima de ataques fanáticos, algunos salvadoreños y no pocos extranjeros que han querido implantar por la vía de la fuerza y el terror un régimen totalitario en El Salvador.

Este movimiento quiere desconocer el proceso democratizador y los avances que se han dado en este campo durante los últimos diez años y de los cuales son testigos miles de observadores extranjeros que han concurrido a todos nuestros actos eleccionarios.

El Excmo. Sr. Presidente de El Salvador, Licenciado Alfredo Cristiani, está en el poder por mandato del 54 por ciento del electorado de una contienda en que participaron diez partidos políticos. Pocos presidentes electos de las democracias más avanzadas del mundo pueden clamar el haber obtenido un apoyo y el poder por tan elevado margen. Afortunadamente, los eventos políticos de los últimos meses en Europa del Este y Rusia han confirmado, más allá de toda duda, que los únicos sistemas válidos son los implantados a través del proceso democrático que reconocen y respetan la libre determinación de sus ciudadanos.

El Salvador, Sr. Presidente, está ahora más cerca que nunca de llegar a un acuerdo de paz a través de negociaciones mediadas por el Sr. Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas y gracias al incansable esfuerzo de los países amigos en pro de una verdadera y de respeto democracia.

Para el esfuerzo de reconstrucción, que veremos en el plazo más breve posible, esperamos contar con la asistencia técnica y financiera de países amigos amantes de la democracia y de organizaciones internacionales como la FAO.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, hago propicia esta oportunidad para reiterar el reconocimiento merecido a esta institución en mi condición de funcionario de gobierno de la República de El Salvador, con la plena seguridad de que, al expresarlo, lo hago en nombre de una inmensa mayoría de compatriotas que, por mi medio, agradecen a FAO por su labor en beneficio del sector agropecuario de El Salvador.



**Baron VAEA (Tonga):** I am indeed pleased to address this august gathering on the occasion of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO General Conference. As the first Minister of Agriculture of my Government to attend the FAO Conference, I wish to pay tribute to the founders of this organization. Perhaps the time was right for an organization with noble aims of alleviating human suffering to be born and raised amidst the ruins of global war. However, it takes foresight, courage and dedication to build an international organization like FAO with a view to becoming an international bridge over which the more fortunate industrialized nations with means and technological know-how could effectively campaign against hunger, malnutrition and poverty rampant in the Third World. My Government is most conscious of and would wish to pay tribute to the generosity of the Government of Italy on its undaunting and continuous support in accommodating FAO during the past 40 years.

Mr Chairman, FAO was founded at a time when Tonga, like other small island states of the Southwest Pacific, led a very simple lifestyle in that the livelihood of the people was sufficiently provided from the land and sea and shared each day's provisions amongst the community, leaving tomorrow to look after itself. Exports of copra and bananas adequately served the need for cash. However, that tranquil serenity of island agriculture most regrettably did not last as we would have liked it to, for various reasons beyond our control it ended rather abruptly. Appearance of serious plant pests and diseases dramatically reduced production and eventually halted exports of bananas and other produce. For varying reasons the crash of the world market price caused the gradual decline of copra production and export which subsequently became an activity of the past. The need, then, to feed an increasing population, living in a limited sea bounded area and aggravated by frequent occurrences of natural disasters, food security became threatened. In addition, adequacy and suitability of water supply to support the population in these low-lying islands are issues which required immediate attention.

In that respect it was imperative that Tonga seek the link to the international bridge of humanity in FAO and we are greatly indebted to the goodwill of this Conference which allowed Tonga to become a full member in 1981. Since then the Kingdom has received and benefited from valuable counsel and technical assistance. The FAO World Food Day has been commemorated by the people of Tonga every year since its inception. The Kingdom has adopted the principles formulated in the FAO World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and has been represented in the follow-up conference. Tonga has implemented the requirements laid down by the FAO Code of Conduct for Safe Pesticides and, therefore, legislation has been abrogated, a Registrar appointed, and the legislation is now in force.

We are conscious of the difficult negotiation that has been convened concerning the Uruguay Round of GATT and we can only hope that an amicable solution will soon be found in that respect and that it may again raise hope of export opportunity for the small and remote islands.

I have not touched upon environmental security, the reason being that though degradation of the environment does occur in Tonga, it is not as extensive as that unavoidably occurring in other countries.

However we are equally concerned about this unfortunate predicament facing the world at large. Our concern nevertheless focuses more on global warming and the associated rising of the sea level. It is a phenomenon which may

not require immediate action but the assumed implications definitely threaten the habitat and general livelihood of the people living in these low-lying islands.

On behalf of my Government I acknowledge with gratitude the generous and unfailing assistance of FAO. As a small, remote island country having limited physical and manpower resources, the technical and financial assistance of FAO has had a major positive impact. In times of natural disasters FAO has been sensitive and responsive with aid for the conduct of rehabilitation programmes.

My country is now experiencing the scourge of various diseases in our major crops and from this unfortunate intrusion the export capacity of the country is bleak and may expect disaster if the wealth of experience of the FAO technical staff cannot soon be brought to bear to establish control. With regard to the forestry sector, Tonga's offer to facilitate a training centre on coconut sawmilling in cooperation with FAO regional training still stands.

May I raise two points in the hope that they will contribute to FAO in its service to South Pacific nations. Firstly, it relates to the South Pacific representation at the FAO Council. Now that there are nine voting nations in the Southwest Pacific, our region seems under-represented.

The second point relates to the level of authority for approving projects delegated to the regional offices. It is believed that it has been some time since the level of delegated authority for approving projects was set and we believe that this matter should be reviewed. My delegation fully supports the FAO Work Programme and the Budget for the next biennium as presented. We are confident that the Organization, being in the hands of our illustrious Director-General, and despite the problems that he has outlined in his report, it is hoped that full replenishment of the contributory funds will soon be completed and will further enhance the operation of the work programme.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I tender my sincere congratulations to you on your unanimous election to this arduous task of the chairmanship of the Conference and I am sure that with your wise leadership and the apt manner in which you have conducted the Conference will reap fruitful results for all. To the Director-General and FAO staff my very good wishes and hope that the Conference will be a successful one and a beneficial one.

**Li HAK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (Original language Korean):** Allow me, first of all, to warmly congratulate you, Mr Malik Abdul Majid, on your election as Chairman of this Conference and express the conviction that the Conference will achieve success under your able chairmanship.

I also congratulate the four countries on their new membership into the FAO on behalf of the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and express my heartfelt thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat of the Conference and the officials of the Organization for their sincere efforts in the preparations and successes of the Conference.

For the last two years since the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, the FAO, while overcoming many challenges it is faced with, has made a great contribution to the world food security and agricultural production situation through the technical cooperation for the agricultural development of the developing countries, through work for the environmental protection and the sustainable agricultural development on the occasion, for example, of the World Forestry Conference and the World Food Day, the preservation and use of genetic resources of crops and livestock, enhancement of the woman's role in agriculture, various networks of every field, consultations and seminars and other activities.

I am satisfied and appreciate the efforts and activities of the FAO to alleviate poverty and starvation and help the agricultural development of the developing countries on a worldwide scale under the energetic guidance of the Director-General.

In spite of the international concern, efforts for the food and agriculture, serious agricultural and food crises sweeping over the world continue and it brings great misfortunes and calamities to mankind.

Now 500 million population are suffering constant malnutrition and 150 million are dying of hunger every year.

This reality shows that food and agriculture is the most urgent question before mankind at present and the primary important work to be settled by the international community. It is none other than the developing countries that are suffering from the food crisis.

For the achievement of world food security, the developing countries occupying most of the world's territory and population should develop agriculture and increase food production.

President Kim Il Sung, the respected leader of our people, taught that the present important task of the non-aligned and developing countries is to develop agriculture for self-sufficiency in food.

The developing countries are able to consolidate national independence and attain the independent development of the country only when they develop agriculture to solve food problems.

In order to solve food problems in the developing countries, the governments and peoples of those countries, their masters, must set forth an independent agricultural policy suitable to their specific conditions and develop agriculture in order to attain the self-sufficiency in food by making effective use of their manpower and also of their material resources.

Under the invariable policy of our Government for developing South-South cooperation, a large number of our technicians and specialists cooperate with the people of the developing countries, including the African countries, to build institutes and experimental grounds and study the seeds and agricultural farms to suit the climates and farming methods of the areas to actively introduce to the production and thereby increase grain output per hectare.

The Asian Regional Ministerial Conference of the Group of 77, held in Pyongyang last June, discussed the question of developing South-South cooperation and adopted the Pyongyang Declaration.

We will in the future, too, strive to develop South-South cooperation with developing countries.

The developing countries deploy joint efforts to eradicate the old and unfair international economic order in the food and agricultural field and establish fair, new international order.

Mr Chairman, since our country entered into the building of a new society under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, great efforts have been made for agricultural development to solve the food problem by the country itself, even though the arable land is much limited.

Our country carried through the tasks of the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country advanced by the President Kim Il Sung on the basis of the realization of the Land Reform and Agricultural Cooperatization, and as a result our agriculture rapidly developed and agricultural production grew on the firm socialist material and technical basis.

Our people are now advancing vigorously along the road of socialism chosen by themselves without being shaken by any storm with the boundless national pride and self-confidence of leading a happy life under the most superior popular masses-centred-socialist system of our own way, and by doing so achieve great successes in the Socialist Rural Theses and in the Third Seven-Year Plan.

While intensifying agriculture to increase food production, our country is powerfully pushing forward great nature-remaking to reclaim new land and make arable land.

Since the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, great successes have been achieved in our agriculture. West Sea Waterway Project has been completed to consolidate the irrigation achievements on the basis of higher level and 500 000 hectares of jet line non-paddy fields irrigation have been accelerated successfully.

We completed 400 kilometres waterway projects for using the water of the artificial lakes in the Taedong River by the West Sea Barrage blocking the sea route of 8 kilometres, three reservoirs, 34 pumping stations to provide enough water to paddy and non-paddy fields along the west sea.

We dynamically do the work to improve the soil quality by spreading humus soil on the fields as we continuously cultivate the high-yield crops in the limited arable land. We have spread humus soil of 600 000 hectares from the end of last year to the farm season of this year. From the end of this year to the spring of next year, we will complete spreading of humus soil in the paddy fields of 650 000 hectares.

We expanded and reinforced the agriculture machine factories and chemical fertilizer factories and started operation on new agricultural pesticides factories.

We are now accelerating to its last stage the construction of the Sariwon Fertilizer Factory and the process of nitrogenous fertilizer production of the Suncheon Vynalon Complex and, as a result could have a higher capacity to provide the countryside with more farm machines, chemicals and fertilizers.

In the season of afforestation in spring and autumn the entire national plant trees and make forestry to protect farm land and ecological environment of agriculture. Many demobilized soldiers and graduates of higher middle schools voluntarily go to countryside for farming, which improves the labour composition of the countryside and intensifies the labour assistance in major farming season to enhance the social attention to agriculture.

We also carry through the rural theses, great Juche farming method and agricultural first policy.

By so doing, we again have a good harvest this year in spite of the severe drought due to the abnormal climate conditions.

We will continue to direct great efforts to agriculture to increase food production, maintain self-sufficiency in food and contribute to world food security.

The improvement of world food crises and the increase of agricultural production demand the enhancement of the function and role of the Organization.

I support the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 and propose to adopt it with consensus as it contains the way out of the present challenges with due consideration for the financial constraints, even though not reflecting the real budget growth.

And here I would like to draw your attention to TCP.

I emphasize that the share of TCP in the next biennial programme and budget should be raised to 17 percent of the total budget in accordance with the Conference Resolution 9/89 and the method of the TCP utilization which is now applied for the Member Nations at present should be maintained in the future too, in conformity with its original aim, rather than the indicative country allocations proposed.

In this current Conference, environment protection, sustainable development of agriculture, the raising of the role of the non-governmental organizations and women in agriculture, protection and use of genetic resources of plants and livestock and cooperation with the Palestinian people are discussed for decision. In this connection, I think the documents presented by the Organization are all realistic and express my support to them.

We will continue to strive as in the past to further develop the cooperative relations with this Organization.

In conclusion, I am convinced that the current Conference will contribute to the world food security and agricultural development by successfully discussing all the issues thanks to the positive efforts of the participants.

**Idriss JAZAIRY (President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)):** I would like first to extend to you my thanks for giving me this opportunity to take the floor in front of this august body. Although the world has seen many changes during the last two years, it is clear that the age-old problem of hunger and poverty has not yet been overcome; it is even getting worse in many parts of the world. Only a few months ago, we were reminded by the Secretary General of the United Nations that 30 million people in Africa were threatened for their lives by the difficult conditions that they were enduring. Addressing these issues is a matter of increasing urgency. IFAD, for its part, has made its own contribution to this endeavour. In its 14 years of operation, the Fund has provided US\$3.3 billion to finance over 300 projects in 93 countries in support of the poorest of the poor. At full development, these projects will assure durable food security for some 240 million people; that is to say, at the cost of US\$14 per beneficiary in terms of IFAD's own contribution.

Through its efforts, IFAD has also helped to bring the issue of poverty alleviation to the centre stage of international meetings, of international preoccupations, of international activities. Poverty alleviation, for example, has been made a key theme of the international development strategy for the 1990s. There is now a growing recognition of IFAD's argument that in countries where the majority of the population are poor, investment in poverty alleviation is the most effective and perhaps the only way to keep on the path towards sustainable development.

The challenge before us now is to see how this growing consensus can be translated into specific instrumentalities to reach the poor. IFAD itself has contributed to developing a number of new approaches for promoting grass-roots solidarity for targeted credit for the poor, for participatory research and demand-driven extension systems. We are also intent on preventing poverty and environmental degradation from chasing down one another. But we are all of us still at the beginning of the effort to transform the rhetoric of poverty alleviation into reality, into a reality that can effectively change the daily lives of the hundreds of millions who remain destitute. The Fund will continue its efforts to be at the cutting edge of this international endeavour.

It is in this spirit that we have been drawing in the course of the past year on the lessons from our projects in regard to the advancement of poor rural women. Rural women make up an increasing proportion of the poor. It is they who hold the key to household food security and experience has proved that they respond swiftly to new incentives. Is this not a message of hope as well as a call for further focused action?

A core group of First Ladies from across the world consider it is. They are accordingly organizing under the High Patronage of Queen Fabiola of Belgium, a World Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women scheduled to take place on 25 February 1992. This important initiative was welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its Resolution 1991/128 of last summer. A large number of other First Ladies have already expressed their interest in participating in this important event.

Another issue which has called for enhanced IFAD attention this year is the search for an effective way of establishing a link between emergency assistance and development. Of making food aid become not only a consumer good but a component in a sustainable development approach. In this connection IFAD has cooperated with the World Food Programme, as well as

FAO, in turning food aid from an emergency response to a development resource. In the same spirit IFAD was able to design, in record time a substantive project to help the cyclone effect that coastal people of Bangladesh pick up the threads of their lives which have been so badly affected by the devastation that they suffered during last April.

Similarly the Fund is trying to respond to that other cyclone that nobody talks about, the silent cyclone I would call it, that is engulfing much of sub-Saharan Africa in the wake of the Gulf crisis and which is leading to losses in output comparable to those suffered in a major cataclysm. In recognition of this critical situation facing sub-Saharan Africa, IFAD's Governing Council last May decided to continue the Fund's special programme for Africa into a second phase. France, which was the largest contributor to the programme's first phase in 1986 has also pledged a similar contribution to a second phase. Belgium and the Netherlands have also pledged a substantial amount.

It had earlier been said by the industrialized countries that they would find it easier to make additional contributions to the special programme if OPEC countries also showed interest. This is happening. Kuwait, in spite of the extremely difficult situation in which this country finds itself, has pledged a few months ago US\$15 million to the second phase of the Special Programme.

Yet its generous act is not calling forth the expected response. May I therefore take this opportunity to renew my appeal to those donors who have not yet done so to contribute to the second phase of the programme.

Mr Chairman, IFAD was able to maintain the rhythm of its operations over the last three years due to the exceptional efforts made by Member States for the Third Replenishment, whatever category they belonged to, Category I, Category II or Category III. We are now considering whether we should hold a formal or informal meeting of IFAD's High-Level Intergovernmental Committee to consider the issues underlying the Fourth Replenishment before or during the Fund's next Governing Council in January 1992.

The Fund sees itself as part of a network intent on demonstrating that rural poverty can be addressed through cost-effective investments, rather than welfare schemes that low-income countries can hardly afford. As an international financial institution, it maintains close working relations with the World Bank, regional and sub-regional development banks. They are now to an increasing degree, I am pleased to say, joining us in investing in rural poverty alleviation across the world. The Fund also maintains close cooperative links with a large number of CGIAR and non-CGIAR centres to support research, but not any research, research oriented to the solution of its own poverty-focused project design constraints. As a specialized agency of the United Nations, IFAD has joined in institutionalized operational groups with other agencies. I am thinking in particular of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, to which IFAD belongs, side by side with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP, the Joint Programme under the Belgian Survival Fund is another example of this which associates some of the same agencies that I have mentioned, IFAD and the World Health Organization.

But we give particular importance to our relations with our sister food agency in Rome, FAO, in accordance with the Agreement Establishing IFAD which states that The Fund shall cooperate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Indeed this relationship has been very productive, particularly I would say at the working level. One major strand is our collaboration with the FAO Investment Centre, which has undertaken project identification and preparation work for IFAD. Last year, for instance, close to one third of our project-design missions were entrusted to the Centre. In this agreement IFAD has contributed two thirds of the cost of the latter and the Investment Centre the balance.

This relationship, I believe, has been fruitful for both parties. Through collaboration between IFAD and the Investment Centre, new methodologies for undertaking Rural Rapid Appraisals have been developed. The Centre now applies these new methodologies in an effort to deepen understanding of poverty dynamics and the profile of the target group.

After this experience of over a decade, it is perhaps now time for us to undertake jointly a review of this cooperation with the Investment Centre in order to improve further project design, and make it increasingly responsive to the needs of the rural poor.

There are also other forms of institutional cooperation among our two agencies. FAO, for example, serves as the executing agency for technical assistance components in some IFAD-supported projects. Streamlining the procedures in this regard would, I believe, help to expand this collaboration further as well as to render it more cost-effective.

Another area where we would like to do more with FAO is with regard to the pre-investment activities that FAO undertakes in many countries. If from the outset some of these operations could be coordinated with IFAD programming efforts, the Fund could develop a greater number of investment projects on the basis of the FAO pre-investments so that their full potential could be realized.

In addition to such institutionalized forms of cooperation which have worked well, we have also developed joint specific initiatives supported by IFAD grant financing.

Thus, an important recent collaborative endeavour was launched by FAO and IFAD to combat the serious threat posed by the New World Screwworm in the Maghreb countries. The Fund was also the largest multilateral co-financier of this venture. The respective role of each agency was referred to by the ECOSOC Resolution 1991/59 of last summer which welcomed the prompt response by the International Fund for Agricultural Development in initiating the regional pilot biological control programme for the New World Screwworm in North Africa and by the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations in establishing the Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa for the execution of the pilot and subsequent programmes. It also welcomed the support of other agencies of the UN family. The successful outcome was due however first and foremost to the responsiveness of the host country, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, as well as to a remarkable demonstration of South-South cooperation with a Mexican research institution. The imperative of addressing a global environmental hazard also elicited strong North-South cooperation, with the support of the United States and other donors, bilateral and multilateral. Let me take this opportunity to extend to them our deepest gratitude.



The lesson I think one can draw from this experience is that the potential for collaboration that can still be developed between FAO and IFAD is very considerable indeed. But to do more will require reaching a clearer understanding of how we can best proceed with such joint initiatives.

Two issues seem to be relevant in this context:

First, the Fund's Governing Bodies expect it not simply to fulfil a cash disbursing function in providing grant financing but also to take an active role in project design and in ensuring during implementation effective compliance with the IFAD Appraisal. This implies that the Fund must be actively involved at the stage of project elaboration and of implementation follow-up.

The second matter relates to the necessity of projecting a common message on our joint activities to the media. This is a question of some interest since it is only in this way that we can really generate public sympathy and maximize fund-raising efforts.

This is as far as the substance of our cooperation is concerned. But the image I believe is also important. To symbolize IFAD's strong commitment to inter-agency cooperation I have made it a tradition to invite the Director-General of FAO to be the first speaker in the General Debate at our Governing Council, to be followed by the heads of the World Food Programme and the World Food Council. It is in this spirit that I once again extend an invitation to the Director-General to address the Governing Council of IFAD at the opening of the General Debate in January 1992. I would similarly invite him, in the name of the Core Group of First Ladies organizing the World Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, to address the Summit on 25 February next year.

Finally I have made another suggestion to strengthen the image of our collaborative spirit and operations. While field level coordination is important, as we have no field level representation, we need also to promote it at Headquarters level, in compliance with the provisions of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 32/197, concerning inter-agency coordination. It is as a symbol of this spirit that I suggested the four Rome-based food agencies and programmes should celebrate jointly the World Food Day under FAO leadership. This would also enable us to comply with General Assembly Resolution 35/70 which inter alia urges international organizations to contribute to the effective commemoration of World Food Day to the greatest extent possible. It is something that already my distinguished predecessor and then I myself have sought to bring about bilaterally, and a matter that I had raised again at the FAO Conference at its last session two years ago.

The only alternative to such a joint celebration would be for each specialized agency to have a separate Day of its own in spite of the commonality of their objectives. When there already exist as many as 29 days dedicated to various themes by different United Nations agencies, this would surely lead to an unnecessary duplication of effort and to donor fatigue. The reputation of the UN agencies takes so long to build, so long to build, yet so little can mar it.

It is in the same spirit of accommodation and the search for a broader understanding that I readily accepted the Director-General's proposal to set up an Inter-Secretariat mechanism for cooperation among the food

agencies in Rome. However, I believe that it would be helpful to have an annual meeting of the Executive Heads themselves, as is done, for example, in the JCGP, for in the final analysis it is the Heads of Agencies themselves that must be seen as exercising effective leadership in the promotion of inter-agency collaboration.

Mr Chairman, for my part I remain convinced that collaboration, not only at working level but also at the level of Executive Heads, is essential for increased operational effectiveness. Both for that reason and to be true to the mandate given to us by the Agreement Establishing IFAD, I shall continue relentlessly to do my utmost to develop an increasingly productive partnership.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, I should like to exercise briefly my right of reply with respect to the comments made by a distinguished speaker in this Assembly at the opening of this meeting.

Dans une déclaration qui a été faite par un honorable orateur, des points de vue ont été exprimés sur le mandat, la structure et la gestion du Fonds international de développement agricole. Il appartient évidemment à chacun d'avoir ses opinions et je respecte les opinions des autres. Un point cependant pourrait être susceptible de créer la confusion dans les esprits, je voudrais m'y arrêter.

Il s'agit de l'affirmation selon laquelle le Fonds dispose d'un nombre considérable de centaines de millions de dollars placés en banque alors que la FAO manque de quoi payer son personnel, ce qui nécessite une amélioration des structures multilatérales.

Le FIDA est une institution financière. Il fonctionne en matière financière selon les mêmes règles que la Banque mondiale et les autres banques régionales. En ceci il y a une certaine différence entre le FIDA et la FAO qui est une institution spécialisée de type traditionnel.

Nous réalisons un certain nombre de projets et j'ai cité tout à l'heure le cas de plus de 300 projets; nous en avons en cours d'exécution à peu près 213 aujourd'hui. Il s'agit d'investissements dans l'agriculture qui se réalisent sur une période de cinq à sept ans, selon une durée qui est conforme au schéma qui a été établi par la Banque mondiale.

En ce qui concerne la réalisation de ces projets agricoles, dès qu'on s'engage dans un projet vis-à-vis d'un Etat Membre, dès que le Conseil d'administration adopte ce projet et consigne l'accord de prêt avec le gouvernement en question on est obligé d'avoir les ressources nécessaires pour financer les factures au fur et à mesure qu'elles nous sont présentées à l'encaissement.

Je voudrais affirmer ici solennellement que dans la trésorerie de l'IFAD il n'y a pas un seul dollar - et je dis bien un seul dollar - qui ne soit affecté déjà à la réalisation de projets en cours de décaissement tels qu'ils ont été approuvés par notre Conseil d'administration.

On peut évidemment dire qu'on doit priver de cet argent ses bénéficiaires légitimes, les plus pauvres parmi les pauvres, et l'affecter à d'autres usages mais c'est une option politique.

On peut dire qu'il vaudrait mieux retirer cet argent aux plus pauvres parmi les pauvres et payer les salaires des fonctionnaires des institutions internationales. C'est un point de vue en matière de développement, c'est une conception, ce n'est pas la nôtre.

Nous disons nous, au contraire, que les ressources que nous recevons de nos bailleurs de fonds doivent aller directement aux plus pauvres parmi les pauvres dans les zones rurales et qu'au contraire nous devons restreindre le nombre de nos fonctionnaires pour maximiser le montant des ressources mises à la disposition des bénéficiaires dans les pays en développement. C'est pour cela que sur chaque dollar que nous recevons des bailleurs de fonds nous consacrons 93 centimes de dollar aux bénéficiaires et que nous consacrons un maximum de 7 centimes de dollar pour l'identification, la préparation, la préévaluation, tous les coûts jusqu'à l'adoption de ces projets par le Conseil d'administration.

C'est notre conception du développement. A chacun la sienne.

**Kinzang DORJI (Bhutan):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour for me to address this Twenty-sixth General Conference of the FAO. I, on behalf of the Bhutanese delegation and on my own behalf, congratulate you on being elected Chairman of this very important Conference. We are confident that under your wise and able leadership our deliberations will proceed smoothly and successfully.

Mr Chairman, I see that we have a very broad and comprehensive agenda ahead of us. As the previous speakers have adequately touched on a wide range of global issues, issues of common concern, and of concern to this Conference, I do not wish to dwell on these any further. I will therefore, only highlight some issues as they arise from our experience in Bhutan.

I am glad to report that the state of food and agriculture in Bhutan is encouraging, and that we look forward to a bright future under the dynamic and dedicated leadership of His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Nevertheless, we cannot afford to be complacent because of our past achievements. We know that there are challenges ahead, and we are looking forward to overcoming these in order to maintain and even accelerate the momentum gained during the past years. In this regard we seek for continued cooperation between our country and FAO and the international community in general.

We are now in the final year of our Sixth Five-Year Plan. As we make the transition into the Seventh Five-Year Plan. We are making concerted efforts to use the lessons of our own experience, as well as that of other countries in formulating a sound agricultural development strategy.

The main areas of concern in our strategy are overcoming the problems of technical manpower shortages and the integration of crop, livestock and forestry into an environmentally sound and sustainable process of growth, consistent with the upliftment of the living standards of our people and the maintenance of our unique ecological and cultural heritage.

In an attempt to address the major problems of shortage of skilled and trained manpower, the Natural Resources Training Institute (NRTI) will be inaugurated in 1992. This Institute will provide training programmes at Diploma Level for eventual work in agriculture, livestock and forestry. It will also render refresher courses for in-service training of the technical staff. The NRTI aims at amalgamating science and technology with practical know-how and professional experience so as to make relevant and lasting contributions to rural development.

In the area of Extension and Research, the Royal Government is seriously considering the potential for integrating the research activities of the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forestry Departments in order to respond to the need for an integrated farming systems approach to sector development.

The core integrative aspects of the agricultural sector such as land use planning, environmental protection and soil conservation will be given greater prominence than in earlier years. Utmost priority will be given to building up a critical mass of research scientists to staff a balanced and effective research programme. The extension service will be the object of a concerted plan of action, with a clear role definition, job specification relating to the provision of technical services. As women have a key role in the domestic farm enterprise, their contribution will be recognized by appropriate extension packages, training and study tours.

The Seventh Plan will include adequate provisions for prevention of crop and food losses. Development of storage methods and facilities will be given priority.

Due emphasis will also be accorded for development of suitable markets for agricultural commodities. To address the biggest constraint in development a more prioritized, systematic and coordinated plan for human resources development will be followed.

My delegation recognizes the importance of increasing people's participation in rural development and to enhance the process, Gewog/Block Development Committees (GDCs) have been formed in all the gewogs of the Kingdom. Institution of the GDCs further decentralizes the decision-making, planning and programming process for rural development, thereby making the plans most realistic and achievable. A Planning and Policy Committee with the Heads of the Departments as members and chaired by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture has been constituted for providing collective guidance and direction in the development of the renewable natural resources (RNR) sector.

To effectively promote sustainable agricultural and rural development, conservation and environmental protection has been appropriately considered as one of the policy objectives of the Seventh Plan. Furthering of an integrated approach to programmes and activities will lead to development of various farming systems programmes.

The Royal Government of Bhutan, attaches great significance to our association with FAO, and we are keen to further step up the level of this interaction. We are profoundly appreciative of FAO's assistance during the previous Plan periods and also the assistance being rendered in the formulation of our agricultural development strategy.

My Government, acknowledges the need and the urgency of helping the Least-Developed Countries and we fully endorse FAO's support programmes for LDCs.

In the past we also benefited immensely by having an access to TCP funds that were administered through the Regional Offices, even though the sums were relatively small. However, with the diminution of such funds, the Regional FAO Offices were greatly handicapped to effectively deal with unforeseen problems of member countries.

My delegation would therefore, submit to the conference to reconsider placing TCP funds at the disposal of Regional Offices for the benefit of the regional members. We are pleased to state that the involvement of the Royal Government in the selection of experts and consultants to Bhutan by FAO has produced very positive results.

My Government, supports the proposed Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General. We shall also be fully prepared to support any changes that will result in more efficient use of the resources.

In conclusion I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent Conference arrangement made by the Secretariat.

**Louis NDUWIMANA (Burundi):** M. le Président indépendant du Conseil, M. le Directeur général de la FAO, au nom de la délégation de la République du Burundi et en mon nom propre, nous tenons d'emblée à adresser à M. le Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence nos vives félicitations pour sa brillante élection et nous sommes convaincus qu'il conduira les travaux de cette session vers un succès certain. Nos félicitations sont également adressées à M. le Directeur général de la FAO qui dirige l'Organisation avec bravoure et succès malgré une conjoncture financière, avons-nous appris, défavorable.

Nous saluons avec joie et nous félicitons les pays qui viennent d'accéder à la qualité de membres de l'Organisation et viennent ainsi agrandir la famille de l'Organisation.

La République du Burundi que nous avons l'insigne honneur de représenter à cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est un pays enclavé, aux dimensions réduites, situé aux confins de l'Afrique centrale et de l'Afrique orientale. Sa densité moyenne est de 207 habitants/km<sup>2</sup>, une des plus fortes d'Afrique.

Le Burundi est partagé entre le Bassin du Nil et le Bassin du Zaïre. La crête de partage des eaux culmine à 2 680 mètres d'altitude, et le niveau inférieur du pays, celui du Lac Tanganyika, est de 775 mètres.

Sa situation économique précaire découle d'une forte croissance démographique (3,06 pour cent), d'une stagnation du produit intérieur brut et de la détérioration des termes de l'échange.

L'agriculture et les activités rurales concernent environ 95 pour cent de la population et constituent le principal moteur du développement. L'agriculture est la principale activité de l'économie burundaise et le développement de notre pays est intimement lié à l'évolution de ce secteur.

Les principaux objectifs généralement assignés à ce secteur sont les suivants: assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire de la population; améliorer la ration alimentaire en augmentant l'apport de protéines d'origine animale et de lipides; augmenter et diversifier les produits agricoles exportables; augmenter les revenus en milieu rural afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie des populations qui y vivent; créer des emplois agricoles pour faire face à l'augmentation de la population active; protéger le sol et accroître sa fertilité.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, des axes d'intervention portant sur le développement des cultures vivrières, de l'élevage, de la pêche et pisciculture, des cultures d'exportation, de la sylviculture ont été déterminés et des mesures d'accompagnement ont été prises notamment le renforcement institutionnel.

Le sous-secteur de l'alimentation comprend essentiellement les cultures vivrières, l'élevage, la pêche et la pisciculture. Ce sont les cultures vivrières qui assurent la quasi-totalité des apports nutritionnels de la population. Les besoins en énergie, en protéines sont actuellement satisfaits, à quelques exceptions près pour certaines régions et pendant certaines périodes de l'année.

La situation préoccupante est celle des lipides dont les besoins ne sont couverts qu'à 50 pour cent seulement.

Le développement des cultures vivrières suppose: l'extension des superficies cultivées; l'intensification des cultures par l'utilisation des semences sélectionnées; la fertilisation et la défense des cultures; et la diversification des cultures.

Dans le domaine de la production des cultures vivrières, on ne pourrait passer sous silence certains programmes d'importance considérable, il s'agit: du programme palmier à huile destiné à réduire les déficits en lipides dans le pays; du programme sucrier destiné à substituer l'importation de cette denrée par la production locale; du programme rizicole qui a connu ces dernières années un grand développement; du programme pomme de terre également en plein développement; du programme blé de planification en phase d'exécution.

Dans le domaine de l'élevage, des efforts de développement du gros bétail sont consentis, mais l'apport protéinique par habitant reste insuffisant suite à diverses contraintes qui sont:

Le manque d'amélioration de l'alimentation du gros bétail; le manque d'introduction de nouvelles races et d'alimentation génétique; l'hygiène et les soins vétérinaires déficients.

Le petit élevage par contre, offre encore des possibilités d'adaptation. Il en résulte que l'élevage porcin, caprin, ovin est à développer. Même si l'élevage ne contribue que pour environ 3 pour cent dans la production alimentaire, et même si ses programmes d'amélioration mettent plusieurs années pour se traduire en résultats tangibles, il contribue énormément par le fumier à la fertilisation des sols et ainsi à l'augmentation des rendements vivriers.

Dans le domaine de la pêche et de la pisciculture, le Burundi est situé dans l'axe des grands lacs. Les parties burundaises des lacs qui sont partagés avec plusieurs pays, couvrent une petite superficie de celle-ci.

Ce sous-secteur représente une source appréciable de protéines animales surtout pour les populations riveraines du lac Tanganyika.

Le sous-secteur de la pêche dispose de très peu d'infrastructure pour la transformation, la conservation et la commercialisation des produits.

Pour rationaliser l'exploitation globale des ressources potentielles du lac Tanganyika et des lacs du nord du pays, des projets régionaux de recherche halieutique seront initiés en collaboration avec les pays riverains.

Du fait du relief et de l'hydrographie, le Burundi présente des potentialités certaines en pisciculture. Ces deux facteurs y facilitent la construction d'étangs, de barrages ou de déviations de cours d'eaux permettant l'aquaculture.

Par ailleurs, les lacs artificiels et les micro-centrales hydroélectriques installées en milieu rural constituent des endroits privilégiés de développement de la pisciculture.

En tout état de cause, une pisciculture rurale, utilisant des techniques simples et éprouvées, située loin des zones riveraines des lacs dispose d'atouts certains, d'autant plus que le marché existe à des prix très rémunérateurs. Elle suppose cependant le renforcement des capacités d'encadrement technique des candidats pisciculteurs et l'amélioration des conditions d'approvisionnement en alevins.

Dans le domaine des cultures d'exportation, l'objectif poursuivi est de fournir les ressources en devises nécessaires au financement des importations en même temps qu'on augmente les revenus des agriculteurs.

Les principales cultures d'exportation pratiquées au Burundi sont le café arabica, le coton, le thé et le quinquina. Ces cultures rapportent actuellement jusqu'à 90 pour cent des devises du pays. Le café à lui seul génère environ 83 pour cent de ces recettes, le thé environ 5 pour cent et le coton 2 pour cent. Leurs prix sur le marché international sont fluctuants et les termes de l'échange se détériorent constamment en leur défaveur, ce qui explique que les accroissements de production et l'amélioration remarquable de qualité de nos cultures d'exportation ne sont pas traduits par les résultats financiers escomptés.

Malgré cette contrainte du marché international, la stratégie préconisée demeure toujours la spécialisation régionale et l'intensification de ces cultures pour augmenter leur quantité, et améliorer constamment leur qualité.

Une autre stratégie consiste à diversifier les cultures d'exportation par l'intensification des cultures maraîchères et fruitières.

Pour atteindre les objectifs ci-dessus mentionnés, certaines mesures d'accompagnement ont été prises: la restructuration du Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage pour un meilleur développement des structures de vulgarisation et d'encadrement, et une meilleure participation des

agriculteurs dans la programmation et l'exécution des activités de production.

Il s'agit également de la création du Ministère de l'Aménagement, du Tourisme et de l'Environnement que j'ai l'honneur de diriger, et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles comme cadre nouveau de conception, d'élaboration et de suivi des politiques et programmes visant la gestion, et la mission assignée au Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire des Eaux et Forêts.

L'aménagement du territoire pour une bonne gestion rationnelle des terres et pour une meilleure protection du patrimoine foncier, en tant que pierre angulaire dans la mise en exécution des différents programmes de développement en milieu rural.

Le rétablissement et le maintien d'un environnement viable pour un développement harmonieux et durable, en veillant à ce qu'aucun secteur de la vie nationale ne soit à l'origine ou ne constitue une menace à la vie humaine.

En effet, par suite de la topographie accidentée, des entités géographiques du pays et de la faible maîtrise des méthodes culturales visant le maintien de la fertilité des sols, notre patrimoine foncier se trouve quelque peu menacé au Burundi.

L'érosion hydrique agit intensément sur les sols déjà épuisés par les cultures successives sans jachère, la terre est ensuite emportée vers les cours d'eau, laissant en place la roche mère apparaître à la surface.

Les marais dont l'écologie est très fragile sont exploités au gré des agriculteurs sans encadrement suffisant au préalable et le résultat ne peut aboutir qu'à une utilisation peu rationnelle de ces terres et par conséquent à une baisse de rendement d'année en année.

Les déchets chimiques en provenance des industries et des intrants agricoles ne sont pas encore suffisamment importants pour polluer l'environnement surtout en milieu urbain. Toutefois, le Burundi a déjà pressenti le danger relatif à la pollution de l'atmosphère et des eaux, et une attention particulière devra être portée aux eaux du lac Tanganyika, principale ressource halieutique du pays et de la région.

Pour pallier ces différents dangers qui menacent l'environnement, le Burundi a créé un Institut National pour l'Environnement et la Conservation de la Nature (INECN). Cet Institut a déjà permis la protection de 100 000 hectares répartis en 3 parcs nationaux, 5 réserves naturelles et 2 monuments naturels. Il s'attelle actuellement à la préparation d'une stratégie nationale pour l'environnement.

La couverture forestière du Burundi était estimée à 3 pour cent jusqu'en 1980. Depuis le début de la décennie, des efforts fructueux ont été fournis par le Gouvernement en installant des boisements artificiels sur les collines et massifs dénudés et en pratiquant l'agroforesterie dans les exploitations, ce qui rapproche actuellement cette couverture à 7 pour cent de la superficie.

Malgré ces efforts, on est loin d'atteindre l'objectif à long terme qui vise la couverture forestière jusqu'à 30 pour cent.



Une évaluation sommaire des réalisations faites montre que si les besoins en bois d'oeuvre et de service sont croissants il n'en est pas de même pour le bois de chauffage qui est la seule ressource d'énergie de la population, et cette situation risque de s'aggraver avec la démographie galopante et le problème des feux de brousse qui causent des dégâts énormes à la fin de chaque saison sèche.

De plus, les plantations déjà réalisées posent des problèmes d'entretien d'aménagement et d'exploitation qui doivent retenir toute l'attention voulue et trouver des solutions dans un proche avenir.

Malgré tous ces efforts sur le plan interne, le pays a besoin d'une coopération internationale agissante.

Actuellement plus de 70 projets sont en cours d'exécution dans le secteur rural et mènent des actions en vue de promouvoir la production agricole et le développement rural intégré.

Ces projets bénéficient de l'appui technique et/ou financier des bailleurs de fonds et des ONG.

Pour le moment, huit projets bénéficient de l'appui technique et financier de la FAO. Douze projets sont appuyés techniquement par la FAO avec des financements sur fonds extrabudgétaires.

Cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient vers la fin du cinquième plan quinquennal de développement économique et social du Burundi, c'est donc pour nous une occasion de soumettre à l'attention de la FAO quelques domaines qui mériteront une action plus soutenue au courant du sixième plan quinquennal.

Vous me permettrez de citer à titre indicatif ces domaines; à savoir:

La défense et la restauration du patrimoine foncier; la protection des eaux et des sols; l'extension des terres agricoles par le drainage et l'irrigation; la politique alimentaire et nutritionnelle; les statistiques agricoles; l'intégration de la femme rurale au développement; la conservation des denrées alimentaires; la recherche appliquée, l'information et la formation spécialisées...

Je m'en voudrais de terminer mon intervention sans remercier vivement au nom de la République du Burundi, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, le programme de la FAO, dont les actions menées au Burundi et dans le monde, sont fort appréciées par le Gouvernement, et ont des effets positifs auprès des institutions et populations bénéficiaires.

De ce fait, nous aurions aimé entendre que pour mener à bien son programme dans le cadre de la coopération internationale, l'Organisation puisse recevoir les appuis financiers des pays membres. Nous proposons à cet effet que le budget présenté dans la conjoncture actuelle soit adopté par consensus en espérant que des ressources additionnelles pourront être rapidement disponibles afin que l'Organisation puisse amplifier son programme de coopération.

Vive la coopération et la solidarité internationales!

**Abbas IBRAHIM (Maldives):** First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your unanimous election to this important post. I am confident that under your guidance and that of your deputies the present FAO Conference will be a success.

I would also like to express my heartiest congratulations to the Director-General Mr Edouard Saouma for his illuminating statement to the Conference.

On behalf of the Maldives delegation I wish to congratulate and welcome the new Member Nations, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and the Associate Member Puerto Rico to our Organization.

I am happy to be able to take part in this Conference, the aims of which are to assess the state of food supply and agricultural development, as well as to evaluate the policies in this field and to define further measures to meet the related challenges of the future.

It is my pleasure to provide a very brief presentation of the agricultural situation in the Republic of Maldives. As most of you know, the Maldives is a nation of small islands in the Indian Ocean. These islands are spread over 90 000 square kilometres of ocean. The land area of the country is about 300 square kilometres. The islands are small, flat and low-lying. The elevation of the highest point on most islands is less than two metres above sea level.

Not surprisingly, the Maldives has few land-based resources. Soils are relatively young, being comprised of coral sand to loamy sand. As a result, agricultural development is limited. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector is the third largest in the country, behind fisheries and tourism, and a wide range of crops are grown though on a very small scale. Programmes undertaken by the Government to develop agriculture are gradually beginning to show positive results.

The main focus of this meeting is on agricultural development. However, it is perhaps appropriate to remember that in a country such as the Maldives, fisheries play a role of paramount importance in food supply. During the last year we in the Maldives have undertaken a major review of the entire fisheries sector, with assistance from ABD, which will guide us in planning for the future. We have also formulated a third Fisheries Development Project which will, with funding arranged through the World Bank, Nordic countries and OPEC Fund, continue the process of infrastructural development that has shown considerable success in our centuries-old fishery into the modern age. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the important part played by FAO in assisting us in the process. Perhaps many of you may know that the fisheries in the Maldives are based very largely on tuna. The species caught are highly migratory, and so the tuna fished in the Maldives belong to the stocks as do those being fished in ever-increasing quantities in other parts of the Indian Ocean. Considering the importance of tuna fisheries to the Maldives, we place great importance on international cooperation in the monitoring and management of Indian Ocean tunas. May I therefore take this opportunity to commend the work over the last ten years of FAO's Indo-Pacific Programme based in Colombo. May I also stress the need we feel for its timely replacement by an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

While on the important subject of fisheries, may I suggest that there is a growing need for a second World Conference on Fisheries. I feel that the tenth anniversary year of the first World Conference held here in Rome in

1984 might be an appropriate time. Items of international importance to be discussed could include the following interrelated points: Firstly, readjustments in regional economies and of the lending policies of major financial institutions, and the effects these changes will have on the development of fisheries.

Secondly, the long-term relationship of climate and climate change on the world fisheries, and the effects this will have on fishing patterns and fish stocks.

Thirdly, the important topic of mobile high seas fleets, (for example, the high seas drift net and purse seine fleets) and the effects that major changes in the world economy, climate and policy will have on their activities, particularly as these relate to the fisheries and economies of small coastal countries.

I am sure I can leave this matter in your capable hands, and now I would like to make a few comments on some of the items on the agenda.

On Agenda Item 7, may I say how pleased I am that FAO has taken up the issue of Environment and Sustainable Development so positively. This is of particular importance to small island nations, like the Maldives, since our countries are extremely susceptible to natural disasters affecting our agricultural and economic development. Industrialization is now complicating ecological problems all over the planet. The greenhouse effect brought about by the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, according to most experts, leads to rising temperatures and climatic changes throughout the world. If the rhythm of the seasons is altered, the very foundation of agriculture, forestry and fisheries risk upheaval.

Turning to Agenda Item 9, we greatly appreciate the work undertaken by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Agriculture has been practised from time immemorial in the islands of the Maldives. Our soils are mostly highly alkaline, and over the generations local farmers have selected locally adopted varieties of several vegetables and fruits suited to soils with high pH. But in recent years, sorghum and millet cultivation has greatly decreased due to the use of imported wheat. Collection of genetic resources of local fruits and vegetables, mostly seed yielding species, have been made through the kind support of FAO/IBPGR. However several varieties of tuber and root crops adopted to our soils have not yet been collected. Their collection and conservation is desirable before they are replaced by other crops. The Maldives has donated the collected germplasm to FAO/IBPGR and looks forward to receiving improved cultivars of tropical fruits and vegetables in due course.

On Agenda Item 10, I appreciate the programme of work related to helping the least-developed countries in defining their agricultural development strategies. But I would be pleased to draw the attention of the Conference to the particular situation of the least-developed island nations like the Maldives. While this group of countries have enormous marine resources, our land areas are small. The protection and proper management of coastal zones are major issues, relating directly to agricultural production. We do have existing, traditional patterns of agriculture which are suited to our particular geographical situations, and which are very different to those of larger countries. We need advice on how best to build on what we have to

ensure sustainable development of our agriculture, and of course our marine resources as well.

Concerning Agenda Item 11, Maldives has special interest in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including the clause on prior information consent. This is because there are growing fears that these pesticides may lead to the pollution of the ground water of our small islands. This ground water is used for human consumption. We are also concerned about the effects of pesticide pollution on the marine ecosystem. We cannot predict the future damage to our marine environment resulting from the dumping of toxic waste in the Indian Ocean nor can we predict the future damage to Maldivian water supplies. I strongly suggest that the code should further elaborate the clause on PIC to protect the interests of small island nations.

Mr Chairman, turning now to the Agenda Item 13. In the Maldives, women have traditionally played a major role in agriculture and rural development. But we are keen to see that their activities are fully recognized and further developed. Women, of course, also play a key role in family nutrition, and this brings me to Agenda Item 20. In Maldives we still have several nutritional problems. So we strongly support the plans for an International Conference on Nutrition in 1992. The Conference will, I hope, serve to draw global attention on the changing patterns of nutrition which are a consequence of economic development and social and cultural changes. Conferences, however, are not an end in themselves, and I hope this Conference will go a long way towards creating awareness of the importance of proper nutrition, at both individual and national levels.

Finally, it was with great hopeful anticipation that we witnessed the recent dramatic change in Eastern Europe and the growing detente between East and West. We fervently hope for this process to continue as it holds such great promise of lasting peace for the whole world. Enormous reductions in military spending, in particular on nuclear arsenals, have already resulted. Humanity does not need nuclear missiles or weapons of mass destruction. Humanity needs to feed its people. Humanity needs to save them from ignorance and disease; and above all, humanity needs peace. The considerable resources which were previously devoted to non-productive, destructive military budgets, could now be allocated to vital developmental activities. I hope that FAO may be able to play a catalytic role in ensuring that some of these resources are devoted to the betterment of the lives of the millions of poor people in the least-developed countries, a process that will in its turn lead to a more just and more stable world order.

I wish you Mr Chairman and colleagues an enriching and productive Conference.

**Gerhard HANEKOM (Namibia):** The previous speaker comes from a small country; he made a large statement. I come from an extremely large country; I will try to make a small statement.

This is the first time that a delegate from independent Namibia has the honour to address an FAO Conference. Previously, we were represented here whether we liked it or not. I wish to assure you that I and my Government appreciate the opportunity that is given to take part in the activities of the FAO.

A lot has been said during the last couple of days about world agriculture. I think it is not needed that I dwell on the subject. Instead, I think I am going to tell you a little bit about my country, but before I do that I wish to make one exception and come out very strongly in support of something said by the honourable delegate of New Zealand. He played it very much for a freer economy, a freer trade, and I wish to support that. If the developed countries would refrain from extraordinary subsidizing of their own agriculture, if they would refrain from protectionist measures which are not realistic, if they would give developing countries the chance to do business, to sell, to market, they would go a long way in combating poverty in this world. It may then in certain instances not be necessary to do so much aid-giving, but give developing countries the chance to look after themselves. I want to come out in very strong support of this, and if this could be carried home I would be a very happy man.

Namibia is the youngest country that has moved away from colonialism in Africa. But now we face the responsibilities of an independent nation. It was on 21 March 1990, early in that morning, exactly one minute after midnight on 20 March, that the Namibian flag was hoisted for the first time in our country. There is a small one over there. I was very proud when I came here and saw it. That moment heralded the end of the freedom struggle but the beginning of the economic struggle, the struggle against poverty, the struggle against hunger, the struggle to uplift our people, the struggle to educate our people, to train them and to provide for better living conditions for our people.

The SWAPO movement that for many years led the freedom struggle and who in the end, with the assistance of many friendly countries and also with the assistance of the United Nations, succeeded in getting independence for Namibia and won the first free and fair elections held in our country with a majority of some 57 percent over all the other parties combined and formed the first government of our independent republic. Immediately after that, the hard freedom fighter that he was, Sam Nujoma, initiated a policy of reconciliation in our country, between black and white in our country, reconciliation between freedom fighters and those who fought on the colonial side, reconciliation between the haves and the have-nots. As a result of that, we have a wonderful, peaceful country. It is impossible to dream that a country that for 23 years was gripped in a bush war, a relentless war, can be such a peaceful country. Those of you who have visited our country would agree with me that we have a wonderful peace in our country.

The progress that we make in our country is very closely watched by our neighbouring country, the Republic of South Africa. I know this. I myself was born in South Africa and came to Namibia 34 years ago, and today am a true Namibian. But I still have contacts with people in South Africa. I know that they are watching the success of Namibia. If we succeed, I am sure we can be the catalyst, the catalyst to overthrow apartheid in South Africa once and for all. We can be the catalyst also to provide lasting peace in the southern part of Africa. Also for that reason, the assistance given by the FAO is not only given to Namibia: it is given to the people of southern Africa. It is given to the peace, the promotion of peace in southern Africa.

Namibia is a large country, a very large country. It is approximately 823 000 square kilometres in size, 2.7 percent of the circuit area of Africa, a large, dry, hard, barren country. Our rainfall is very low. Only

8 percent of our country gets more than 500 mm per year; 37 percent gets between 300 and 500 mm; 33 percent gets between 100 and 300 mm and a massive 22 percent of our country gets under 100 mm per year. That is, some of them range from 0-100 mm. It is therefore apparent that agriculture in this beautiful, hard country of mine must be practised in close cooperation with nature, in close cooperation with the fragile ecology of our country. If not, it will just be ruined and there will be nothing left for the people coming after us.

Our country is sparsely populated. The population density is less than 2 per square kilometre. It is lovely, quiet, you do not see your neighbour so often, and for those of you who have now been living in this city of Rome with its noisy streets, I can recommend one thing: come to our country and recuperate before you go home. It will do wonders for your soul. There, a man can be close to his God. There, you have time to think. There, you have time also to ponder over your own sins and what you have done wrong in the world.

Although rainfall is so sparse in Namibia, Namibia is mainly an agricultural country. Some 85 percent of our land is suitable for agriculture, provided it is treated with respect. Approximately 70 percent of our population live from agriculture, although agriculture contributes only about 10 percent to our GDP. If a man looks at the agriculture of Namibia, there are two distinct features also coming and stemming from the old colonial regime. We are virtually divided into two sectors, a reasonably well developed commercial sector covering about 44 percent of our land area and a completely undeveloped communal area covering 41 percent.

The commercial farms form land areas, on land units of approximately 8 600 hectares per land unit, per farm unit. The communal farmers' families occupy an average of 200 hectares.

Mr Chairman not 200 hectares of arable land, I am not talking of 200 hectares of lush, green pasturage, I am talking of 200 hectares neglected, overgrazed desertlike area where they farm. Completely neglected.

Mr Chairman, they hardly make a living from that. The average income per family in those areas is as low as US\$55 per year. That's not a lot of money to live on.

Mr Chairman, they are our responsibility. If we do not succeed to better their living conditions, if we do not succeed to uplift them, we would have failed in our mission.

While we at this point and while we are facing this problem of trying to make sure that these farmers can make a decent living and also looking at the environment which has been so overgrazed, overfarmed, Mr Chairman, there is one thing which I noticed in FAO document C 91/30 and a few words in there I want to quote to you. It says there, the enforcement of environmental protection regulations and standards tend to reduce the farmer's income. Mr Chairman that is exactly our problem. How do you tell a farmer that is living on over-grazed land with some 20 goats to bring down his stock? Try and do that. From what must he live?

Even so, Mr Chairman, we try and face this. We try and face this problem and we shall succeed. Also with the assistance of the FAO. I am sure of that. Mr Chairman, while I am at this point of sustainable agriculture and protection of the environment there is one thing that I think I should mention. That through all the years there has been so much disparity in our country. The communal farmers are about 30 times in number as the commercial farmers. They occupy less land. Nothing has been done by the colonial rulers to improve the infrastructure in those areas. Marketing facilities do not exist. Veterinary control and veterinary animal health standards are poor in those areas.

So these are neglects of the past that have to be improved upon. But I believe that we will succeed, that we will overcome poverty. I see it more as a problem of poverty than it is so much a question of agricultural production. We must produce, we must allow these farmers a system to produce more, but mainly to overcome poverty.

Mr Chairman, Namibia with all its harsh conditions produces enough food, we are net exporters of food, although we have to import large quantities of cereals, vegetables, fruit, dairy and poultry products, our beef, our mutton, our cattle and our sheep that we export exceeds that by far.

We show a credit balance on agriculture, but, Mr Chairman, those poor people earning US\$55 a year cannot buy it. They have nothing to live on. But that is typically the problem that the world has.

Europe is producing far too much food, it is running out of their ears while Africa goes hungry, the disparity in the world that we will have to overcome.

I spent some time on the topic of sustainable development, but there is one aspect which I must really today in public mention here. This is one aspect where developed countries have joined forces to ruin our country.

Mr Chairman the Bengala stream of our West coast is one of the richest fishing grounds in the world, or at least it was. It was until the colonial powers and, unfortunately, Mr Chairman, certain developed countries started over-fishing there, started plundering our fishing grounds.

Before independence, something like one million metric tons of fish was taken from those fishing grounds per annum. This went on. There is nothing left. Our fishing grounds have been ruined to such an extent that we are struggling. But even today, after independence I would call them pirates of certain countries still come to our waters to catch fish in our waters, knowing that we as a small country do not have the infrastructure to stop it. Mr Chairman, the story or the excuse given by this particular government that it cannot control its people is not acceptable to me. It is not acceptable. We have reported it time and again with the names of the vessels catching illegally in our waters. But no action has been taken. I have faith that even from the FAO something could be done to stop this.

Our waters have to recover. We cannot do otherwise. The fishing waters of Namibia's coast can store something like US\$1 billion per year.

Mr Chairman, for a small poor country with a GDP of only 2 billion it is an extra 1 billion. We need this. We need this to feed our people. And I think that if we get assistance there this could be to the better advancement of our country and also our people.

Mr Chairman, it is getting late and I think everybody would feel happy if I say Amen. In conclusion I wish to thank a number of countries who have assisted us, who are still assisting us.

I wish to thank a number of NGOs that are active in our country. I wish to thank more especially the FAO. FAO has opened an office in our country. I wish to thank you for that. I wish to assure you that they are amply represented there. Whenever we need their representative he is just five minutes away. We pick up a phone and within five minutes we are getting good service. Thank you very much for that.

**Alexandre José ZANDAMELA (Mozambique):** Your Excellency the Chairman of the FAO Conference, Your Excellency the Director-General of FAO, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO is taking place at a particularly important moment for Mozambique, marked by deep transformations in all spheres of life. But most important of all is the fact that after a long period of warfare, which has brought misery to millions of Mozambican families and has led the country to a critical economic and social situation, transforming it into one of the poorest countries in the world, at the present moment there appears a glimmer of a longed-for lasting peace. This peace will extend the possibilities for a wider and integral cooperation, aimed at the reconstruction and development of the country.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, our deepest gratitude to the International Community for the multifarious support provided to the country, which significantly helped reduce the suffering of millions of Mozambicans, as well as to alleviate the effects of war and natural calamities that have struck us.

We still maintain our appeal to the international community, to all of those countries and friends that have assisted us in the difficult moments, in the hope that they will increase and extend their aid to various national reconstruction and development programmes to be launched once the war is over. In the framework of the legislation in force and within the areas defined by the Government, Mozambique is open to and supports the initiatives related to direct foreign investment, and encourages its association with national entrepreneurs, with a view to the assessment, exploitation and development of the various natural resources, aiming at the country's reconstruction and development.

Mozambique is a country of about 800 000 square kilometres with a coastline of over 2 500 kilometres. Besides the abundant fishery resources, the country is favoured in terms of maritime transport facilities and has a high potential for tourism.

Although it has never been totally self-sufficient in food, the country has all the essential resources for food production, the development of agro-industries and a potential for exportation. The subsoil is rich in ore,



with abundant natural gas; wildlife and vegetation are also abundant and varied.

Mozambique is essentially an agricultural country, which in the present stage makes agriculture the basis for its economic and social development.

Our policies favour integrated rural development, with the family sector as the main target, food production as the top priority and most immediate objective, while agricultural training, research and extension constitute the main instruments for that purpose.

Appropriate macro-economic policies will ensure the involvement of other socio-economic sectors of the economy and the participation of foreign investment.

In the national programmes for rural development we try to emphasize the role of women, through programmes that make possible their participation in larger numbers and their inclusion in jobs and tasks traditionally reserved to men, thus enabling them to increase their family income and to actually hold the place in society which they rightly deserve. In this connection, FAO is actively involved in the preparation of the International Conference on Nutrition, to be held here in Rome in December 1992.

We believe that, in order to make FAO's assistance more effective, this Organization should more actively promote technical cooperation amongst Developing Countries that have the same level of development or are linked geographically by neighbouring borders. This can be achieved by means of the United Nations' TCDC programme. Other important aspects to bear in mind when establishing rural development programmes are rural extension and plant protection. In this specific area, we are also counting on FAO's support, in implementing the appropriate formulation studies, as well as in financing the projects aiming to materialize these objectives.

The programme for national reconstruction and normalization of the lives of millions of Mozambicans once peace is attained in the country, places ahead of us a gigantic and difficult task, such as the resettlement of the displaced population and of the demobilized.

The problem of alleviating poverty amongst the most vulnerable families in the urban areas (presently being studied with the support of SDA) is another difficult problem, given the little financial resources available.

There is already an urgent need to appraise these problems and to design effective programmes, with the diversified support of the community. In order to make the most of this task and the initiatives on the part of the donors, FAO as a technical agency specialized in matters of food and agriculture could assume the responsibility of coordinating donors' action in the areas of agriculture and fisheries, thus serving as a catalytic factor regarding the required funds for investments in these sectors.

Mr Chairman, the Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO precedes the World Conference of Rio de Janeiro on Development and Environment.

It is not excessive to mention that all over the world agriculture has always been and still is at present the most essential activity for Man's survival and his well-being. Agriculture has been the economic sector that most greatly affects and more greatly depends on the environment. With the

increased demand for technology, brought about by population growth, as well as the shortage of alternative employment opportunities in the rural areas, the conflict between agriculture and the environment has also increased, leading to the acceleration of natural resources degradation, inclusively to deforestation, desertification and the loss of biological diversity, as well as to various forms of pollution and contamination.

FAO has a great role to play in the search for solutions to make the agricultural activity feasible on a sustainable environmental basis.

Before I finish, Mr Chairman, I should like to make some comments on the work of FAO in my country, and I hope they will be understood and accepted as a constructive contribution.

FAO is one of the institutions of the United Nations operating in Mozambique that has greatly contributed to the financing and technical assistance of the various programmes in the areas of its mandate. I think it would not be fair not to refer in this regard to the personal commitment of its Director-General. In spite of that we believe that through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, TCP, we may receive even more benefits from its support, namely in relation to the proposals already submitted but not yet approved.

Mr Chairman, Mozambique would also like FAO to become more dynamic and flexible in trying to remove all possible obstacles, so that our already approved projects do not suffer the foreseen interruptions.

We have noted over the last few years that FAO should strive to creating a sounder atmosphere and an even stronger and closer relationship. It should endeavour to better integrate itself institutionally and change, even if slightly, its philosophy of action, for instance by giving greater emphasis to the training of nationals, and becoming more flexible in the recruitment of its staff in order to make fuller utilization of local human resources, thus contributing to reduce the heavy financial burden that international recruitment inevitably has on its own budget.

In this effort to improve its working and management methods, FAO might also try to modernize with a view to reduce the bureaucracy in its relationship with the recipient country. We believe that these changes, if adopted, would help FAO to carry out its mandate in a more dynamic, efficient and effective way.

The meeting rose at 19.05 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 h 05.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.05 horas.



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

TENTH PLENARY MEETING

DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

DECIMA SESION PLENARIA

(15 November 1991)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas

bajo la Presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

## GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

### DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

### DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Malawi, Ghana, Albanie, Sénégal

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, we will commence this morning's session. I apologize that we are starting a bit late. We were busy in the General Committee. There were some difficult questions to attend to. I am happy to report that all is well, and everything is going on with consensus. I will be submitting the report of this morning's proceedings a little later. We will now commence our procedures.

**Francis Misi KANGAUDE (Malawi):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. First and foremost, let me pay tribute to my Head of State, His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr H.K. Banda, who is also my Minister of Agriculture, for granting me the privilege to come to Rome to participate at the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference.

In Malawi, agriculture is the most important economic sector and contributes well over 40 percent of the gross domestic product, GDP, and accounts for approximately 90 percent of the foreign exchange earnings. There are two main subsectors of agriculture, namely the estate subsector and the small-holder subsector. Although the estate subsector accounts for most of the foreign exchange earnings, the small-holder subsector produces most of the food required in the country and almost 70 percent of cultivated land is under this subsector.

It is estimated that 85 percent of Malawi's population lives in rural areas and depends on self-employment in farming and other agro-based income generating activities for their livelihood. It is against this background that government policy on agriculture is committed to working with these people in order to meet their aspirations within the overall national objectives.

I would also like to point out that the commitment of the political leadership to improving agricultural production by providing an enabling environment in terms of price signals and related infrastructure has, to a large extent, been responsible for the success story of Malawi's agriculture. Coupled with this is the positive response of our farmers to the calls for hard work and adoption of appropriate technologies that are recommended by agricultural extension staff. Therefore, to achieve its policy objectives in food and agricultural production, the Government has ensured that a sound, efficient and effective agricultural research and extension system is in place to generate and disseminate new or recommended technologies to farmers. In addition, such essential support services as Smallholder Credit and Marketing, as well as supply and distribution of farm inputs have been put into place.

In agricultural research, a change of emphasis has been advocated from basic to applied research, focusing more on farmers' real problems and needs. This has been achieved by strengthening research-extension-farmer linkage so that there is a two-way communication and joint effort to solve farmers' problems. On-farm research is, therefore, the main focus. As a result, a number of achievements have been made over the years since independence in 1964. New agronomic and management recommendations for crops and livestock have been made, together with the release of improved crop varieties and breeds of livestock.

Mr Chairman, since our main concern is the state of food and agriculture in the world, in Malawi maize is the most important staple food, feeding over 70 percent of the total population. Therefore, research efforts have been most rigorous on this crop, mainly covering breeding and agronomy. As a result, a number of high yielding hybrid and composite varieties have been produced and released for planting. Among these are the latest flint or hard grain hybrids which are suitable for storage and processing under village conditions and possess other qualities that are favoured by the ordinary people.

Furthermore, in order to promote crop diversification, research work on other food and cash crops such as cassava, rice, grain legumes, sorghum, horticultural crops, tobacco, cotton, tea, sugar and macadamia has also made considerable progress. Improved cattle breeds for beef and dairy have also been produced for our farmers. This will go a long way to further improving food production in Malawi in the 1990's.

Under our National Rural Development Programme, a management structure for the professional and technical services is in place. To ensure professionalism and technical competence of agricultural personnel, an intensive training programme is being implemented in which research, planning and extension staff are being trained to master's degree level, with some research staff being trained to PhD level. This has resulted in sound management services in all departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. The well-trained and technically competent personnel has meant that our emphasis on farmer and grass-roots staff training has been well implemented and supported.

In Malawi, it is estimated that 70 percent of food production is done by women. Realizing this, Government has established special programmes to specifically address women's problems so that food production can be further enhanced. The Women's Programme was established in 1981 with the main objective of increasing the well-being of Malawian families through greater participation of women in agriculture and other services. The Women's Programme targets smallholder female farmers with special emphasis on female heads of households. The programme emphasizes activities that increase agricultural production in ways that will improve the nutritional and health status of family members.

Government is also cognizant of the fact that rainfed agriculture has its own limitations as in seasons of poor rainfall, yields are substantially reduced. To achieve this objective of ensuring that the country is self-sufficient in food even in bad seasons, Malawi favours the development of irrigation schemes. Irrigation schemes play three roles, namely: they ensure adequate availability of water to crops like rice, maize and vegetables; they afford farmers a secured second harvest in the same year

and thereby improve land capacity; and in areas of difficult rainfall, land which would otherwise be non-arable is made arable.

It should be noted, however, that the irrigation potential in Malawi is very high. What is lacking is enough financial support to enable government to support the local self-help effort with structures which are essential to the introduction and utilization of the available water. Self-help spirit in irrigation schemes is actively promoted in Malawi because it is recognized as the best way of ensuring sustainability in management and maintenance, and Malawian farmers appreciate it.

Government is also encouraging the construction of new small dams in addition to self-help irrigation schemes for the purpose of reducing the risk of hunger and poverty.

Apart from enhancing crop diversification, the dams can also be stocked with fish which would be an important source of protein and cash for the households.

As mentioned earlier, Government has not only promoted agricultural production but also support services such as credit, farm inputs, and marketing which are crucial in attaining and maintaining self-sufficiency in food supply as well as surplus for sale. The Government policy regarding these services aims at ensuring that markets and inputs are available within walking distances and that where rural people do not have enough out-of-pocket cash to buy inputs, credit facilities must be provided. This is in recognition of the fact that approximately 85 percent of the population live in rural areas and depend on farming for their livelihood. In addition, they produce almost all the food the country requires.

This policy direction is also in appreciation of the fact that crop yields cannot be improved without use of farm inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, agrochemicals; and that rural communities cannot benefit sufficiently from farming if there are no or inadequate markets and crop extraction facilities.

Credit uptake, use of fertilizers and improved seeds have increased drastically. Despite huge increases in the uptake of fertilizers and improved maize seed on credit, however, the demand for these inputs is far from being satisfied due to inadequate availability of credit funds. Mr Chairman, this is one of the areas in which more donor assistance is needed to complement government effort to meet the shortfall.

For many years now, Malawi has been observing a national tree planting day on the 21 December each year. This programme is intended to alleviate future wood shortage, improve land productivity and control deforestation. Since 1987, approximately 189 million trees have been planted at a rate of between 25 and 36 million new trees each year. A survival rate of about 65 percent is achieved. Major problems are encountered due to a harsh environmental condition and limited financial resources to support the programmes.

In view of the current escalating costs of inorganic fertilizers, the Ministry of Agriculture is also encouraging farmers to incorporate crop residues and where possible, make extensive use of compost manure as a means of improving soil structure and fertility.

This year, Malawi has performed extremely well in agricultural production and is in a position to feed herself. This is in spite of the adverse environmental and climatic conditions, especially flash floods which affected Phalombe and four other districts where crops were lost.

However, in spite of the sound economic and development policies which Malawi is advocating, she has suffered economic hardship due to disruption of her traditional international transport routes through Nacala and Beira because of continued civil strife in neighbouring Mozambique. As a result, we are facing high transport costs by routing our imports and exports through Durban and Dar-es-Salaam. Consequently, Malawi has also often faced difficulties in timely delivery and distribution of fertilizers in particular.

Malawi has, over the years since independence, been able to feed herself because of sound Government policies and political commitment to agricultural development in the face of serious socio-economic and political problems being experienced in most parts of the world today. On behalf of my Head of State and Government, His Excellency The Life President of the Republic of Malawi, Ngwazi Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, and the people of Malawi, I would like to thank FAO and the donor community for the financial and technical support accorded us so far. In particular I would like to express special thanks to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for showing his keen interest in food and agricultural production in Malawi to which he has rendered full personal practical support as and when such support has been required.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Director-General of FAO for his dynamic and inspiring speech of 11 November, 1991 in which he ably highlighted the plight of Third World countries and Eastern Europe. My delegation fully endorses his appeal for moral and material support from the developed countries to assist programmes that are designed to alleviate hunger and poverty in developing countries.

Furthermore, I would like to join in the appeal made by the Director-General to all Member States to pay their contributions when they are due in support of FAO activities throughout the world. I wish to assure the Director-General that Malawi will continue to honour its obligation by effecting timely payment of its contribution. This is in appreciation of the various FAO programmes which are being implemented in Malawi and the African Region in particular.

**Steve George OBIMPEH (Ghana):** Mr Chairman, Director-General of FAO, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my pleasure and honour to convey to this august Conference, the greetings and best wishes of my Government and People of Ghana. Let me once again reiterate that the vast majority of Ghanaians are small-scale farmers who are appreciative of the work of international organizations such as FAO, mindful of the invaluable technological, financial and material support given to them to enhance their individual and collective efforts in agriculture.

Mr Chairman, may I also seize this opportunity, to congratulate you and your colleagues on the Bureau on your election to steer the deliberations of this Session of the Conference.



Mr Chairman, it is a good sign that this Conference is being held at a time when the world is enjoying an atmosphere of International detente. It is an appropriate environment in which to nurture hope for and initiate a process of development that could lead to the realization of the age-old quest for universal food security. Coming from different parts of the world, we who are gathered here today share one common aspiration; that is to find practical solutions to the problems besetting each member country, and especially the developing ones, in the field of agriculture. We entertain the hope that the anticipated peace dividend would release funds to FAO and other institutions in the agricultural field, so that these could be appropriately channelled to make farming a profitable venture for the benefit of our farmers, processors and consumers alike.

Turning now to some of the Agenda Items for the Conference, I would wish to comment briefly on the world food and agriculture situation, with particular reference to developing countries.

Mr Chairman, we in the developing countries have noted with concern that while effort at economic recovery is the order of the day in many of our countries, such recovery has yet to reach an acceptable level of significance. Many developing countries continue to suffer from a most protracted social and economic crisis. The reasons for which include the soaring imbalance in international payments which render them net exporters of capital; the falling prices of primary commodities which has crippled some of the countries' main sources of income and foreign exchange; and the increasing inequality in the terms of trade which has caused many developing countries to resort to borrowing to finance agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, Ghana has not been spared by this global phenomenon as she has been severely hit by a sharp fall in export prices of her primary commodities notably cocoa over the past decade. Something needs to be done about this and quickly too. It is within this context that my Delegation supports the Declaration of the OECD Council and the World Food Council, that a successful outcome to the Uruguay Round must have the highest priority.

In order to address these problems, many of the developing countries have already implemented stringent and painful structural adjustment programmes which, in many instances, have increased the hardships experienced by the most vulnerable groups, the small-scale farmers. In addition, tariff barriers in our countries are being removed as a result of conditionalities of structural adjustment loans. This means that domestic agricultural development efforts in the developing countries continue to be adversely affected. Mr Chairman, it is also noted with concern that the influx of highly subsidized agricultural commodities from developed countries as a result of trade liberalization conditionalities has negative effects on domestic production.

My delegation is hopeful that the current Session will seriously address these problems and come out with pragmatic solutions to enhance agricultural production. In this connection we are satisfied with the strategies proposed in the FAO's Medium-Term Plan towards poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture, food security, self-reliance, broad-based participation, local technology development, as well as bridging the gender gap in agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, in order to sustain the gains of the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) launched in 1983 Ghana has begun implementing a Medium-Term Agricultural Programme (MTADP) which is a strategy for sustained agricultural growth and development to cover the period 1991-2000 and has the following as its goals: food security, creating rural employment opportunities, improvements in the balance of payments, agriculture-industry linkage and balanced regional development.

Mr Chairman, on activities related to the environment and sustainable development, my Delegation cannot but agree with the conclusions of the International Conference on Agriculture and Development held in the Netherlands. We all are faced with the critical problems of environmental deterioration. Having realized the magnitude of this problem, it is essential that governmental agencies mobilize financial and human resources backed by political will to arrest the situation.

Mr Chairman, the question of women in development and in agriculture has been accepted by all, and I am happy to inform distinguished delegates that Ghana under her Medium-Term Agricultural Development Programme will embark on a strategy that will focus on strengthening the agricultural extension programmes benefitting women. These include greater gender sensitivity, women access to credit, improved market access for women, technology and inputs geared toward increasing the productivity of women, and last but not least, women's increasing involvement in the environment, natural resources and forestry management.

Mr Chairman, the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including PIC (Prior Informed Consent) clause is of relevance to Ghana. My Delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the considerable amount of work which has led to the realization of the implementation of this instrument. The need for minimizing the negative effects of pesticide usage is imperative for any sustainable agricultural production. My Delegation therefore wishes to commend FAO's effort in Southeast Asia and North Africa and desires that this new technology be extended to Sub-Saharan Africa which is pest and disease prone.

Mr Chairman, at this juncture let me reiterate my country's support for the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) which was established to provide FAO with the flexibility to respond to urgent, small-scale requests from member countries.

Whilst noting with satisfaction that the Director-General has managed to increase the resource level of the TCP to 11.9 percent, my delegation will urge him to implement fully the terms of Resolution 9/89 which enjoins him to restore the resources available to TCP to the level of 14 percent of the total Regular Programme Budget.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, kindly permit me in my capacity as the host for the FAO Regional Office for Africa to commend on my own behalf and on behalf of the brotherly Member Nations of the Region, the Assistant Director-General and the FAO Regional Representative for Africa Mr Robert N'Daw and his able team of dedicated and hard-working officers for their laudable services to the Continent.

In conclusion, I wish to announce that Ghana will host the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa in July 1992, and I accordingly invite all my colleague African Ministers for Agriculture and well wishers to attend and contribute to the solutions of the peculiar problems of food and agriculture confronting our dear Continent.

Thank you.

**Nexhmedin DUMANI (Albanie):** M. le Président, qu'il me soit permis de vous féliciter au nom de la délégation de la République d'Albanie pour votre élection au poste de Président de la présente Conférence, assez importante dans l'activité de notre Organisation déjà renommée et d'une influence internationale pour les problèmes de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

J'ai le plaisir particulier de saluer le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, et de le féliciter également pour les efforts qu'il fournit et la contribution qu'il apporte dans la réalisation des objectifs de notre Organisation. Ses interventions et ses connaissances dans l'ensemble des problèmes agro-alimentaires qui préoccupent aujourd'hui une partie de l'humanité ont donné à notre Organisation l'autorité méritée partout dans le monde.

Le Gouvernement albanais a apprécié le rôle positif joué par la FAO qui s'intéresse vivement à la disparité des déséquilibres de la production agricole et à la sécurité alimentaire, qui préoccupent aujourd'hui le milieu scientifique et qui apportent la souffrance de beaucoup de personnes dans le monde.

Certainement les programmes et les activités entreprises avec l'initiative de la FAO et les études détaillées, les projets pour le pronostic de la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire jusqu'à l'an 2000, présentent d'une façon adéquate les aspirations et les buts humanitaires de notre Organisation. Dans l'avenir les pays en développement occuperont certainement une place importante dans notre Organisation, ces pays aspirant à se rapprocher des pays avancés de l'Occident; ils sont restés arriérés par suite d'une conception extrême et de la faillite d'une économie centralisée et planifiée.

Le développement économique et social, jusqu'à maintenant, a prouvé que la productivité économique et l'efficacité sociale sont obtenues seulement dans les cas où un individu ou un groupe d'individus mène une action économique libre et indépendante. Ce n'est que de cette façon que chaque individu sert son propre progrès et le progrès social dans son ensemble.

Depuis environ cinq décennies la poursuite d'une politique extrêmement centralisée dans le développement économique et social, l'application d'une économie commandée depuis un centre unique avec une direction volontariste de l'action des lois économiques, inspirée de la domination monopartiste a apporté en Albanie une stagnation economico-sociale, l'engourdissement et jusqu'à la dégradation des facteurs qui stimulent le développement général et plus particulièrement la production agricole et l'élevage. Quelques résultats dans le développement intensif et extensif de l'agriculture albanaise, relativement avancée malgré son passé féodal, ont assombri le fossé qui nous séparait des progrès des pays d'Europe.

Actuellement, l'Albanie survit à une crise plus profonde de la sécurité alimentaire. La période de transition pour la transformation du type de l'économie planifiée depuis un centre unique vers une économie de marché et la libre initiative privée présentent des symptômes plus graves notamment dans ce petit pays d'Europe. Une telle crise de la production et des structures anciennes de la propriété était évidente depuis des années.

Mais plus particulièrement ces dernières années la crise est devenue réellement drastique. L'économie albanaise est sortie du contrôle. Seulement cette année quand toute la société a été engagée dans le processus de démocratisation, la production a diminué d'environ 50 pour cent, dans l'industrie comme dans l'agriculture.

L'inflation actuellement n'est pas apparue avec ses vraies dimensions par suite des prix bloqués pour des produits indispensables de l'alimentation et de l'application du système de rationnement des aliments. Mais la spéculation et l'utilisation des prix élevés qui ont déjà commencé, même pour des produits de première importance pour l'alimentation de la population, qui ont été causées par le manque de produits, se diffusent rapidement et aggravent encore le niveau de vie de la population. Malgré la perspective du pays, qui, pour différentes raisons, est resté en dehors des préoccupations des organismes et institutions internationaux, nous restons optimistes. L'Albanie déjà avec la coopération constructive et efficace avec les pays d'Europe et la communauté internationale a fait des pas importants vers une démocratie pluraliste, vers la création d'un Etat juridique et a entrepris une réforme économique profonde. Dans cette réforme économique dont le terrain législatif a été construit avec rapidité et à un niveau scientifique, l'agriculture, l'une des branches prioritaires du développement, mettra en oeuvre toute l'économie dans son ensemble et garantira la sortie de la crise d'une manière rapide.

Au fonctionnement normal de l'agriculture n'est pas liée seulement la sécurité de l'alimentation de la population mais aussi le fonctionnement de tous les sujets économiques de l'industrie légère alimentaire, la sécurité des réserves en devises ainsi que l'établissement d'un rapport optimal entre l'exportation et l'importation. Ces facteurs sont d'autant plus importants dans un pays comme l'Albanie où actuellement 65 pour cent de la population vivent à la campagne.

A la base de la réforme économique actuelle en agriculture est la privatisation de la terre. Actuellement, dans chaque village, on travaille pour la privatisation de 600 000 hectares de terres. Jusqu'à maintenant ont été privatisés 45 pour cent de la superficie de la terre et 200 000 familles sont devenues propriétaires. L'objectif est qu'à la fin du mois de novembre soit achevée la privatisation de la terre agricole. Ainsi en Albanie environ 360 000 fermiers commenceront le travail comme propriétaires privés. On est aussi en train de privatiser les autres secteurs au service de l'agriculture et on travaille pour la préparation de la distribution des documents de la propriété de la terre pour les nouveaux propriétaires.

Le but de la réalisation de la réforme économique en agriculture est d'assurer la sécurité d'une situation pluraliste de la propriété où dominera la propriété privée. Le but principal est la promotion et le soutien du fermier privé.

Certainement l'Albanie se présente à la FAO avec une baisse générale de la production agricole mais aussi avec une situation nouvelle et des changements importants des structures de propriété de la production agricole. Une telle situation est certainement pleine d'espoirs. Cela se voit par les résultats obtenus dernièrement en élevage: l'élevage, qui a été privatisé il y a quatre ou cinq mois, a commencé à connaître un accroissement de la production. Cela nous renforce dans la conviction que plus vite se fera la privatisation de l'agriculture, plus vite seront accrues la production agricole et son efficacité. Notamment la préoccupation qui traverse toute l'activité du Gouvernement albanais actuel est la privatisation accélérée de la terre et des autres activités au service de l'agriculture.

Actuellement, dans le développement de la réforme de l'économie albanaise on remarque une préoccupation qui est liée au manque d'une base nécessaire matérielle et technique pour mieux appuyer le développement de la réforme. Cela veut dire que l'économie de marché a commencé l'application de ses lois pour les produits nécessaires et sans débouchés. La solution de cette contradiction qui conditionne aussi le succès de la réforme économique et la diminution de la période de transition exige un soutien et une aide intensive pour l'Albanie par toutes les institutions et les organismes internationaux.

Cette aide a déjà commencé et nous en sommes reconnaissants mais nous espérons que ces organismes, et sans aucun doute la FAO plus que les autres organismes de ce caractère, seront engagés et intégrés dans l'assistance pour la restructuration de l'agriculture albanaise.

Nous exprimons la conviction que les possibilités de cette Organisation sont grandes et ne manqueront pas du désir de donner à l'Albanie l'aide nécessaire dans de telles directions, assurant la consolidation des résultats de la réforme économique en agriculture.

L'agriculture albanaise a besoin, pour des projets et des applications, pour l'amélioration des systèmes, pour l'irrigation, l'exploitation rationnelle des forêts et des pâturages en général, pour l'exploitation optimale, de toutes les ressources de l'espace agricole. Elle a besoin d'une assistance complète commençant par la documentation du fermier privé, ainsi que par l'organisation de l'assistance technique, la création des points de vulgarisation pour l'introduction des nouvelles technologies.

Elle a besoin de la spécialisation des spécialistes et de la formation des agriculteurs dont l'Europe a une grande expérience.

Ce qui aurait un grand effet serait l'octroi de bourses et la formation de cadres de la Banque agricole et pour les problèmes de marketing, pour la formation des étudiants et des spécialistes avec les connaissances nécessaires de l'économie de marché. Elle a un besoin urgent de la connaissance des différentes formes de fonctionnement des sociétés privées dans la circulation et la commercialisation des produits agricoles, des sociétés actionnaires et mixtes, de l'organisation du système fiscal et des politiques de subvention en agriculture, information, communications et transports.

Les administrateurs de l'agriculture albanaise, déjà privatisée dans la plus grande partie, veulent des informations rapides, des connaissances sur le marché européen afin que les structures de la production soient dynamiques, efficaces et rentables.

Pour tout cela nous sommes optimistes. Nous pensons que la FAO n'épargnera pas son aide et nous espérons une priorité vers l'Albanie assoiffée de mettre au point ses réserves matérielles et humaines, jeunes et pleines de vitalité.

Certainement, les travaux de cette session qui traite des problèmes importants de la situation agro-alimentaire dans le monde ne peut qu'affirmer encore une fois l'engagement indiscutable de notre Organisation pour de nouvelles solutions en vue du développement de la production agricole, unissant les espoirs de l'Albanie avec ceux du monde entier.

**Cheikh Abdoul K. CISSOKHO (Sénégal):** C'est pour moi un grand honneur de pouvoir, ce matin, vous adresser les félicitations de mon Gouvernement et du peuple sénégalais.

La vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) se tient, à un moment particulièrement significatif dans l'histoire de notre monde contemporain, caractérisée par de profondes mutations, dont on ne pouvait se douter de l'ampleur il y a encore quelques années.

Au seuil du troisième millénaire des perspectives nouvelles de liberté et de démocratie s'annoncent partout pour l'humanité.

Elles sont, en dernière analyse, l'aboutissement de deux mille ans d'histoire façonnés par le génie de l'Homme.

Celui-ci est plus que jamais déterminé à lutter contre toute forme de domination et d'oppression mais aussi contre la faim, la malnutrition, la pauvreté et la dégradation de l'environnement, en vue d'assurer sa survie et celle de sa planète.

En première ligne de ce combat, l'Agriculteur qui assure le métier le plus noble, le plus vieux de l'humanité pour satisfaire les besoins essentiels de ses semblables et qui aspire, en retour, à un bien-être grâce aux fruits de son labeur.

L'actualité de ces derniers mois révèle, autour de nous les victoires de l'Homme sur les réticences.

Le mur de Berlin, longtemps symbole hideux de la guerre froide, est tombé. La guerre du Golfe, qui a frôlé l'apocalypse n'est plus qu'un terrible souvenir. Le désarmement tant souhaité est en passe de devenir une réalité à la portée du possible, présageant d'un nouvel ordre mondial déjà en chantier.

A l'Est comme dans le Sud, et notamment en Afrique, les peuples sous le joug du totalitarisme, de l'obscurantisme et de la dictature se réveillent à la démocratie et à la liberté, sous la poussée, il faut le dire, des contraintes économiques.

C'est dans un tel contexte qu'il convient de placer les préoccupations qui nous interpellent aujourd'hui: la situation alimentaire et agricole du monde et les problèmes nutritionnels, le commerce international des produits agricoles, l'environnement et le développement durable, les Négociations multilatérales de l'Uruguay Round du GATT, la régionalisation des initiatives d'intégration économique, les perspectives du Marché unique européen de 1993 et j'en passe.

A tout ceci, il importe bien évidemment d'ajouter que le rôle des Nations Unies et celui des institutions spécialisées a été renforcé, notamment celui de la FAO qui, avec son leadership dans le domaine alimentaire et agricole cherche, par une réforme hardie de ses Textes fondamentaux, à s'ouvrir aux organisations d'intégration économique régionales, telle la Communauté économique européenne comme première étape de ce processus.

Aussi M. le Président, est-ce en raison de tout ce qui précède que le Sénégal a accueilli avec beaucoup de sympathie votre élection à la présidence de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de notre Organisation, persuadé que votre sagesse ainsi que vos talents de diplomate aguerri permettront à la Conférence générale d'enregistrer de nouveaux progrès.

A chaque session, la Conférence générale accueille de nouveaux membres qui viennent élargir la grande famille de la FAO.

Cette année encore nous saluons avec joie l'entrée de nouveaux venus dans notre Organisation. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion solennelle pour féliciter et souhaiter une chaleureuse bienvenue aux délégations des Etats baltes (Estonie, Lettonie et Lituanie) nouvellement indépendants, et de Porto Rico qui viennent d'accéder, les premiers au statut de membre à part entière et le second, à celui de membre associé de notre Organisation.

En même temps qu'elle contribuera positivement à élargir et à enrichir nos débats, la présence de ces nouveaux membres confirme, s'il en était encore besoin, le caractère universel de notre Organisation.

Si la FAO a élargi son audience au niveau mondial, acquis des lettres de noblesse dans tous les secteurs qui touchent l'alimentation et l'agriculture, c'est certes en raison de l'ouverture d'esprit dont ses Etats Membres ont fait preuve au fil des années, mais c'est également grâce à la foi et au dévouement de son Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, et à son équipe dynamique qui sert avec compétence notre Institution.

Ma délégation a écouté avec un intérêt soutenu la Conférence McDougall prononcée par Mr Jacques Attali, Président de la Banque européenne de reconstruction et de développement (BERD).

Nous voyons dans cette déclaration de haute portée le signe manifeste d'une volonté renouvelée de solidarité et de coopération entre le Nord et le Sud.

Puissent les idées généreuses contenues dans cette adresse imprimer un nouvel élan et contribuer positivement à la mobilisation de ressources additionnelles en faveur du développement des pays du Sud et de l'Est.

La Conférence générale constitue toujours un moment privilégié pour les Etats Membres en vue d'engager ensemble une réflexion collective et échanger, entre eux, leurs expériences nationales sur les questions essentielles qui les interpellent dans le domaine alimentaire et agricole.

Aussi, me permettez-vous de vous livrer très brièvement les grandes lignes de la politique agricole sénégalaise, avant d'aborder la situation financière de la FAO, le Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93 soumis à l'examen de la Conférence, ainsi que les autres questions connexes intéressant la vie de l'Organisation.

Le Sénégal, pays essentiellement agricole dont 70 pour cent de la population tirent leurs revenus de la terre, est situé en zone sahélienne.

Son agriculture, essentiellement pluviale, subit les aléas climatiques, qui impriment à la production une évolution fluctuante.

Malgré ces conditions défavorables aggravées par l'impact d'une dette extérieure et les effets de la politique d'ajustement structurel sur le tissu social, le Gouvernement sénégalais n'a pas désarmé.

Bien au contraire, face à cette situation, le Gouvernement poursuit une politique d'ajustement structurel agricole, dont l'objectif est d'assurer l'équilibre interne des filières et faire du paysan sénégalais un véritable entrepreneur agricole, responsable de son destin et conscient des enjeux que représentent les impératifs d'une agriculture écologique viable.

Les résultats préliminaires de cette politique et notre expérience dans ce domaine, notamment en considération de la campagne agricole 1990/91, attestent que les efforts entrepris pour la maîtrise de l'eau en vue de sécuriser la production agricole, la lutte contre les déprédateurs, la foresterie participative, la pêche concourent favorablement à l'amélioration de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Cependant, ces efforts atteignent leur limite du fait de l'accès de plus en plus difficile aux intrants agricoles, notamment les engrais et le matériel.

La suppression des subventions freine l'intensification pour une meilleure productivité.

Or, la réhabilitation des sols par des amendements de fond, la lutte contre la salinité, la régénération des ressources naturelles alliées à l'intensification sont des facteurs essentiels pour permettre d'asseoir un système agricole durable.

C'est pourquoi, M. le Président, j'en appelle à la FAO, à son Directeur général ainsi qu'à la communauté internationale afin que l'aide en nature, initiée il y a quelques années soit reprise et amplifiée.

Une telle aide, sans revêtir un caractère de pérennité, devrait permettre de constituer des fonds de relance de la consommation d'intrants agricoles dans nos pays, sous la forme de fonds de garantie.



Ainsi, elle favoriserait la relance de l'utilisation des intrants qui, avec des incitations appropriées, rendront notre agriculture plus performante et l'environnement écologique mieux préservé contre les défrichements intensifs.

Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier très sincèrement la FAO, le FIDA ainsi que la communauté des pays donateurs qui ont contribué à la réalisation des résultats encourageants de l'agriculture sénégalaise, et qui continuent de soutenir les efforts de développement du Gouvernement et du peuple sénégalais.

A travers ces résultats, il convient de mesurer les efforts et les sacrifices consentis par les producteurs sénégalais et l'expression tangible de la volonté politique et de la détermination de notre Gouvernement, résolument engagé dans la bataille du développement.

La politique agricole menée par mon pays doit être perçue comme une initiative qui s'articule dans une perspective d'intégration régionale.

En effet, face à la tendance généralisée des regroupements régionaux en zone de libre-échange, les pays africains ne pouvaient rester en marge d'une évolution qui, sans nul doute, va marquer dans les années à venir le commerce international qui se fera d'abord à l'intérieur de chaque région et entre les régions.

C'est pourquoi, en rapport avec 16 autres pays africains le Sénégal a pris l'initiative d'organiser à Dakar au mois de mars dernier, une Conférence des Ministres de l'Agriculture des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre sur les voies et moyens de renforcer leur coopération et l'intégration de leurs économies agricoles. Cette Conférence à laquelle la FAO a été activement associée a permis aux pays participants de donner la mesure de leur engagement dans ce qu'ils considèrent comme la seule voie de sortie de crise, c'est à dire, l'intégration des efforts de développement des pays africains par la création d'ensembles économiques viables en vue de relancer la productivité et la compétitivité de l'agriculture africaine tout en préservant, en raison des impératifs du développement durable, les ressources naturelles du continent et les équilibres écologiques sous-régionaux, reconquérir le marché agricole régional et harmoniser l'interface de l'agriculture africaine avec les marchés mondiaux.

Dans ce contexte, le Sénégal ne peut que se féliciter de la signature à Abuja, au Nigeria en juin 1991, à l'occasion du Sommet des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement de l'OUA, du Traité établissant la Communauté économique africaine.

La Conférence générale est également une occasion pour les Etats Membres de dresser le bilan des activités de l'Organisation.

Ma délégation est heureuse de constater, à cet égard, qu'en dépit d'une crise financière sans précédent dans l'histoire de la FAO, celle-ci a su maintenir et renforcer sa présence sur le terrain, au profit des pays bénéficiaires.

Par la multiplication de ses avis techniques et de politique générale, et la mise en oeuvre pour la seule période 1988-90, de plus de 1600 projets en cours par an menés dans plus de 130 pays, pour un montant total avoisinant un milliard et demi de dollars, la FAO a continué d'administrer la prevue

de son efficacité, de sa vitalité, de l'importance et de l'utilité de ses programmes de terrain, qui ont un impact globalement positif et un effet catalytique majeur sur les efforts de développement des pays bénéficiaires.

Certes, en raison de la persistance de la crise financière qu'elle traverse depuis bientôt trois exercices biennaux successifs, la FAO a dû renoncer à certains programmes économiques et techniques vitaux pour les pays en développement qui auraient pu bénéficier d'une assistance plus consistante.

Cette situation est d'autant plus regrettable que cette tendance est maintenue dans le nouveau Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93 soumis à la Conférence pour examen et approbation. Il est difficile de trouver les expressions adéquates pour qualifier les différents maux qui frappent les nations en développement, singulièrement en Afrique; les pays sont confrontés à des problèmes de survie; la productivité, le pouvoir d'achat, la sécurité alimentaire et l'état nutritionnel des populations rurales connaissent une dégradation de plus en plus inquiétante.

Ma délégation se félicite que la FAO, en rapport avec l'OMS ait entamé la préparation active tant au niveau national, sous-régional, que régional, de la Conférence mondiale de l'Alimentation et de la nutrition prévue à Rome en décembre 1992.

Face à ce constat, la communauté des Etats Membres doit réagir en apportant à notre Organisation, la FAO, les moyens qui lui permettent de mener à bien la mission que nous lui avons assignée.

C'est pourquoi, la délégation sénégalaise n'a aucune hésitation à apporter son vote favorable à l'adoption du Programme de travail et du budget caractérisé par une croissance zéro, que le Directeur général de la FAO présente pour le prochain biennium. Ma délégation est également favorable aux grandes orientations et priorités contenues tant dans le Programme de travail que dans le Plan à moyen terme 1992-97; elle estime que ce dernier donne des indications fort utiles, quoique non chiffrées dans le détail, sur les activités futures de l'Organisation, notamment en matière d'information agricole, pour la mise en oeuvre du Centre mondial de l'Information agricole (CMIA).

Nous nous devons également, en tant qu'Etats Membres, d'apporter notre soutien résolu au PAM et au FIDA qui constituent deux outils essentiels au service du développement.

La délégation sénégalaise se félicite de l'issue heureuse que a marqué les discussions sur les nouveaux arrangements ONU/FAO/PAM sanctionnés par les amendements aux Règles générales du Programme alimentaire mondial que la Conférence se propose d'adopter sur une base consensuelle.

Nul doute que ces nouveaux arrangements permettront au PAM d'être encore plus performant parce que plus efficace et plus autonome.

C'est l'occasion pour nous de lancer un appel pour mobiliser les ressources nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs de contribution tant du PAM pour un milliard et demi de dollars pour 1991-94, que de la Deuxième Phase du Programme spécial du FIDA pour les pays africains au sud du Sahara touchés par la sécheresse et la désertification, pour un montant de 300 millions de dollars.

En 1974, la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation prenait l'engagement solennel d'éliminer la faim dans un délai de dix ans.

Dix sept ans après, cet engagement n'est toujours pas tenu, loin s'en faut. Les victimes de la malnutrition et les affamés à travers le monde sont de plus en plus nombreux.

Aujourd'hui, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est faite de paradoxes. Elle reste marquée d'une part, par une production que des subventions cherchent à limiter ou à décourager dans les pays nantis, et d'autre part par de graves pénuries que les possibilités économiques et financières des pays en développement n'arrivent plus à combler ni par le biais d'importations commerciales, ni par la faible production d'une agriculture de moins en moins productive.

Aussi, malgré une nette amélioration globale de la production agricole et de la situation alimentaire au niveau mondial, certains continents, et principalement l'Afrique, continuent de faire face à de graves problèmes alimentaires.

Pourtant, nous en sommes convaincus les moyens et les capacités existent, à l'échelon mondial, pour développer la production agricole, éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition, et bâtir pour nos pays un destin solidaire par l'édification en commun, entre Etats riches et pauvres, dans chaque région de notre Planète, de systèmes économiques solides et tournés vers la croissance et le développement durable.

Puisse la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO donner à la Communauté des nations représentées ici, l'occasion de démontrer toute la mesure de leur générosité pour renforcer la solidarité et la coopération internationale.

## INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

## INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

## INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

### Fourth Report of the General Committee

### Quatrième rapport du Bureau

### Cuarto informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** We are going to interrupt and have a report on the deliberations of General Committee this morning.

The first item on the Agenda today of the General Committee this morning was the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. As the subject of the budget is the most important proceeding of the Conference, there was a great deal of discussion on this but, happily, after the discussion all delegates and members of the Committee agreed and by consensus we adopted the report of the General Committee on the budget.

Now, this report is only submitted to the honourable delegates for information at this stage and to date not adopted because it cannot be adopted until Commission II, which daily is concerned with the budget, has finalized its discussions which will be mostly based on this report.

Therefore, at this stage you are requested to take note of this and by the end of the morning a copy will be circulated or handed to the delegates which may be passed on to your members of Commission II to form the basis of their work.

I will now give the floor to the Secretary-General to report on the deliberations and decisions this morning.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** On this item may I ask you to give the floor to Mr Shah, Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, to read this part of the report of the General Committee.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** The report will appear under the code C 91/LIM/39 Fourth Report of the General Committee, Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93.

At the conclusion of the substantive debate in Commission II on Item 16, Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, the General Committee met with the Chairman of Commission II in order to review the outcome of the debate and the possible steps leading to the approval of the Programme and Work and Budget 1992-93 in the Plenary as scheduled on Wednesday, 20 November 1991.

At this discussion the General Committee also invited the Chairman of Group 77 and the Chairman of the OECD group. The General Committee recognized the widespread desire of Member Nations for the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 by consensus.

The Programme and Finance Committees at their joint meeting in September 1991 reiterated the importance they attached to the continuation of the spirit of consensus which had hitherto prevailed in discussions of proposals for 1992-93. They expressed the hope that Member Nations would pursue the search for consensus; that the Director-General would continue his own efforts to this end and that the Conference would see its way to approving its Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 by consensus.

At its Hundredth Session, 5-7 November 1991: The Council agreed to commend the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget to the Conference. It looked forward to fruitful deliberations in Commission II with the objective of consensus approval after 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget.

The General Committee recognized the firm consensus on the proposed programme of work. However, consensus had not yet been reached on the budget level. In this connection the General Committee noted the statement made by the representative of the United States of America in Commission II that: the United States believes a lower budget level reflecting a 13.5 percent normal increase from the 1990-91 biennium would be more sustainable and supportable.

The proposals of the Director-General, which have the firm support of the overwhelming majority of Member Nations, if approved, at the budget rate of Italian Lire 1 230 to the US dollar would result in a budget level of US\$672 726 000. The budget level indicated as supportable by the United States of America would result in a budget level of US\$645 580 000.

The General Committee recognized that this would amount to a decline in the current budget level as recosted of US\$27 138 000. That is a real decline of 4 percent.

The General Committee noted that such a decline in the level of the FAO budget was unprecedented and was not evidenced in the budget of other organizations in the UN system which had been approved so far by Member Nations for the period 1992-93.

The General Committee considers that the matter is in the hands of Member Nations. If a consensus is desired in the circumstances indicated above, the General Committee submits to the Conference that the draft Resolution on budgetary appropriations submitted by the Director-General in document C 91/3, the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93, be replaced by a draft Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget and budgetary appropriations 1992-93, attached.

If the Conference could reach consensus on the attached Resolution, the General Committee expects that the Conference receive a specific commitment from the United States of America regarding the amounts and the timing of its payments relating to current assessments and arrears; that the present solution resulting in a negative budget growth of 4 percent be considered as an exceptional one not setting a precedent for future programmes of Work and Budget; that Member Nations reserve the right to consider on their merit future Programme of Work and Budget proposals, as may be submitted by the Director-General in accordance with Article 18 paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution.

The General Committee also expressed the hope that taking into account the consensus decision eventually reached on the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 the Conference would reach positive solutions on the Director-General's proposals for increasing the level of the Working Capital Fund and replenish the Special Reserve Account for 1992-93.

The General Committee invites the Plenary to take note of the present report and make it available to Commission II so as to permit conclusion of its work on the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 and transmission of its report or eventual adoption by Plenary as scheduled on 20 November.

That is the end of the report and, as I indicated earlier in the text of the report, there is a draft Resolution which is attached to the report.

**CHAIRMAN:** As I explained earlier, this is not for adoption at this stage, it is only a report for information and to be taken note of.

### Fifth Report of the General Committee

#### Cinquième rapport du Bureau

#### Quinto informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** The next item on the Agenda is the Fifth Report of the General Committee. I give the floor to the Secretary-General.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The Conference noted that in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 4 of the Constitution 23 Member Nations at the beginning of the session had no right to vote in the Conference as the amount of their arrears of contributions to the Organization exceeded the amount of the contributions due from them for the two preceding calendar years. Subsequently, 9 of these Member Nations regularized their positions. Information had been received from 8 Member Nations indicating that their failure to pay was due to conditions beyond the control of each of these Member Nations. Therefore the Conference agreed that voting rights should be restored to these Member Nations: Chad, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guatemala, Peru, Somalia and Uganda for the duration of the Twenty-sixth Conference Session.

In the case of six other nations, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Cambodia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Suriname, they had not registered to attend the Conference. Consequently, the Conference had no basis on which to restore the right to vote and the question of restoring their right to vote did not arise.

Furthermore, the Conference emphasized the need for all Member Nations to pay their contributions and any arrears as soon as possible.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this paragraph? No comments. The paragraph is adopted.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** In connection with the request submitted by Equatorial Guinea to the Director-General for a plan to liquidate its arrears, the Committee recommends that the Conference approve the following draft Resolution:

The Conference noting that the Government of Equatorial Guinea had made the proposal that it liquidate its arrears of contributions over a period of 10 years commencing in 1992 in addition to paying each current contribution in the calendar year of assessments, decides that: (1) notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.5, the arrears of contributions of Equatorial Guinea totalling US\$127 138 shall be settled through the payment of 10 equal instalments of US\$12 713.80; (2) the assessed contribution for 1991 shall be payable in 1991. The first instalment shall be payable in 1992; (3) the annual payment of the instalments referred to above, together with the payment of each current contribution in the calendar year of assessment and any advances to the Working Capital Fund shall be considered as fulfilment of the financial obligations of Equatorial Guinea to the Organization.

End of the Resolution. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comment on the second portion of the report, read out by the Secretary-General and on the Resolution? No comments. The Resolution is adopted.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I hand over to the Honourable Vice-Chairman from Czechoslovakia, I wish to inform the House that I have to beg your leave to return to my country. But I shall be back on the evening of the 24, and I will be with you for the last four days of winding up the Conference. Therefore, up until the morning of the 25, I seek your leave.

Thank you all very much for the past week which has been wonderful learning and training for me, as well as the sense of cooperation in the General Committee, and this house, for which I expressed my deep gratitude. I now hand over to the Vice-President.

Arpád Szabó, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, took the chair

Arpád Szabó, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Arpád Szabó, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

## GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

### DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

### DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)

- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Mongolia, Guinée-Bissau, Cap-Vert, Malta, Saint-Siège, Perú, Vanuatu, Rwanda, République centrafricaine

**Gurjavyn SURENJARGAL (Mongolia) (Original language Mongolian):** Mr Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, first of all I would like to note that it is a great pleasure and honour to represent the Minister for Agriculture of Mongolia.

Allow me to offer you, Your Excellency, Malik Abdul Majid, my warmest congratulations on your election to the Chair of this important forum and extend my delegation's felicitations to the elected Officers of the Conference. I also welcome the new members of FAO.

In the two years since the last Conference, major changes have been taking place in the world which have not bypassed my country as well. Today Mongolia upholds the ideas of freedom, democracy and market economy, which are values created by mankind. Mongolia has firmly committed itself to developing new legal frameworks and building an open society.

The Government's programme of action is aimed at creating an infrastructure appropriate for a market economy, actively encouraging the development of the private sector, and forming new taxation and credit systems. Almost thirty laws have been already approved by Baga Hural, Mongolia's Parliament, which are to regulate our economic life. For example, the law on the ownership of property, on foreign investment, on privatization, on the structure of producing units - just to mention a few of these.

The structuring of the agricultural sector started in 1989 with the introduction of a lease system or agreement. On the basis of world experience and the country's own potential, we are now privatizing the state farms and cooperatives. From 1990, the Government has encouraged the formation of separate private farms and broken up state farms' into smaller units. The state farms and agricultural cooperatives are being transformed into individual farms and cooperatives. In doing so, we shall maintain technical production policies and management levels.

To achieve this, the state revised such laws and regulations as the Law on land, on animal breeding and veterinary services, plant protection and crop seed management. The purpose of these changes is to protect the land, the livestock, and to maintain the gene funds of animals and plants of the country. It also envisages introduction of the latest scientific and technological achievements into production as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture in the economy where various forms of ownership are allowed. On the other hand, privatization requires individual approaches to each business unit, depending on its specific features, production pattern, the size and structure of the assets as well as climatic and weather conditions.

The recently established Agricultural Commodity Exchange is intended to become the principal medium for the sale of agricultural products at market prices. It will also help to meet the requirements of private small-scale enterprises, cooperatives and companies in raw materials, seeds, fertilizers and equipment. The state started to purchase the main crop and livestock outputs of the farms at free market prices.

Because of the high demand for adequately trained specialists in market economy, an Institute of Agricultural Economics and Business Management Training Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture have been established.

Moving towards new economic relationships, we are encountering mounting difficulties. During the transition from centrally planned to a free market economy the traditional relationships between consumers, producers and input suppliers have been altered. As a result of mismanagement and low discipline in some enterprises, the supply of essential raw materials, spare parts, equipment and other inputs have often been disrupted, adversely affecting the stable growth of food production.

In spite of favourable climatic and weather conditions, the loss of livestock this year reached 703 500 head, compared to 1990. Milk sales to the state have declined by 2 million litres. Butter production declined by 27.8 percent or 103 500 tonnes. Crop production declined to 600 000 tonnes, which is 106 000 tonnes less than the average annual production for the last five years.

However, the overall quality of the crop is good, unlike last year. With regard to other basic foodstuffs, despite larger plantings, potato and vegetable harvests are expected to be less than last year. The sharp fall in procurement of these commodities, witnessed in 1990, is likely to continue. Therefore, the food shortage being felt today shall be further aggravated.

Climatic data statistics show that national disaster occurs every 12 years. In that extreme year, livestock loss reaches 2-9 million heads. According to this pattern we are expecting a very harsh winter.

The Government highly values the support for our changes and the all-round assistance of other countries and international organizations in overcoming the difficulties and hardships, arising from transition.

My country strongly anticipates FAO's initiatives to address and resolve the problems on food and agriculture, taking into account the very important role of agriculture.



My delegation supports the efforts of this Organization to draw up a Medium-Term Plan for 1992-97 indicating the priorities within sectoral programmes and similar areas. We have taken note that FAO is to continue its participation in the formation and implementation of system-wide medium-term programmes relating to environment, women and sustainable development, and drug abuse control. It is extremely important that many United Nations organizations coordinate their action in order to avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication. Furthermore, of great importance are the activities envisaged in the Medium-Term Plan for Asia and the Pacific region, especially those aimed at strengthening national capacities for the rational use of land, water, developing comprehensively agricultural production, expanding animal disease-free zones, achieving nutritional balance by enhancing food hygiene and improving market supply.

With regard to the forthcoming biennium, Mongolia believes that the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is based on realistic approaches, and we express the hope that the budget will be approved. We support programmes addressing international cooperation in food production, agriculture and forestry through Technical and Economic Cooperation among developing countries (TCDC/ECDC). We believe that FAO will continue to receive the attention and support needed for its implementation.

For Mongolia, FAO plays an important role in developing its agricultural sector. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for the efforts made over the last years in providing technical assistance and advice. These efforts have greatly assisted during our transition period. I expect increased participation of FAO in Mongolia, primarily in agricultural policy advice, restructuring agricultural production, consultancy, marketing, development of rural areas as well as technical problems.

We have found the TCP a useful and vital catalytic effect. In this regard I would like to point out that the activities carried out in Mongolia within the framework of TCP projects attracted interest of some participants of a UN-sponsored meeting on technical assistance, held last month in Ulan Bator, such as the ADB, the EEC and the Governments of France and Holland. Interests were also expressed in financing programmes aimed at improving veterinary services and pest control, irrigation and fodder production in the Gobi region of the country.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Government fully supports FAO's interim measures for the establishment of FAO representation in Mongolia.

The problems of agriculture, food security and economic growth of the developing countries have become more complex. I hope that this Conference will result in more progress, and the discussions of the esteemed Commissions will be fruitful for the welfare of all people.

Thank you for kind attention.

**Carlos CORREIA (Guinée-Bissau):** M. le Président, permettez-moi, de profiter de cette occasion pour vous adresser mes plus vives félicitations quant à votre élection à la présidence de cette vingt-sixième Conférence générale de la FAO, et en même temps, pour vous souhaiter les pleins succès dans la conduite de nos travaux. J'adresse aussi mes félicitations aux Vice-Présidents ainsi qu'à tous les membres du Secrétariat.

M. le Directeur général, c'est toujours avec plaisir que nous tenons à vous manifester notre entière satisfaction pour le dynamisme que vous déployez dans la direction de notre Organisation. Notre appui vous est entièrement acquis en ce qui concerne les programmes et projets proposés pour les prochaines années.

Nous voudrions aussi associer nos vœux pour saluer la rentrée des nouveaux membres dans la FAO qui certainement renforceront notre institution.

La conjoncture économique mondiale, surtout dans le secteur agricole, a été plutôt défavorable ces deux dernières années.

Les effets de la guerre du Golfe furent préjudiciables aux économies de beaucoup de pays en voie de développement.

Ils ont, en effet, aggravé encore plus les problèmes que ceux-ci connaissent déjà en matière de dette extérieure, d'accès aux marchés des pays développés, de baisse des cours des principaux produits d'exportation.

Pour l'Afrique subsaharienne, selon les estimations de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique, les perspectives ne sont guère encourageantes, malgré les espoirs d'une légère croissance en 1992, le PIB par habitant stagnera au niveau atteint ces dernières années.

En Guinée-Bissau, après une période de relative croissance consécutive aux mesures de libéralisation économique prises en 1986, l'évolution positive du PIB est stabilisée à 3 pour cent en 1990. Cette progression reflète bien l'effort consenti par le Gouvernement de mon pays ainsi que par les donateurs en faveur du secteur en question. Pendant ces dernières années la production des céréales n'a cessé d'augmenter, la production nette de riz s'étant élevée à près de 90 000 tonnes en 1989 et 1990. La production brute des autres céréales se situe, quant à elle, aux alentours de 70 000 tonnes ces dernières années.

Avec une telle production, le taux de couverture de la consommation apparente est d'environ 70 pour cent en 1989.

Parmi les produits agricoles d'exportation, la noix de cajou occupe une place de tout premier plan, représentant quelque 55 pour cent de la valeur FOB de toutes les exportations confondues. La quantité de noix collectée et vendue sur le marché extérieur se monte actuellement à 14 000 tonnes.

M. le Président, malheureusement les conditions climatiques qui ont prévalu cette année n'ont pas permis à mon pays de connaître de nouveau une croissance de la production agricole, notamment de celle des céréales. En effet, malgré un bilan pluviométrique correspondant à la normale, l'occurrence tardive des précipitations et leur irrégularité tout au long de la campagne ont compromis maints emblavements avec les pertes de semences que cela occasionne, et parfois même ont provoqué l'abandon de certaines cultures en raison du retard trop important pris dans l'exécution du calendrier cultural.

De ce fait, les premières évaluations de la campagne agricole font ressortir une baisse significative de la production céréalière. Dans cette situation, le déficit total en ces denrées sera sensiblement aggravé.

Pour cette raison, nous souhaitons renouveler l'appel qui a été lancé peu de temps auparavant pour attirer l'attention de la FAO et de la communauté internationale sur une telle situation, et solliciter une aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Malgré tous les aléas d'une agriculture hautement dépendante des conditions non maîtrisables par l'homme, notre gouvernement continuera à ne ménager aucun effort pour améliorer sa politique agricole; à cet effet le Ministère du développement rural et de l'agriculture avec l'appui de la Banque mondiale vient d'ébaucher une stratégie pour le secteur rural; celle-ci doit viser: la réduction des importations de riz par une politique d'appui intensifiée à la production céréalière; l'amélioration de la balance commerciale du pays, en recherchant un accroissement des exportations, principalement de la noix de cajou, mais aussi d'autres produits tels que les fruits tropicaux; la promotion, dans ce contexte, d'un développement régional équilibré, avec le souci de préserver les ressources naturelles et d'améliorer les conditions sociales de la population rurale.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs un ensemble d'actions coordonnées seront mises en oeuvre, notamment: le développement des bas-fonds pour une riziculture avec contrôle partiel de l'eau, qui sera réalisé avec la participation des populations rurales intéressées. En même temps, la consolidation des périmètres rizicoles en zone de manoeuvre autorisera un plus grand accès aux terres de culture; l'augmentation de la productivité du travail agricole par une plus grande adoption de la traction animale par les exploitations traditionnelles et par un emploi plus efficient et rationnel de la motorisation dans les entreprises agricoles modernes; le développement des cultures fruitières d'exportation par l'introduction, la multiplication et la diffusion des variétés productives; la promotion, dans le secteur de l'élevage, de la production et de la commercialisation des petits animaux en zones périurbaines, par la vulgarisation des races améliorées de petits ruminants; l'incitation pour une intervention du secteur privé dans les prestations de service vétérinaire et dans la vente de produits pharmaceutiques destinés à l'élevage.

La problématique de l'environnement a été ces dernières années une préoccupation de notre Gouvernement.

Notre pays a dernièrement participé à diverses conférences et réunions préparatoires à la conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement; le rapport national sur le sujet fait l'objet d'une discussion interne.

Cependant d'autres actions plus concrètes sont entreprises en matière de préservation de l'environnement en Guinée-Bissau. On peut citer, à cet effet, la planification du développement des zones littorales, la création de réserves naturelles, la protection des réserves forestières, la promulgation d'une nouvelle loi forestière, la formulation d'une nouvelle politique pour l'attribution des terres avec l'élaboration d'une nouvelle loi foncière en discussion.

En Guinée-Bissau, le concept de la protection de l'environnement forestier et halieutique a une signification dynamique, son exploitation devant être menée de façon prudente sans toutefois contrecarrer le développement socio-économique du pays.

Cette Conférence, venant après quelques années de grands problèmes pour notre organisation, devra être celle de la relance de la FAO.

A ce propos nous voudrions faire ressortir la capacité manifestée par M. le Directeur général dans l'adaptation aux normes de fonctionnement et de travail définies par les précédentes Conférences, tout en préservant les programmes de terrain de la FAO.

Bien que les restrictions budgétaires imposées ces dernières années aient eu une influence quelque peu négative sur nos sollicitations constantes, la FAO n'a cessé de s'acquitter des programmes approuvés.

C'est pour cette raison que nous voulons appuyer et approuver fermement la proposition de Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93, ainsi que les nouvelles priorités données aux problèmes liés à l'environnement, au développement durable, à l'information agricole, au Programme de coopération technique (PCT), à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, aux forêts (spécialement l'appui au Programme d'action forestier tropical).

A propos du plan à moyen terme présenté pour la première fois par la FAO, pour la période 1992-1997, nous voudrions exprimer de nouveau notre satisfaction pour les améliorations constantes développées dans le domaine de la planification, car il est essentiel pour toute organisation de disposer d'un schéma général d'action pour une période étendue, afin de lui permettre de mieux programmer ses activités.

En relation avec les défis soulevés dans ce plan, nous tenons à souligner l'importance selon nous, du développement de l'agriculture durable, de la participation active des communautés rurales dans tous les processus de développement, ainsi que l'amélioration des conditions de la femme rurale.

La FAO doit avoir la capacité d'innover et de s'adapter constamment à l'évolution des événements et aux nouvelles nécessités qui apparaissent tant au plan national que mondial.

Dans un ordre du jour si important et si vaste, nous voudrions attirer l'attention sur: le rapport du Directeur général sur le suivi de l'examen de quelques aspects, principes et opérations de la FAO, à la suite de la Résolution 6/87 de la vingt-cinquième Conférence, dans lequel nous pouvons constater tout l'effort fourni par la FAO et la promptitude avec laquelle elle a réussi, malgré les difficultés financières de tout ordre, à mettre en oeuvre lesdites opérations; le plan d'action pour la participation populaire dans le développement rural que nous appuyons fermement car nous sommes conscients que tout programme de développement qui n'est pas basé sur cette participation est condamné à l'échec; le rapport des conclusions et recommandations de la Dixième Conférence forestière mondiale à laquelle notre pays a participé avec un immense intérêt. Nous avons alors souscrit à l'importante déclaration de Paris.

Dans le moment où M. Ingram prépare sa retraite, nous profitons de l'opportunité pour lui souhaiter un bon repos.

Nous voudrions soulever l'importance des projets du PAM pour notre pays, en ce qui concerne l'appui aux actions en faveur du développement.

Cependant certaines contraintes récemment apparues ont mérité toute notre attention pour une nouvelle dynamique des projets appuyés par cette institution.

Assurant que le déroulement de cette Conférence sera couronné de succès, je voudrais manifester notre plus profonde satisfaction à propos du règlement des conflits régionaux et internationaux, qui fonde l'espoir d'un monde où les relations seront plus claires et plus fraternelles.

Je souhaite la poursuite des efforts dans ce sens afin d'éteindre tous les foyers de tension, ce qui permettra alors de libérer des énergies, des volontés politiques et des ressources économiques en vue de l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde.

Je vous remercie.

**Antonio Gualberto DO ROSARIO (Cap-Vert):** Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de vous présenter mes plus chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection comme Président de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO.

Je félicite également les nouveaux Membres de notre organisation, Estonie, Lettonie, Lituanie et Porto-Rico. Leur intégration dans cette grande et noble famille est pour nous un motif de plaisir et de joie.

J'aimerais aussi adresser à M. le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma, notre reconnaissance pour l'effort et la compétence qu'il dédie à cette Organisation, et une fois de plus lui réaffirmer le souhait et la disponibilité totale de mon Gouvernement à poursuivre la coopération avec la FAO. Je voudrais encore réitérer que, comme par le passé, le premier Gouvernement constitutionnel de la deuxième République, qui souligne dans son programme qu'il doit tout faire dans le but de renforcer le rôle et la crédibilité des organismes internationaux, sera un interlocuteur attentif, loyal et ferme.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget pour la période 1992-93, nous donnons notre accord aux propositions de réajustement ainsi qu'aux nouvelles priorités qui ont déjà été présentées.

Toutefois, nous souhaiterions manifester notre déception vis-à-vis de l'objectif croissance zéro du Budget. En effet, il est sans doute contradictoire d'appuyer cette thèse au moment où le renforcement de la solidarité humaine à l'échelle planétaire constitue une exigence et où l'on se trouve confronté à des problèmes critiques tels que le déséquilibre environnemental, la déforestation, la surexploitation des ressources, dûs surtout à la situation de pauvreté et de sous-développement. Ces problèmes demandent un effort financier accru de la part des organisations internationales, en particulier la FAO.

Nous sommes conscients de la situation financière critique de la FAO et de la difficile tâche accomplie par le Directeur général dans le but d'absorber certains coûts. De plus, nous sommes inquiets de constater que le crédit alloué au grand programme pêche pour le biennium a été réduit. L'importance de la contribution du secteur des pêches pour l'économie des pays insulaires, comme le nôtre, est indéniable. Le programme du Gouvernement du Cap-Vert considère que le secteur stratégique de l'économie

dont le développement détermine la création d'un nombre significatif d'emplois, enrichit davantage la diète alimentaire, facilite la viabilisation d'autres secteurs, notamment la construction et la réparation navales, l'industrie de transformation et l'élevage, et permet l'insertion dynamique du pays dans le système économique mondial.

C'est pourquoi, vu l'importance stratégique de ce secteur tant du point de vue économique que de celui de la sécurité alimentaire, et ceci plus particulièrement pour les petits pays insulaires, nous lançons un vibrant appel afin de contribuer à sa promotion effective. Dans ce contexte le gouvernement de mon pays appuie la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches approuvée par la Conférence mondiale de 1984. En effet, dans l'élaboration de son programme, il a pris en considération les principes et idées issus de cette conférence, tout en soulignant l'importance de la coopération économique et technique pour le développement de ce secteur.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous regrettons que la situation financière de l'organisation ne permette pas de proposer une plus grande augmentation. L'expérience du Cap-Vert dans ce domaine et les avantages que cet instrument a procuré au développement renforcent notre conviction que le Programme de coopération technique ne devrait pas seulement être maintenu et accru en volume mais devrait également rester flexible. De ce fait, on garantirait l'efficacité et l'efficience de ce précieux instrument.

La détermination d'améliorer le niveau de vie, tant en ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire et la santé, que l'instruction, l'éducation, la culture, et le bien-être, plus qu'une revendication justifiée, est une exigence de la civilisation contemporaine et une façon de vivre la démocratie.

Une stratégie appropriée du développement agricole est un élément clé de la politique de développement d'un pays qui veut s'insérer convenablement, c'est-à-dire de façon dynamique, soutenue dans le système économique mondial. Il est convenu et tenu pour acquis par les Etats ici représentés que les politiques sectorielles macro-économiques internes et la répartition des crédits budgétaires ne devraient pas s'effectuer au détriment de l'agriculture.

Même si l'humanité a connu des progrès considérables en matière de relations politico-militaires, la conjoncture économique mondiale reste défavorable et crée des difficultés substantielles dans l'allocation de ressources en faveur du développement, en particulier dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Les problèmes structureaux qui se trouvent à la base du paradoxe de la faim, notamment l'inégalité de distribution de la richesse au monde et l'appropriation injuste des technologies, non seulement perdurent mais s'aggravent.

Une des causes exogènes du maintien de la situation de la faim dans le monde, notamment dans le continent africain, est la dette extérieure. Le service de la dette fonctionne comme mécanisme de drainage des ressources nécessaires aux programmes de développement et à la solution du problème de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Ainsi, on ne pourrait pas ignorer le poids des causes citées au moment de la définition des stratégies de développement. Nous sommes convaincus que la Conférence mondiale sur la nutrition qui se déroulera en décembre 1992 nous offrira l'occasion unique de trouver des solutions globales utiles et réalistes aux problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition; c'est pourquoi nous l'attendons avec beaucoup d'espoir et d'impatience.

Le Cap-Vert est écologiquement fragile et vulnérable, continuellement soumis à un processus de dégradation accélérée de l'environnement et de ses ressources.

Malgré cela, le Gouvernement compte fermement sur la modernisation de l'agriculture, notamment en dynamisant le marché du monde rural grâce à des ressources et des instruments adéquats, techniques, financiers et organisations, entre autres. Malgré ces objectifs et les efforts qui ont été développés dans le but de les concrétiser, la persistance de la sécheresse, dont le résultat est une fois de plus un désastre pour l'année agricole, rend malheureusement frustrants une grande partie des efforts réalisés pour atteindre ces objectifs. Le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert attend un geste de solidarité de la part de la communauté internationale afin de faire face à la situation d'urgence. Il a donc développé un programme incluant non seulement les voies et moyens d'intervention pour répondre aux besoins élémentaires des populations rurales victimes de la sécheresse (50 pour cent de la population du pays) mais envisage en outre de gérer l'aide de façon à ce qu'elle soit encadrée dans le programme de développement rural durable.

La participation de la population revêt une importance considérable dans la promotion du développement rural.

L'option pour une politique de participation populaire résulte, dans le cas de notre pays, d'une réflexion approfondie de la réalité sociale de la prise en considération des valeurs les plus élevées du monde d'aujourd'hui qui nous permettent de conclure que la participation de la population n'est pas un simple instrument qui facilite l'exécution des projets; en outre, nous reconnaissons que la participation des populations s'insère dans une approche beaucoup plus globale du développement, qui part du principe que la société et les différentes cellules la composant, en particulier l'homme, l'individu concret, matériel, tangible, doivent être, et le sont sûrement, à la fois sujet et objet. Ce qui signifie que, selon nous, la participation des populations est à la fois une condition et une conséquence de l'affirmation de la culture, de la démocratie et du développement.

La participation des populations est, dans une certaine mesure, la cause et la conséquence des changements politiques qui ont eu lieu récemment dans mon pays et qui traduisent, en effet, la dévolution d'un droit réclamé par la culture politique cap-verdienne. Nous sommes convaincus que les nouvelles institutions démocratiquement établies et le respect inconditionnel du droit à la liberté et des droits politiques de tous les citoyens ainsi que l'acceptation, sans réserve, des règles du jeu démocratique constituent pour nous la garantie majeure du développement de la conscience civique et, ainsi, de la participation populaire. En ce qui concerne le développement rural et compte tenu de l'encouragement à la participation populaire, les efforts de mon gouvernement sont orientés vers la création des conditions fondamentales parmi lesquelles je rappellerai: Création d'un cadre juridique et politique favorable; Renforcement des

capacités internes des organisations rurales, tant au niveau local que national; Décentralisation de la prise de décision des pouvoirs publics; Promotion du dialogue et de la collaboration entre le gouvernement, les organismes de développement et les organisations de participation populaire; Approbation des procédures et des méthodes opérationnelles appropriées, en vue d'une participation plus active; Suivi et évaluation de la participation populaire.

Nous ne pouvons pas continuer sans aborder le plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Sur cette question, il nous est agréable de constater que les changements politiques survenus dans notre pays ont non seulement abouti à la création d'une nouvelle institution publique spécialisée (Institut de promotion féminine) mais aussi à de nouvelles organisations des femmes. Cette nouvelle dynamique favorisera sans doute une plus grande participation de la femme dans la société cap-verdienne, à tous les niveaux. Notamment sur la plan économique, la participation de la femme dans des projets agricoles, de l'élevage, de l'artisanat, des pêches et de l'agro-industrie, deviendra de plus en plus une réalité.

L'humanité vit des moments de relatif optimisme qui découle de la détente et de la réduction de certaines tensions internationales.

La tendance dominante va dans le sens du développement de conditions objectives susceptibles de permettre à l'homme d'assumer son auto-préservation. Ainsi, la défense de l'environnement et sa relation avec le développement durable constituent plus fréquemment le thème des cercles internationaux et le motif de préoccupation des Etats.

De nos jours, on prend davantage conscience que les problèmes de l'environnement exigent des solutions opportunes et globales. De ce fait, on voit se renforcer la nécessité de la solidarité internationale et des mécanismes et formes d'intervention des Nations Unies et de leurs agences spécialisées.

Aussi prend-on conscience qu'un nombre significatif des problèmes de l'environnement ont leurs racines dans les déséquilibres socio-économiques, en particulier dans la pauvreté. S'il est vrai qu'il n'y a pas de développement sans un environnement protégé et sain, il est d'autant plus certain qu'il n'y aura pas un environnement équilibré tant que des situations de pauvreté persisteront dans le monde. Pour cette raison, on défend la nécessité de garantir aux pays pauvres les conditions et les moyens visant à préserver l'environnement, dans l'effort de défense de l'écosystème déployé à l'échelle planétaire.

Dans cette optique, nous attendons avec beaucoup d'intérêt la conférence mondiale sur l'environnement et le développement qui trouvera certainement des solutions aux problèmes, compte tenu de l'ampleur de leur complexité.

D'autres questions importantes ont mérité et mériteront toute notre attention; elles seront traitées par notre délégation, au cours des débats dans les Commissions.

Je suis particulièrement heureux de vous réitérer mon espoir que les travaux de cette Conférence atteindront les objectifs et le succès attendus.



**Lawrence A. GATT (Malta):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, first of all I would also like to welcome the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as Members of FAO. This brings FAO closer to universal representation. I would also like to welcome Puerto Rico as an Associate Member.

One of the most important tasks of this Conference is the adoption of the Medium-Term Plan proposed by the Director-General in accordance with Conference Resolution 10/89. The Director-General in his introduction to the plan, has very ably depicted ten challenges facing the Organization through the nineties.

Mr Chairman, the Director-General has described his role as that of an honest broker. Your election to this chair carries with it the heavy burden of identifying the priorities of the Member States as amplified by the distinguished delegates during this Conference.

Your task is not unlike that of a matchmaker employed to negotiate the terms of a difficult wedding. It is difficult because, amongst other things, Member Nations have a broad range and varied set of requirements and very often diverging expectations. Moreover, there is a wide discrepancy in size and in the level of socio-economic development. Yet it is imperative that this peculiar marriage take place so that our Organization can continue to face the challenges of the future.

We, the members of this Organization, cannot afford to be passive guests, but must play an increasingly active role. Mr Chairman, in this light I am sure we will find the happy medium through which the apparently very disparate perceptions and opinions are matched to our Organization's capability of being an active development partner to one and all. The presentation of the Report of the Conference should deliver in clear terms a chain of priorities. It must reflect not only the universality of the challenges but also facilitate the action to be taken by the Organization in the unfolding of the Medium-Term Plan.

I recognize this is not easy. The proposed plan has rightly examined this problem against the background of the cultural and social values and attitudes which are prevalent in the world today. Indeed it is generally accepted today that no really effective technological change can be simply developed and implemented. Local as well as global values have to be taken into account. Innovation does not really ever succeed if it is not grafted on to old roots. Positive change will only come about if there is a real addition to the original trunk. Only the real combination of new initiatives to the current capacity of FAO can be fruitful. I therefore support the Plan's emphasis on the preservation of the Organization's intellectual and technical capacities.

Mr Chairman, Malta has vigorously pursued and advocated appropriate international action at international fora in respect of the exploitation and management of common resources. In the late sixties Malta introduced the concept of the common heritage of mankind at the United Nations General Assembly. This concept was later adopted by the international community and embodied in the new Law of the Sea. FAO has responded to Malta's initiative culminating in the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference. Still there is a need to develop international cooperation in the management, scientific information and conservation of fisheries resources.

It is important for the FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies to act as catalysts. The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean must act not only as an information centre on Mediterranean fisheries but should activate its regulatory role on the national exploitation and utilization of fishery resources with a focus on environment, sustainability and management.

In the field of aquaculture, FAO has contributed substantially with the support of UNDP in the rational development of this industry throughout the world, not least in the Mediterranean, through regional projects. However, with an increased production of high-valued fish it is more than ever important that market access is not hindered by tariff and non-tariff barriers. I venture to suggest that all protective tariffs on fish and fish products be dismantled in order to enhance international trade in fish. In this field the development of technology would surely respond quickly to the needs of the market provided access is guaranteed. Recently Malta has developed a National Aquaculture Centre, the facilities of which are available to FAO for demonstration and training purposes in the region, in particular in fish pathology and nutrition.

I am satisfied that the Medium-Term Plan gives high priority to enhance cooperation with Member Nations in fisheries and aquaculture matters.

Mr Chairman, just as sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture depends on the maintenance of adequate water quality and other environmental aspects, sustainability in agriculture also highly depends on a healthy environment. Here again, Malta has taken initiatives at the United Nations General Assembly with regard to the global concern over climate change.

FAO has responded with enthusiasm to this new dimension facing food production throughout the world. I am pleased to note that FAO is fully collaborating in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. In particular I appreciate the effort made by FAO through its contributions to the Second World Climate Conference in October 1990 including the related preparations for a convention on climate change and the preparation of an international convention on biological diversity.

It seems as if agriculture is a critical case in which the urgent need to develop it can only be satisfied through the use of means which then, in their turn, threaten to destroy the very framework of the rural way of life which the development effort was intended originally to enhance. A way out of this paradox has clearly to be found.

Indeed agriculture is being pushed on to marginal land and areas claimed from forests. In an effort to increase production and productivity, agriculture has been forced to use capital-intensive means employing techniques which are both exogenous to local conditions and harmful to the environment. These more capital-intensive methods look as if they could allow production to increase despite the inelasticity of available land. On the other hand, if such methods are not employed, farmers increasingly move out of agriculture. Employment in agriculture drops. Production stagnates. The mere repetition of the old ways of doing things seems to provide a sure prospect of continuous and steady decline. But there also emerges the negative side of the otherwise enticing scenario of high capital investment. First of all funds are limited but more important the rural framework of the life of the farming community would be threatened and the otherwise healthy environment endangered.

So, instead, a third alternative to stagnation or to unqualified modernization has to be identified and implemented. This third way is precisely the regeneration through the carefully studied introduction of new inputs into the traditional modes of production. Regeneration means the replacement of lost or injured tissues permitted by the ability of some cells to develop in a new way. In the agricultural policy formulation context it means the revitalizing by new techniques of traditional ones; for instance, the development of local varieties of fruits and vegetables through modern scientific methods of plant propagation.

But this is not enough. The regeneration of the agricultural sector can only occur if account is properly taken of the whole socio-economic context. This would, hopefully, result in the rational utilization of resources to the best economic advantage, both for the farming community and for the world economy.

In this respect, the Medium-Term Plan attaches the highest priority to policy advice. In my opinion it is of the utmost importance that this is endorsed by the Conference. Malta has applied to join the European Communities. Clearly this aspiration involves the implementation of a policy adjustment programme for the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Assistance from FAO under a TCP project has proved to be extremely useful.

I must, therefore, encourage our Organization to strengthen as far as possible its policy advisory function.

Similarly Malta has received assistance through the TCP on the formulation of a National Nutrition Policy. Inappropriate consumption patterns are contributing to increasing prevalence of diet-related, non-communicable diseases.

Over the last few years multi-sectoral policies relating to health and nutrition have been developed and adopted. For this reason Malta has been selected by the European Conference on Nutrition as one of the countries to present an in-depth case study for the International Conference on Nutrition.

The Director-General has already pointed out that there can be no formula or indicator which could be valid in programme terms for the exigencies of members as a whole for the period covered by three biennial budgets. Work on animal health has been cited as a particular example. The Director-General in his statement to this Conference has underlined the validity of responding quickly and effectively to epidemic outbreaks through United Nations organizations.

He attributed such timely action to halt the spread of locusts and of the New World Screwworm to the coordinating efforts of our Organization. In view of the tremendous repercussions of animal diseases on human health and nutrition, I believe that a higher priority should be given to work in the animal health sector. Malta has been linked to effective work in brucellosis eradication since it was first identified in Malta early this century. Today I am happy to state that we have almost completely eradicated the disease from our livestock. We would like to share our experience with countries that are still suffering from the ill effects of this zoonotic disease.

Such ill effects do not only affect the consumer but also, and perhaps primarily, the producer through the risks of contracting the disease and the economic repercussions on productivity.

As I have already stated in my statement at the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, it is my Government's considered opinion that the solution to problems which are of concern to mankind must be tackled at the global level for the formulation of an equitable policy and legal framework, while the management of such a framework can and should be undertaken at the regional level. Such regional organs would coordinate research and development activities with the participation of both public and private, national and international bodies.

Member Nations live in an increasingly interdependent world. The complexities of such interdependence demand that any plan, let alone a Medium-Term Plan, be as flexible as possible. In this respect I would opt for the proposed option one, to implement the concept of a rolling Medium-Term Plan. In this way our Organization could keep pace with the quickening course of history. FAO has both the capacity for innovation and for effective response to changing world events. I am convinced that Member States and international financial institutions realize the wealth of experiences of this specialized United Nations agency. This may thus induce them to provide the resources required to strengthen both the regular and field programmes so that the achievements of the past would be replicated in meeting the challenges that face us.

Finally, I would like to state that my government would strongly favour the admission of the EEC as a full member of FAO. Accordingly, I would like to express my deep satisfaction at the current FAO proposal - which would be breaking new ground in the UN system - to amend its basic text in order to make it possible for regional economic integration organizations to apply for full membership.

**Monseigneur A. FERRARI-TONIOLO (Observateur, Saint-Siège):** Qu'il soit permis à cette délégation du Saint-Siège d'offrir son propre apport spécifique - en plus des Hautes indications du Magistère pontifical que nous avons entendues à l'occasion de l'audience d'hier - au sujet de l'activité et des programmes de cette Organisation, considérés comme principales tendances politiques en matière d'alimentation et de développement agricole.

Sa propre évaluation, s'inspirant des principes et des critères éthiques et d'une vision universelle, n'est pas motivée par des choix particuliers ou par des intérêts circonscrits.

On entend exposer le point de vue de cette délégation du Saint-Siège, en faisant référence à deux aspects: la place de la FAO dans le cadre des relations internationales selon l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO; les Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) dans le Programme de travail 1992-93 de la FAO.

Cette délégation du Saint-Siège envisage très favorablement que l'on inscrive à l'ordre du jour la considération de l'Examen de certains aspects parmi les buts et les opérations de la FAO, pour parvenir à donner des lignes d'application conformément aux conclusions auxquelles on est parvenu et qui ont déjà été présentées lors de la session précédente,

documents C 89/21 et C 89/21-Sup. 1, et à présent précisées à nouveau par un deuxième rapport du Directeur général à la présente session de la Conférence, document C 91/21.

Le grand intérêt et l'effective utilité d'un tel Examen apparaissent, en effet, clairement. On peut dire à juste titre que l'analyse, qui a profité d'une notable réévaluation critique en profondeur des divers aspects des structures et des activités de la FAO, par le Comité du programme et le Comité des finances - à laquelle s'ajoute l'ensemble des observations et des indications du Directeur général - a porté ses fruits sous forme d'un dynamisme accentué et d'une nouvelle orientation de la FAO par rapport à ses finalités et à ses objectifs, au point d'en renforcer la capacité de planification et d'exécution.

Des documents préparatoires de la présente session on peut remarquer l'intensité du renouvellement et l'effort en cours tendant à reconsidérer la structure interne et les critères qui régissent la gestion de l'Organisation. En constatant ces progrès de l'Organisation, il devient encore plus important que ses Etats Membres fassent en sorte de se considérer effectivement partie engagée dans l'application constante et assument clairement la responsabilité qui leur incombe de concourir activement à l'application cohérente des nouvelles propositions de l'Examen. Dans ce sens, la présente intervention s'adresse surtout aux Représentants des Etats Membres en vue de réaliser les critères et les orientations fixés.

Ce regain de la FAO en vue de la réalisation ordonnée et efficace de sa propre action, non seulement en ce qui concerne ses principes et ses critères institutionnels, mais aussi pour ce qui est des lignes concrètes et des méthodes de travail, apparaît de toute évidence. Les effets se manifestent déjà dans la programmation plus précise des activités dont témoignent non seulement le Programme de travail et budget 1992-93, mais aussi la nouveauté que représente un programme à moyen terme sur un cycle de six ans de 1991 à 1995.

Et il ne faut pas négliger qu'en ce moment on a publié une évaluation documentée non seulement du Programme ordinaire, mais encore du Programme de terrain, avec les fonds hors budget relatifs.

Les difficultés de budget ont poussé le Directeur général à mettre en évidence, dans toute la mesure possible, la conjonction nécessaire entre les aspects opérationnels et l'activité propre et primaire de la FAO en tant que service de documentation qui vise à formuler des projets qui répondent aux requêtes des gouvernements et à collaborer avec ces derniers dans la recherche des investissements nécessaires. D'où l'importance qu'on accorde au Centre d'investissements de la FAO.

C'est à ce stade que s'insère un rappel à la nécessité pour les Etats Membres de concourir à la constitution des ressources financières de la FAO, et tout d'abord de celles du budget ordinaire. Les Etats Membres, qui devraient être conscients de leur condition en tant que parties de l'Organisation dans son ensemble, ne peuvent se soustraire aux charges découlant des engagements statutaires et des décisions contraignantes du fait de leur adoption en collégialité au cours de la Plénière de la Conférence, surtout en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et le budget relatif.

Quant aux rapports avec les autres organisations, organismes et organes de la famille des Nations Unies, on ressent toujours davantage l'exigence d'une pleine collaboration et coopération entre la FAO et les autres organisations tant pour une meilleure coordination des activités respectives, afin d'éviter d'inutiles chevauchements, que pour un échange nécessaire d'informations permettant de préparer et de réaliser plus rapidement des programmes opérationnels dans des secteurs d'intérêt commun.

Mais l'Examen affirme non seulement que l'activité de la FAO doit être de plus en plus activée dans l'ensemble des relations internationales, mais on parle même de sa place toujours plus ample et délicate au sein de la Communauté internationale, par une coopération solidaire, spécialement dans le cadre du Système des Nations Unies.

En examinant la FAO au sein du système international, on rappelle, non seulement aux organes de direction mais aussi aux Etats Membres, que l'Organisation a réalisé un réseau serré de rapports d'activités à caractère de continuité en commun, et établi des relations avec au moins vingt-cinq institutions du système des Nations Unies avec lesquelles elle a conclu plus de 200 accords de coopération formelle et informelle.

Il faut donc poursuivre et intensifier les relations avec l'Organisation internationale du travail (ILO), l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), avec l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA), l'Organisation internationale des Nations Unies pour l'industrialisation (ONUDI) et avec quatre des cinq Commissions régionales économique-sociales des Nations Unies, en valorisant les Divisions créées conjointement, et les Programmes mixtes avec de nombreuses institutions de l'ONU en ce qui concerne des domaines d'intérêt commun tels que la nutrition, l'environnement, le développement rural, l'éducation agricole et les industries agricoles. A ce propos, il faut particulièrement apprécier le rapport sur Les institutions des Nations Unies et le développement rural, entrepris par la FAO en étroite collaboration avec les autres organisations faisant partie de l'équipe spéciale du Comité administratif de coordination pour le développement rural.

Les principales conclusions de ce rapport montrent comment l'apport combiné des différentes institutions intergouvernementales pour le développement s'avère désormais indispensable à la réalisation concrète des principes institutionnels et les conclusions des conférences dans leurs objets spéciaux.

En particulier, on constate que les relations avec les institutions de financement s'intensifient actuellement de plus en plus.

On peut remarquer que le PNUD reste le principal organisme de financement en ce qui concerne les programmes de terrain. On ne peut qu'envisager favorablement la proposition d'une réunion annuelle entre les hauts fonctionnaires de la FAO et ceux du PNUD ainsi que l'opportunité de renforcer leurs relations de travail de manière à résoudre tour à tour les problèmes en suspens et de préparer ensemble le cinquième cycle de programmation du PNUD. Il faudrait approfondir la proposition selon laquelle le PNUD deviendrait une Institution pour le développement fournissant une gamme complète de services, même par la gestion d'opérations de terrain, directement avec les gouvernements bénéficiaires. Dans le but de contrôler la réalisation des projets, tant en se fondant sur des rapports bilatéraux que multilatéraux, on voit apparaître toute

l'importance d'un rappel aux fonctions des Représentants du PNUD dans chacun des pays bénéficiaires en même temps qu'un rapport avec le Représentant de la FAO dans le même pays.

Dans le dernier rapport relatif à l'Examen, encore, les relations avec la Banque mondiale prennent une importance particulière, mettant en évidence le Programme de coopération FAO-Banque mondiale, qui représente le principal champ de collaboration entre les deux organisations. En plus de la Banque mondiale, il faut mettre en évidence les Banques régionales pour le développement de l'Afrique, de l'Asie, de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, et leur participation de plus en plus aux réunions de la FAO.

L'existence et l'efficacité d'action de l'IFAD et du Programme alimentaire mondial s'imposent à cause de leurs contributions spécifiques dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement agricole et alimentaire. Cette situation oblige à mieux redéfinir les rapports entre la FAO et ces autres Organisations opérant directement dans les mêmes domaines.

Les aspects de la réglementation des échanges prennent une importance particulière et croissante.

Les efforts d'une coopération conjointe sont aussi rendus nécessaires par la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, dont les tendances principales sont offertes dans la documentation de cette session de la Conférence.

On ne peut passer sous silence le ralentissement de la production agricole au niveau mondial ainsi que la diminution de la disponibilité alimentaire qui s'ensuit. En même temps, dans les pays développés s'accroît la propension à une augmentation importante du commerce agricole qui s'accompagne de lourdes mesures de protection et de subvention, activées par les pays qui sont les plus grands producteurs. Tout ceci implique l'exclusion constante des pays en voie de développement des mécanismes du marché, et cela perpétue la tendance qui s'est manifestée au cours de ces dernières années.

On ne peut que partager la suggestion faite par la FAO de réclamer une stratégie pour le développement agricole, commune de tous les pays - visant à la nécessité de dépasser les restrictions protectionnistes au profit d'une libéralisation du marché, tout en assurant la présence indispensable de mécanismes de contrôle au niveau multilatéral.

On constate l'efficacité du soutien des négociations commerciales sur l'agriculture, offert par la FAO lors de sa participation aux travaux de l'Uruguay Round. On souhaite une action d'opinion publique, par effet de laquelle les pays hautement producteurs parviennent à reconnaître leur devoir de concourir à l'élimination des obstacles et des restrictions protectionnistes. Mais on sollicite surtout l'effort conjoint de la FAO et de ses Etats Membres pour mener à leur conclusion les propositions qui ont vu le jour, même en ce qui concerne les produits agricoles et leur commerce.

Il s'ensuit l'importance de l'insertion de toute l'activité de la FAO dans la Quatrième décennie de la Stratégie internationale pour le développement, en mettant en évidence tant la Déclaration du 1<sup>er</sup> mai 1990 que les critères de la Stratégie à long terme conséquente dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, document C 91/9.

On demande de rechercher les formes pertinentes d'une coopération effective favorisant la réalisation d'une politique du développement au sein duquel l'agriculture ait une place de choix.

On se réfère volontiers aux conclusions de la Conférence des Nations Unies de Paris de septembre 1990 où les pays les moins développés sont considérés comme l'objectif spécifique de la coopération internationale selon un critère de justice dans la solidarité universelle.

Dans ce sens, la délégation du Saint-Siège envisage favorablement l'attention croissante aux problèmes de l'environnement et du développement durable, ainsi d'ailleurs que l'examen prévu concernant la santé et l'alimentation avec l'action conjointe de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et de la FAO.

Ce qui a été dit jusque-là montre bien le caractère positif de l'appréciation que cette délégation du Saint-Siège porte sur l'essor des activités de la FAO, en liaison avec toutes les organisations, les organismes et les organes intergouvernementaux qui participent au développement, surtout dans le cadre du système des Nations Unies.

On envisage donc favorablement la réorganisation et l'intensification au sein de la FAO de ce qui ressortit aux relations extérieures et à la coordination dans le cadre de Programme de travail.

Qu'il nous soit permis, toutefois, de mettre en évidence certains doutes au sujet des aspects relatifs à l'action des Organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) qui concourent, suivant leur nature et leur finalité, à la coopération pour le développement. Il faudrait favoriser davantage une collaboration entre l'action officielle des organisations intergouvernementales et celle des formes de volontariat et des associations et institutions non gouvernementales.

Il n'y a pas de doute que, dans les multiples initiatives d'aide au développement au cours de la dernière décennie, s'est progressivement accrue l'attention portée à l'importance que les Organisations non gouvernementales ont acquise et à leur action. On en donne comme preuve, par exemple, la documentation spécifique qui est offerte par le Comité pour l'aide au développement dans le cadre de l'OCDE (CAD/OCDE).

De la part de la FAO aussi, surtout à l'occasion de la Conférence sur la Réforme agraire et le développement rural, en ce qui concerne notamment le Plan d'action relatif, on a essayé d'attribuer aux ONG une place spéciale dans la réalisation de programmes particuliers, mis au point par l'Organisation. Il en est de même en ce qui concerne la Stratégie pour la gestion de la pêche, et dans la proposition plus récente du Programme du développement rural pour les années 90 signalé comme fondamental pour l'activité future de la FAO et dans le cadre duquel on confère aux ONG un rôle primaire dans le processus de participation populaire au développement, même dans les profils institutionnels.

Les ONG, de surcroît, sont appelées à fournir leur contribution à la pleine activation du Plan d'action pour l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, adopté au cours de la dernière session de la Conférence, et qui s'appuie spécialement sur les organisations féminines au niveau local comme à celui international.



Il faut dire franchement que cette possibilité de coopération des ONG avec les lignes d'activité prévues par la FAO n'a pas obtenu l'effet d'une présence active des Organisations non gouvernementales à côté des initiatives des programmes et des projets, tant sur le plan intergouvernemental que sur celui gouvernemental.

On souhaite vivement une intensification de la part de la FAO d'initiatives visant à redonner de la vigueur à la participation et accueillant les activités non gouvernementales, en accord avec les choix et les lignes d'action adoptés dans le cadre de l'organisation. Les ONG doivent à nouveau avoir la possibilité de concourir aux débats et aux décisions de la FAO, en participant activement tant aux Commissions qu'au sein de la Plénière de la Conférence. Ce n'est que par cette voie qu'on pourra faire aussi appel à la collaboration des ONG, en fonction de leur compétence spécifique, dans le cadre des opérations d'aide au développement.

Il faudrait rendre leur vigueur aux activités et aux initiatives que l'on a réalisé au profit de la collaboration au développement en d'autres temps, comme lors du Premier Congrès mondial alimentaire à Washington en 1963 et du Deuxième Congrès à La Haye en 1970, où les ONG ont été appelées à assumer le rôle prédominant dans la formulation du Plan indicatif mondial pour le développement agricole.

Au cours des années 50 le secteur dit Freedom From Hunger Campaign (FFHC) avait pris corps et constituait un organe de la FAO de provocation et de coordination des initiatives des ONG au sujet des problèmes de l'aide au développement. Mais il faut dire qu'à l'essor et à la plus grande efficacité des structures et des initiatives officielles décidées et réalisées ne correspondait pas une continuité d'action efficace à l'égard du secteur des liaisons avec les ONG.

Il est souhaitable qu'on prenne des initiatives effectives et efficaces à même de reconstituer et de développer - même si ce ne sera pas dans les formes considérées comme valables en d'autres périodes - la coopération entre la FAO et les ONG.

Il faudra définir surtout de quelle manière on peut mettre en valeur l'apport des institutions et des associations du volontariat international pour le développement dans leurs multiples et diverses initiatives désintéressées et dans leur autonomie de réalisation, autre que celle des formes de coopération pour le développement se situant davantage à un niveau technique et financier, par des initiatives conjointes d'entreprises agricoles et d'entreprises industrielles et commerciales.

Une telle valorisation ne veut pas dire perdre de vue la proportion entre l'apport des ONG - qui reste cependant limité en termes économiques et financiers - et le concours des aides publiques tant multilatérales, par les Organisations intergouvernementales, que bilatérales, de la part des gouvernements. Comme on sait bien, l'ensemble des aides publiques au développement se chiffre annuellement à plus de 50 000 milliards de dollars.

On demande toutefois de mettre en évidence que ces ONG ont une possibilité d'apport de grande valeur lorsqu'elles sont les expressions d'institutions assurant un contact constant avec les populations locales et les

associations internes et internationales rattachées qui opèrent pour des finalités reflétant de plus près les nécessités réelles et les conditions effectives des populations.

La valeur de la présence active, tant au moment des choix et des orientations de la FAO que lors de l'appel effectif à la collaboration dans les opérations d'aide au développement tout en respectant la capacité d'initiative et de programmation de chaque ONG, selon ses propres finalités statutaires, devient d'autant plus possible et évidente qu'on garde davantage d'ampleur à la conception du développement économique et du progrès civil.

L'apport de ces ONG se manifeste dans toute son évidence quand on considère les aspects d'apport aux facteurs immédiats et moins évidents du développement par un soutien direct des ressources humaines spécialement dans les aspects ressortissant à l'instruction générale et à la formation au développement et à la participation personnelle et de groupe à la croissance communautaire.

Il s'ensuit la possibilité d'intégration des aides económico-financières avec les aides se rapportant plus directement aux valeurs humaines pour une plus complète et efficace coopération internationale entre les institutions publiques et les initiatives non gouvernementales.

**Enrique ROSSL LINK (Perú):** Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General de la FAO, Sres. Ministros, Sres. delegados. Es realmente un privilegio, a nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo del Perú, traerles un cordial saludo y al mismo tiempo desear el mayor de los éxitos a esta reunión del 26º período de sesiones, que hoy día nos congrega, bajo los auspicios de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Un rápido análisis de algunos indicadores de la economía peruana señala que la agricultura sigue siendo una de las actividades más importantes de nuestro país, en especial, si se considera su contribución en el empleo de la población económicamente activa, al producto bruto interno, la oferta interna de alimentos y su distribución ocupacional-espacial en un territorio tan variado y complejo como el nuestro.

Actualmente, la agricultura ocupa alrededor de dos millones y medio de trabajadores, equivalente al 35 por ciento de su población, constituyendo así la fuente de trabajo más importante del país en cuanto a empleo se refiere.

Sin embargo, en 1990, el producto bruto interno agropecuario, representó solamente el 12,7 por ciento del producto bruto interno nacional, siendo, no obstante, la segunda en orden de importancia económica después de la manufactura, a pesar que es prácticamente la mitad de la contribución al producto bruto interno que se registró en el año 1950.

La rentabilidad de la actividad agropecuaria constituye la principal restricción para el desarrollo del agro en el Perú, la cual es consecuencia de los bajos niveles de producción y productividad, deficientes sistemas de comercialización, estacionalidad de la producción, escaso desarrollo de la agroindustria, alta concentración de la población en pocos centros urbanos; y, en especial, la disponibilidad, uso y manejo de los recursos agua y

suelo, infraestructura, crédito, gestión empresarial, tamaño de las unidades agropecuarias, recursos humanos, desarrollo agroindustrial, y de la inversión en tecnología y extensión agrícola.

Desde julio de 1990, los esfuerzos del Gobierno están orientados a lograr la reactivación y desarrollo sostenido de la actividad productiva agraria, para superar los obstáculos estructurales y los graves desequilibrios económicos y sociales que estamos combatiendo con un necesario programa de estabilización.

En este sentido, la estrategia para devolverle rentabilidad al agro, a fin de obtener resultados significativos en la generación de empleos, elevación de los ingresos rurales y mayores niveles de seguridad alimentaria, se basan fundamentalmente en: establecer un entorno macroeconómico estable y equilibrado, con tipo de cambio real, tasas de interés reales, aranceles uniformes y eliminación de todo tipo de subsidios; una productividad creciente y sostenida basada en el aprovechamiento de la diversidad de ecosistemas, de sus ventajas comparativas, de las distintas formas de organización económica y social y de una distinta forma de intervención del Estado dirigida a compensar las desventajas de las áreas más deprimidas, especialmente de sierra y selva, a través del apoyo tecnológico a las actividades agrarias y grupos campesinos más marginados, y de recuperación de los servicios e infraestructura de apoyo agrario; un sistema de mercados eficientes que aseguren el abastecimiento alimentario a través de la reducción de los costos reales de comercialización, de la aplicación de mecanismos para estabilizar los precios de productos agrarios importables, de sistemas de información de precios y mercados y de mejores sistemas viales y portuarios; un marco jurídico-político que consolide la propiedad de la tierra, devolviéndole al productor agrario iniciativas de inversión a través de la utilización de la tierra como importante palanca financiera.

La política agraria considera también como aspecto de mucha importancia la diversidad de espacios geográficos, económicos y sociales, en los cuales se desenvuelve la actividad agraria, buscando desarrollar sistemas productivos integrados y adecuados a cada una de las condiciones particulares que determinan los aspectos arriba señalados, tanto para las regiones de costa, de sierra y selva.

Una mención especial es el caso del cultivo de la hoja de coca, con sus implicaciones, tanto sociales como políticas y económicas; y además se considera que no sólo es un problema del Perú, sino que en el mismo están inmersos otros países productores, procesadores, y en particular los consumidores.

Se considera de tal importancia este problema, que se ha diseñado una estrategia específica en concordancia y con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional.

Con el propósito de lograr la reactivación y crear las condiciones para una reforma total del agro, se están aplicando las medidas siguientes:

Medidas macroeconómicas: la eliminación del dólar subsidiado a las importaciones de alimentos. El establecimiento de aranceles del 15 por ciento a casi todo el universo arancelario, con una tendencia a un arancel plano del 15 por ciento sin discriminación entre sectores, eliminando el sesgo antiagrario.

Reestructuración del comercio exterior, liberalizando el mercado, eliminando los controles innecesarios, racionalizando las aduanas y eliminando los monopolios para las operaciones de estiba y desestiba en puertos y aeropuertos.

Medidas sectoriales, contenidas principalmente en el Decreto Legislativo 653, recientemente promulgado, Ley de Promoción de las Inversiones en el Sector Agrario.

En la seguridad jurídica de la propiedad de la tierra: liberalizando el mercado de tierras; flexibilizando el concepto de conducción directa de la tierra; permitiendo el acceso a cualquier persona natural o jurídica a la propiedad de la tierra, la cual también podrá arrendarse; promocionando la inversión en tierras eriazas; permitiendo que los productores con más de cinco hectáreas, puedan usar sus tierras como prenda agrícola; aumentando los límites de inafectabilidad a 250 hectáreas de tierras de cultivo bajo riego en la costa, 60 hectáreas bajo riego, o su equivalente en secano en la sierra y de 5 000 hectáreas para tierras de pastos naturales, también en la serranía; permitiendo la adopción de cualquier modelo empresarial en la agricultura y regimentando las transacciones agrarias por medio del Código Civil; estableciendo un marco legal para simplificar el registro de precios rurales en trámite; y ejecutando un intenso programa de titulación de tierras.

En el comercio exterior: se han eliminado los registros de importación y exportación, licencias previas y permisos sanitarios previos también; se han eliminado los monopolios y derechos exclusivos a la importación; se han establecido aranceles de 15 por ciento y 25 por ciento a las importaciones de alimentos, insumos alimentarios y de bienes de capital para la agricultura. Y se ha establecido un mecanismo de estabilización de precios, mediante la aplicación de derechos específicos a las importaciones de los principales alimentos e insumos alimentarios, para fomentar la eficiencia productiva y amortiguar los precios dumping o subsidiados del mercado internacional.

Tales derechos específicos varían de acuerdo a los precios internacionales FOB y a los márgenes establecidos en las denominadas tablas aduaneras.

En el caso de los productos lácteos se establecen derechos específicos fijos por tonelada métrica.

En la comercialización: se ha declarado la libre circulación interna de productos agrícolas, eliminando registros y visados innecesarios en las garitas de tránsito. Se ha establecido la libre comercialización interna y externa de plaguicidas e insumos de uso veterinario, simplificándose el procedimiento para su registro y comercialización, rompiéndose de esta manera el monopolio de una serie de laboratorios; se ha eliminado la prohibición a la exportación de llamas y alpacas, los camellos americanos, para hacer frente al contrabando de estas especies hacia países vecinos, desde los cuales serán reexportados; se ha eliminado el otorgamiento de permisos citosanitarios previos a las importaciones, utilizados también muchos años como mecanismo para arancelario y como fuente de corrupción. Sin embargo, esta medida no pone en peligro la integridad biológica del país ya que se pone más esmero en el control de los productos una vez desembarcados; se han eliminado las restricciones y demás condicionamientos a la agroindustria en lo referente a su instalación, operación y comercialización de los productos; se está reestructurando la empresa

estatal ENCI, comercializadora de alimentos, que ya no tiene la exclusividad en ningún rubro para la comercialización interna y externa de productos agropecuarios. La empresa ECASA, comercializadora de arroz, se encuentra en liquidación y los mercados del pueblo se están entregando en concesión a particulares.

En la reestructuración del aparato estatal, se ha reestructurado el Ministerio de Agricultura y sus instituciones públicas descentralizadas como el INIAA de investigación, la ONAA de apoyo alimentario, simplificándose su estructura, reduciéndose significativamente el personal que trabaja en dichas instituciones y rediseñándose sus funciones, con la finalidad de otorgarle al Estado un rol promotor y de atención en la infraestructura básica para el agro.

En el financiamiento, se ha quitado el poder prioritario sobre la prenda agrícola que anteriormente tenía el Banco Agrario, Banco de Fomento, a fin de facilitar el acceso de la banca privada a la agricultura nuevamente.

Se ha dispuesto la utilización de la tierra como prenda agrícola.

Se ha declarado la multisectorialidad de la banca; como medida de emergencia, se ha dolarizado la deuda agraria, por los altos intereses que tenían que pagarse en moneda nacional.

En la investigación y extensión, se está procediendo a la reestructuración y redimensionamiento del Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agraria. Se ha iniciado la transferencia de estaciones experimentales y plantas estatales procesadoras de semillas de arroz al sector privado y se apoya a la iniciativa privada para el desarrollo de las actividades de investigación y extensión al agro.

Sr. Presidente, señores asistentes a esta importante Conferencia, éstos son los esfuerzos que, con mucho sacrificio, venimos practicando en el país para remover los obstáculos que impiden el desarrollo agrario en el Perú.

Para lograr la rentabilidad sostenida del agro, creando capacidad de crecimiento con equidad para incrementar el ingreso y generar empleo masivo y productivo en el sector, se necesita como complemento del esfuerzo nacional que la comunidad internacional nos apoye en tres grandes campos: en primer lugar, en la recuperación y generación de infraestructura que promueva y facilite la actividad productiva de los sectores privados en el agro como caminos, carreteras, puertos, almacenes; en segundo lugar, en el aumento del desarrollo tecnológico en las áreas de conservación y protección de nuestros recursos naturales en la modernización y ampliación de nuestros complejos productivos y en el fortalecimiento institucional; en tercer lugar, en el desarrollo de mercados externos para nuestra exportación agraria tradicional y no tradicional.

En este marco, estamos interesados en tratar de que la cooperación internacional se concentre en las siguientes líneas de acción: apoyar la investigación y extensión agropecuaria para mejorar los niveles tecnológicos de producción, especialmente en cultivos y crianzas andinos; apoyar el manejo integral de las cuencas hidrográficas; mejorar los servicios de control de calidad y certificación de productos agrícolas procesados y no procesados con fines de exportación; apoyar los programas de asistencia alimentaria con fines productivos para reducir la desnutrición de las poblaciones rurales de extrema pobreza; mejorar y

ampliar la capacitación de los técnicos y productores agrarios en las nuevas técnicas de producción agraria y desarrollo rural integral; apoyar el mejoramiento de los sistemas de información y de control, seguimiento y evaluación de los proyectos de desarrollo agrario.

Con esta breve presentación, espero haber logrado dar una idea de la situación, orientación, estrategia y política del sector agrario en nuestro país.

La solidaridad para con nuestro país, la cual deseo agradecer por la ya efectuada en los momentos más difíciles, nos ayudará a cumplir con nuestro objetivo de convertir a la agricultura peruana en una actividad eficiente y competitiva que nos permita alcanzar un desarrollo adecuado y a nivel de otros países.

Creemos que utilizar sus grandes potencialidades y vencer los grandes retos que enfrentamos nos conducirá a satisfacer con creces la demanda interna de alimentos y los productos de exportación para lograr insertarnos en las oportunidades que ofrece el mercado internacional.

Enfrentamos con fe y confianza el futuro, deseamos contribuir conjuntamente con el resto de los países del mundo a resolver los graves problemas de la humanidad y a erradicar el hambre y la miseria, pues si bien es cierto que hace 500 años lo hicimos en el desarrollo de la humanidad con la transferencia de plantas, animales y alimentos, considerados en aquella época como exóticos, no es menos cierto que, a través de un desarrollo sostenido y sustentable de nuestros recursos, podemos y vamos a contribuir más aún con el bienestar de la humanidad.

**Philip DOVO (Vanuatu):** Director-General Saouma, fellow members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; it is an honour to represent the people of the Republic of Vanuatu here today and to be accorded the privilege of speaking to you.

I speak as the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of perhaps one of the smallest members of this august Organization. Our national population is just over 142 000 people: just a fraction of the population of other member countries. We are fortunate that our small islands are blessed by an equitable climate, and our natural resource base is probably the envy of many of the less well-endowed developing countries. Problems of drought and war and all too frequent consequent hunger are mercifully absent.

Natural resources remain the cornerstone on which our economy is built, and the livelihood of our population is critically dependant on the fortunes of this sector. They are also the only resource our country can utilize in its efforts to achieve meaningful and sustainable economic development and true self-sufficiency.

Our smallness and remoteness, however, present serious problems in our agricultural and economic development. Markets for our limited range of commodities are distant, and communications are frequently poor. Internal communications within an archipelago stretching over 800 kilometres also present difficulties. Our generally equitable climate is, however,

occasionally marked by violent hurricanes that wreak enormous damage, disrupting life and shattering development. Our colleagues from elsewhere in the cyclone belt will understand of what I am speaking.

These problems we can think of as challenges to overcome. They are a fact of our geography, and we must live with them and cater our development to suit the environment. Our economic development - and dare I say the livelihood of our people - is, however, affected by factors much more pernicious than these physical ones. The world economic order of which we are just a small part has an enormous influence on a fragile small open economy dependent on the fortunes in the international market place of just several primary commodities.

International discussions on the liberalization of trade such as the scheduled Uruguay Round have important implications even for the smallest of nations. If we are to avoid the continuing deterioration in the already low-income levels of our people, a fact directly attributable to declining commodity prices and restricted development of free trade, then these discussions must succeed.

Free and open access to markets is essential, as is the setting of prices by conventional norms of supply and demand rather than through the influence and actions of governments representing powerful interest lobbies in the already developed countries.

Similarly, Mr Chairman, we note that over-exploitation of marine and forest resources by other developed countries jeopardizes their availability for future generations; not least in the developing world. At a time when the world is finally coming to terms with the need to treat our common environment with care we must ask, why is it that those with most who have taken most now ask us with least to take even less. In this regard we are pleased that the dangers of driftnet fishing have now been acknowledged by most countries and appropriate action taken. We urge those countries still allowing this detrimental practice to think again.

On behalf of the Republic of Vanuatu I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO for the sound practical assistance it has brought to my country over the years. We are confident that the friendly constructive relationship that we enjoy will continue in the future. FAO have been true partners in development and Vanuatu wishes to affirm its support for the transfer of Australia from membership of the Finance Committee to that of the Programme Committee as representative for the Southwest Pacific Region. We also support Brazil, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Belgium in their candidacy to the FAO Council. Vanuatu wishes to express its support for the accession to the FAO of the Republics of Latvia and Lithuania. It is happy to see that this has been made possible. Including Estonia and Puerto Rico.

Mr Chairman, in view of the increased membership of the South Pacific countries over the last few years, it is suggested the number of seats for the South Pacific region be increased from 1 to 2 in the FAO Council. In suggesting this, Mr Chairman, we are well aware of the importance and the progress being made in the field of agriculture in both Australia and New Zealand and suggest that one seat be placed aside for them while the other is rotated for the rest of the region in the FAO Council.

The world in which we live is changing in ways that even two or three years ago would have been impossible. At a time when the political map of the world is changing, old enmity being replaced by dialogue and cooperation, let us not forget that the majority of the world's population remains in absolute poverty. The world may indeed today be a safer place in which to live, but for the poor for whom tomorrow brings yet another day of struggle for basic human needs of shelter, food and clean water, little has changed. Let us reaffirm our mutual commitment to the eradication of the greatest evil, that of the need of many in the face of the affluence of a few.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your attention.

**James GASANA (Rwanda):** Au moment où nous tenons la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, force est de constater, avec amertume, que le spectre de la faim et de la malnutrition continue à persister, malgré les efforts inlassables déployés par les gouvernements du monde entier pour l'enrayer.

En effet, le Rapport 1991 sur la Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, qui nous a été soumis par la FAO, indique que dès 1987, 55 à 60 pour cent de la population rurale africaine vivent dans la pauvreté absolue, soit le pourcentage le plus élevé de toutes les régions des pays en développement. On nous signale également que 330 millions d'enfants dans le monde sont mal nourris et que les perspectives pour les années 90 ne sont guère moins sombres. Voilà un constat amer, certes, mais qui en appelle à la conscience de tout le monde.

En plus des problèmes devenus plus ou moins structurels et qui handicapent le développement agricole tels que l'inadéquation production-population, la faible utilisation des facteurs de production, l'utilisation non optimale des ressources naturelles, etc., l'Afrique, est confrontée à d'autres difficultés qui ne font qu'aggraver la situation actuelle. Nous pouvons citer entre autres les guerres et la mise en place des programmes d'ajustement structurels.

En me limitant à la situation de mon pays, le Rwanda, la guerre qui nous est imposée depuis plus d'un an conduit à des restrictions de la production dans les zones de combat, ainsi qu'au déplacement de plus de 100 000 habitants qui sont obligés de vivre dans des conditions de vie déplorables et qui, sans l'appui des bienfaiteurs intérieurs et extérieurs, seraient condamnés à la malnutrition, aux maladies et à la mort.

Concernant le Programme d'ajustement structurel que mon pays a adopté depuis plus d'un an également, nous partageons les analyses faites sur les avantages théoriques. Néanmoins, il est aussi évident que ce programme est appelé à être exécuté par des structures nationales qui ne sont pas encore prêtes à en supporter le poids et les conséquences. Les capacités d'analyse dans nos pays sont encore limitées et ne permettent pas de bien appréhender toutes ses conséquences; en particulier son incidence sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire. L'on notera, entre autres, les conséquences négatives des augmentations des prix des biens importés (intrants, produits de première nécessité), l'augmentation indistincte des taux d'intérêt rendant le crédit inaccessible aux agriculteurs pauvres ainsi que des restrictions de la demande solvable.



Mon pays est actuellement confronté à une crise alimentaire aiguë et qui ne cesse de s'aggraver au fil des ans. Et ce, malgré les efforts du Gouvernement rwandais pour augmenter la production agricole. En effet, l'exiguïté du pays, l'épuisement des sols cultivés, le tout couplé à une forte croissance de la population, font que la production vivrière a atteint un palier au niveau global et se dégrade au niveau de la production par habitant.

Face à cette situation, le Gouvernement rwandais a jugé nécessaire de mener une réflexion approfondie sur les différentes causes liées à cette situation. C'est dans ce cadre qu'une Commission ad hoc, dite Commission nationale de l'agriculture, a été créée. De par les informations statistiques disponibles et suite aux analyses propres de cette Commission, les constats suivants ont pu être dégagés:

Sur la base des données de 1988, la disponibilité calorique moyenne au Rwanda était de 1 786 calories par habitant et par jour. La situation nutritionnelle est particulièrement grave. Les indices pour 1990 montrent qu'environ 33 pour cent des enfants de moins de 5 ans sont atteints de malnutrition.

30 pour cent de familles rurales ne possèdent que des parcelles de moins de 0,50 hectare. Ceci représente plus de 2 000 000 d'individus qui vivent dans un état de pauvreté et de malnutrition permanentes.

L'extension des superficies cultivables sur des terres marginales sans système approprié de protection des sols, ainsi qu'une surexploitation des terres cultivées, conduit à des phénomènes d'érosion qui font perdre à l'agriculture l'équivalent de 8 000 hectares par an, soit de quoi nourrir 50 000 habitants.

Le déficit annuel atteint 3 000 000 de m<sup>3</sup>, touchant 3 000 000 d'habitants et plus particulièrement ceux possédant les plus petites exploitations. Cette situation oblige la population à prélever sur le capital forestier et à utiliser les déchets de cultures qui ne sont plus restitués au sol.

Le faible niveau d'utilisation des engrais (environ 2 kilogramme/ hectare/an) ainsi que l'utilisation plus accrue des déchets végétaux pour la cuisson des aliments font que le seul maintien de la fertilité n'est couvert qu'à raison de 26 pour cent par la production du fumier.

Les productions de l'élevage ne couvrent les besoins en protéines animales qu'à raison de 50 pour cent seulement.

La faiblesse des productions de mon pays, de plus en plus partagées par un nombre croissant de consommateurs, implique une chute des revenus des agriculteurs qui constituent 92 pour cent de la population et une baisse progressive du niveau de consommation par habitant. Nous nous retrouvons ainsi face à une population totalement démunie, marginalisée, sans possibilités réelles d'accéder aux facteurs de production et avec un accroissement du nombre de paysans sans terre dans un contexte économique où les emplois extérieurs au secteur agricole sont rares et mal rémunérés. Dépouillés de leur dignité, mal nourris, démunis de ressources pour acquérir les biens de première nécessité, incapables de payer l'instruction de leurs enfants ou de se faire soigner, ces personnes constituent, à notre avis, une population cible qui devrait faire l'objet de toute l'attention de la part des Etats et des organismes internationaux qui nous assistent.

Ces constatations montrent l'ampleur des tâches qui attendent, beaucoup plus que par le passé, les organisations internationales d'aide au développement et en particulier la FAO. Qu'il me soit permis de rendre hommage, encore une fois, à la FAO pour les efforts énormes qui ont été consentis afin que le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition fasse partie des préoccupations internationales, au lieu de se limiter aux seuls peuples qui en souffrent. La prise de conscience par l'humanité entière du fait que la faim et la malnutrition sont des problèmes pour lesquels tout un chacun est appelé à donner sa contribution constitue une des réussites les plus importantes de la FAO.

Les problèmes posés aux pays en développement sont vraiment de taille et très complexes. Leur solution nécessite, au départ, une vision à long terme. Ils exigent également des compétences qui font souvent défaut dans nos pays. Enfin, ils doivent être résolus dans un cadre global de développement où les aspects environnementaux ont une place de choix.

C'est pour cette raison que nous appuyons la pertinence des programmes et des méthodologies d'intervention tels que retenus par la FAO dans le Programme de travail et du budget pour le biennium 1992-93 ainsi que dans le Plan à moyen terme 1992-97. Nous sommes prêts à fournir tout appui ou toute participation qu'il nous sera possible d'apporter suivant nos faibles moyens. Et pour cause. Il s'agit en fait d'un cadre idéal qui permettra à nos Etats, et en particulier à mon pays, de bénéficier des compétences de la FAO dans des domaines tels que l'élaboration des politiques, plans et programmes visant la relance équilibrée du secteur agricole.

Tout en appuyant sans réserve les priorités retenues par la programmation actuelle, permettez-moi de revenir brièvement sur certains points qui expriment d'une façon particulière la position actuelle du Gouvernement rwandais en matière de développement agricole, ainsi qu'au niveau de notre collaboration avec la FAO.

Comme j'ai eu l'occasion de le mentionner, il y a plus d'un an que le Rwanda a opté pour le Programme d'ajustement structurel. Par ailleurs, notre pays s'est résolument engagé dans la voie de la démocratisation et de la libéralisation de son économie. Des efforts substantiels sont en train d'être menés avec la participation de tous les Rwandais. Nous voulons construire un pays où la justice et les libertés individuelles et collectives sont garanties.

Mais comme nous le savons tous, ventre affamé n'a pas d'oreilles. Les politiques alimentaires et agricoles, conçues pour le moyen et long terme, et dans le cadre d'un développement durable, constituent une priorité dans notre pays. Des réflexions ont commencé, des grandes orientations commencent à voir le jour. Il reste la tâche la plus délicate, celle de concrétiser cet ensemble d'idées dans des programmes et projets concrets.

Nous comptons par conséquent sur l'appui que la FAO peut apporter à mon Gouvernement en vue d'élaborer des politiques et des stratégies agricoles et de les traduire en plans, programmes et projets concrets, en analysant les incidences des programmes d'ajustement économique sur la sécurité alimentaire et en s'assurant que les exigences du développement agricole et rural durable sont prises en compte. Notre souhait est d'arriver à établir correctement un plan d'action qui puisse permettre la relance du secteur

agricole et qui soit sous-tendue par des politiques cohérentes dans les différents domaines de ce secteur, à savoir l'agriculture, l'élevage, la foresterie, la pisciculture, la gestion des terres.

Nous voudrions par conséquent, insister sur l'importance qu'il faudrait réserver au Programme de coopération technique. Non seulement il faut lui laisser son caractère d'élasticité et de rapidité, mais il faudrait que les moyens financiers qui lui sont accordés soient progressivement accrus.

Nous appuyons également l'orientation prise de diversifier, renforcer et rendre progressivement autonomes les bureaux régionaux et nationaux.

L'expérience vécue dans notre pays, suite à la mise en place d'une Représentation de la FAO au Rwanda, est largement positive. Cela a permis d'améliorer nos relations de coopération avec la FAO grâce à une meilleure exécution des programmes communs ainsi qu'une plus grande rapidité et efficacité dans l'identification des domaines de coopération. Le renforcement de ces bureaux en personnel et moyens devrait être accéléré.

Enfin, je ne voudrais pas passer sous silence d'autres programmes qui sont également importants et pertinents dans mon pays tels que la participation de la femme au développement, le PAFT ainsi que la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. A ce sujet, nous voudrions signaler que nous souhaitons participer à la Conférence Internationale sur la nutrition. Les informations nécessaires à cette participation seront fournies aux organisateurs le plus rapidement possible.

**Casimir AMAKPIO (République centrafricaine):** M. le Président, la délégation de la République centrafricaine que j'ai l'honneur de diriger voudrait, tout d'abord, joindre sa voix à celles des délégations qui l'ont précédée à cette tribune, pour vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO. Votre parfaite connaissance de l'Organisation alliée à votre grande compétence dans le secteur agricole est un garant du succès de nos travaux. Nos félicitations vont également à l'Estonie, à la Lituanie et à la Lettonie pour leur élection en tant que membres de la FAO et à Porto Rico en tant que membre associé.

Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention le précieux message que nous a adressé M. Jacques Attali, Président de la Banque européenne de reconstruction et de développement dans le cadre de la dix-septième Conférence McDougall. En lui manifestant notre profonde estime, nous lui sommes vivement reconnaissants de la profondeur de son message qui, nous espérons, servira à donner un nouvel élan aux objectifs de solidarité active et de sécurité collective que s'est assignés la FAO afin que soient affirmés les droits fondamentaux de millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants et que l'avenir soit porteur d'espoir dans un monde chaque jour plus intégré, de plus en plus interdépendant et donc de plus en plus petit. Ce message devrait nous inciter à nous interroger sur les engagements et les politiques qui ont jusqu'à présent guidé les gouvernements et la communauté internationale dans la lutte contre ce fléau, la faim.

Cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment historique où l'effondrement des idéologies totalitaires et des régimes qui s'en inspiraient a ouvert une nouvelle voie dans l'histoire de l'humanité. Cette nouvelle voie doit permettre de faire progresser les idéaux auxquels

les hommes n'ont jamais renoncé, même aux heures les plus graves, à savoir: la paix et le développement, la liberté de l'homme sur laquelle repose celle des Etats, et l'essor matériel et civil des sociétés, condition préalable de la progression harmonieuse et pacifique des relations internationales.

D'un côté, un système politique et économique disparaît au profit du libéralisme démocratique, de l'autre, les pays occidentaux s'organisent en de grands ensembles constituant de véritables marchés en vue d'affronter la crise.

L'Afrique subsaharienne se doit d'emboîter le pas et c'est le sentiment qu'expriment tous ses partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux qui l'invitent à créer un cadre régional de libre-échange.

A cet effet, nous avons eu à faire en Afrique à de nombreuses tentatives de regroupement à caractère technique ou économique. Ces tentatives ont abouti à la création de plusieurs institutions régionales et sous-régionales.

Au niveau du continent, le Plan d'action adopté par l'OUA à son Sommet tenu à Lagos en 1980, a clairement tracé la voie à suivre - celle d'une plus grande solidarité et d'une meilleure coordination - et fait de l'agriculture une priorité pour notre continent. Cette option a été confirmée par le Sommet de 1985 et, ensuite, par la Session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU, consacrée à la situation économique critique de l'Afrique.

Sans méconnaître les résultats obtenus grâce à ces initiatives, force est de reconnaître qu'ils n'ont pas répondu à toute notre attente. En tout cas, la situation économique de nos pays est restée critique et nombreux sont les besoins essentiels non encore satisfaits.

En vérité, il nous faut trouver les moyens de nous adapter à l'environnement mondial. Le trait dominant de celui-ci est que le marché se structure sur une base régionale et qu'il faut des effets de synergie des avantages comparatives pour être plus compétitifs.

Les efforts entrepris au niveau national en vue de redonner à l'agriculture sa place centrale dans nos économies n'aboutiront que dans un cadre rénové de concertation, favorable à la création de zones de libre-échange. Ne devons-nous pas souligner ici que ce cadre existe dans le Plan d'action de Lagos et dans certaines organisations sous-régionales?

Ainsi, est-il légitime de bénéficier, dans cet engagement, de la solidarité internationale de la FAO.

Quelle est la réalité de l'économie centrafricaine au moment de répondre aux sollicitations tout à fait motivées de l'intégration régionale?

La République centrafricaine possède d'immenses potentialités climatiques, édaphiques, hydrologiques et faunistiques.

Le secteur rural occupe plus de 80 pour cent de l'ensemble des actifs et représente près de 40 pour cent du PIB.

Le vivrier représente, en 1988, 41 pour cent du produit du secteur primaire.

Les cultures d'exportation: coton, café et tabac de cape représentent 7,53 pour cent du produit du secteur primaire alors que l'élevage en représente 43 pour cent. Les cultures d'exportation sont celles qui devraient procurer des devises à la République centrafricaine; or, depuis 1986, on assiste à l'effondrement brutal des cours mondiaux.

Les productions agricoles et pastorales locales assurent actuellement à la République centrafricaine son autosuffisance alimentaire car le taux de croissance annuelle des vivriers est d'environ 6 pour cent contre 2,5 pour cent de taux de croissance démographique. Il reste à garantir la sécurité alimentaire notamment en matière de répartition et d'accessibilité.

En 1986, le Gouvernement centrafricain a entrepris son premier Programme d'ajustement structurel. Sans attacher trop d'importance aux critères de ces PAS, il est intéressant de noter qu'à la fin de 1990 il n'y avait guère que cinq pays africains - y compris la République centrafricaine - soit 12 pour cent des pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne membres de la Banque mondiale, qui avaient déjà atteint le stade du troisième programme d'ajustement. Il est donc normal de penser que la performance de la RCA au cours des cinq dernières années a été plus qu'honorable sur le plan de la mise en oeuvre des programmes de réformes macro-économiques et sectorielles.

Cependant, au début de 1991, on ne peut manquer de s'interroger sur l'efficacité politique, économique et sociale du processus d'ajustement en RCA. Les résultats obtenus sont importants mais inégaux. La période 1984-86 a été de loin la plus prospère de l'histoire du pays depuis l'indépendance: le taux de croissance du PIB a dépassé la moyenne annuelle de 5,5 pour cent au cours de cette brève période de trois ans. Mais aujourd'hui, l'économie centrafricaine manque encore de dynamisme après un an de récession en 1987, l'activité économique redémarre lentement: le taux de croissance de l'économie est à un niveau à peine supérieur au taux de croissance démographique.

En ce qui concerne le secteur du développement rural, quel est le bilan de l'ajustement? Celui-ci est encore inégal. Certes, l'assainissement de la gestion des grandes filières agricoles a commencé mais les progrès accomplis sont encore insuffisants; en outre, depuis trois ans la production des cultures de rente a été gravement affectée par les retards constants dans le versement de la subvention budgétaire, problème directement lié aux difficultés de trésorerie et aux retards de l'aide extérieure. Bref, il est évident qu'après une brève période d'euphorie, l'agriculture centrafricaine est à la recherche de son second souffle. Sur la base des expériences passées, c'est seulement l'épanouissement durable de ce secteur qui donne à l'ensemble de l'activité économique l'impulsion tant attendue.

Aux problèmes économiques et financiers déjà énoncés, dus à la chute des cours mondiaux des produits d'exportation du pays et à l'insuffisante mobilisation des ressources, s'ajoute une crise sociale manifeste.

Pour tenter de minimiser leurs effets, le choix de la RCA pour la décennie 90 se situe sur quatre axes prioritaires: au niveau du développement du système politique, le processus de démocratisation politique et institutionnelle que le gouvernement a lancé à partir de 1987 va se poursuivre et se renforcer davantage; sur le plan de la gestion

financière, le gouvernement a fait preuve de courage en lançant, à partir de 1986, et sans discontinuer, trois Programmes d'ajustement structurel qui ont permis la maîtrise des dépenses publiques, la réduction du déficit budgétaire et la restructuration de l'appareil public et parapublic; sur le plan du développement économique, la faiblesse du taux de croissance moyenne du PIB (2,6 pour cent) par rapport au taux de croissance démographique (2,5 pour cent) est une source de préoccupation constante pour le gouvernement; quant au développement humain, le gouvernement a fait preuve de courage dans l'arbitrage des choix entre ses préoccupations économiques et financières, d'une part, et celles d'ordre social, d'autre part. A ce jour, il ne fait aucun doute que les coûts de l'ajustement structurel ont été en grande partie supportés par les couches les plus vulnérables de la population à savoir les femmes et les jeunes.

Les questions trans-sectorielles, telles que les initiatives touchant au développement humain et à l'amélioration significative de l'indice de développement humain, la préservation des écosystèmes naturels et la lutte contre la dégradation de l'environnement, l'intégration de la femme dans le processus de développement, la participation populaire et le développement participatif, l'association des ONG, le secteur privé, la coopération technique entre pays en développement ainsi que la technologie appropriée, seront systématiquement prises en compte dans l'identification, la formulation des projets et programmes futurs ainsi que leur évaluation.

Sans trop m'étendre sur les maux dont souffre le continent africain, car depuis plus d'un quart de siècle nous ne cessons de les examiner, je me permettrai cependant de livrer à cette auguste assemblée une réflexion sur le problème des subventions agricoles qui sont devenues la cible principale des pressions politiques puisque symbolisant le mal économique. Oublions-nous délibérément que l'Afrique est constituée à plus de 80 pour cent de communautés rurales qui ont aussi le droit de survivre et de se développer? Les excédents agricoles ne sont pas toujours intrinsèquement négatifs; il est certain qu'ils doivent être bien administrés mais il ne faut pas les éliminer totalement car ils constituent une garantie nécessaire face à la pénurie alimentaire dans le monde. Il y a des années de vaches grasses et des années de vaches maigres: même les pays les plus nantis ne sont pas à l'abri de conditions climatiques imprévisibles.

Le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) fait observer que, dans les pays en développement, les subventions peuvent contribuer à stabiliser les prix agricoles, à redistribuer les revenus au bénéfice des pauvres et à maintenir la stabilité politique et sociale. Mais pour qu'il en soit ainsi, un certain nombre de conditions bien précises doivent être réunies: le coût de ces mesures ne doit pas dépasser environ 1 pour cent du PNB, les incitations à la production d'aliments doivent être renforcées, des subventions sélectives doivent être accordées au profit des secteurs de la population les plus démunis, notamment les enfants et les femmes. C'est ainsi que, là où il n'existe pratiquement aucun système de sécurité sociale, il importe de garantir l'accès des plus démunis à une alimentation bon marché.

Le revenu des agriculteurs doit augmenter progressivement, au même rythme que le prix des produits alimentaires, de façon que l'économie rurale soit viable et qu'une diversification soit possible.

Maintenant qu'un nouveau climat de confiance caractérise les relations internationales, que se concrétisent les perspectives d'un désarmement généralisé, progressif et équilibré et que sont réaffirmées dans le monde entier les valeurs fondamentales de la justice, de la liberté, de la démocratie et du respect des droits de l'homme, en cette époque de progrès scientifique sans précédent, marquée par la mise au point de technologies sans cesse plus perfectionnées, l'absence de sécurité alimentaire est intolérable. Je ne veux pas sous-estimer l'immensité de la tâche, ni les difficultés qui, souvent, s'interposent entre nos désirs et la dure réalité.

Mais nous devons prendre un nouvel engagement, renforcer la volonté politique de mobiliser ces ressources en faveur du développement et de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. Il faut jeter les bases d'une stratégie concertée et vigoureuse, d'un programme d'action propre à traduire concrètement le refus qu'oppose notre société à la persistance de la faim et de la malnutrition qui est précisément l'objectif essentiel que poursuit très fermement la FAO depuis 1945, objectif auquel M. Saouma, Directeur général de ladite Organisation, a imprimé un nouvel élan de solidarité et de sécurité collective dès sa prise de fonction.

Je me permettrai de rappeler ici, pour terminer, la parole d'un éminent homme politique contemporain qui avait déclaré à propos de la faim: d'un point de vue moral, il est égal qu'un homme soit tué à la guerre ou qu'il soit condamné à mourir de faim dans l'indifférence des autres. C'est un avertissement auquel nous devons réfléchir à nouveau.

The meeting rose at 13.30.

La séance est levée à 13 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### **ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE 11ª SESION PLENARIA**

(15 November 1991)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas

bajo la Presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia



GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES  
(continuación)

Angola, Libya, Austria, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Egypt, Togo, Iraq, Guinea Ecuatorial, Chile, Laos, Guatemala, Viet Nam, Ecuador, Tanzania

**Benjamin CASTELLO (Angola):** M. le Président, étant donné que je participe pour la première fois à une Conférence générale de la FAO, il m'échoit le grand honneur de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée au nom de mon gouvernement et de toute la population de mon pays pour laquelle l'agriculture constitue l'unique source de revenus et la seule raison de vivre et d'exister.

Je profite de l'occasion qui vient de m'être offerte pour vous adresser, du fond de mon coeur, M. le Président, ainsi qu'à tous les membres du Bureau, mes plus vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête des travaux de la vingt-sixième Conférence dont je suis conscient et sûr que vous saurez bien les conduire à bon port.

Ma délégation et moi, nous félicitons de l'admission de la Lituanie, de la Lettonie et de l'Estonie comme membres à part entière de notre organisation, ainsi que de Porto Rico en qualité de membre associé.

Je voudrais aussi profiter de cette occasion pour réitérer à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, l'appui indéfectible de mon gouvernement et aussi l'assurer de la collaboration de mon pays dans l'exercice de sa mission, si ingrate mais bien honorable.

C'est avec optimisme que nous envisageons notre avenir agricole puisque, après une longue guerre de 30 ans, notre pays connaît actuellement des journées meilleures.

Nous pouvons affirmer ici que, grâce à la garantie de la libre circulation des biens et des personnes, la promotion de la libre initiative dans le secteur productif de biens et services, l'émergence de la tolérance politique, la situation agricole et alimentaire est en train d'évoluer progressivement depuis la signature des accords de paix au mois de mai dernier, marquant la fin d'une des plus longues périodes d'hostilités et de destruction systématique que l'Afrique ait connue.

Mon Gouvernement a déployé des efforts considérables pour cette paix, unique alternative viable et logique pour une solution durable qui permet la mise en place d'une politique agraire nationale fiable garantissant la sécurité alimentaire d'une part et, d'autre part, le bien-être social de ses populations aussi bien rurales qu'urbaines.

Présentement, nous nous trouvons au début de la première campagne agricole en temps de paix, malheureusement accompagnée des difficultés propres à un pays en développement rongé par la guerre et victime de calamités

naturelles qui ont largement contribué à la dégradation progressive de son espace vital, rendant ainsi encore plus insoutenable la vie déjà précaire de ses populations rurales.

Devant ce cadre qui paraît désolant, le gouvernement de mon pays vient de canaliser une grande part de multiples ressources actuellement disponibles au secteur agricole afin de promouvoir la renaissance des capacités créatrices et productives, sans oublier la reconquête de la dignité de ses populations rurales.

Et pourtant, cet effort apparaît insuffisant puisque l'univers paysan bénéficiaire potentiel de l'assistance de notre gouvernement est passé, dès la signature des accords de paix, de deux cent mille à un million deux cent mille familles à qui nous devons garantir un minimum de semences et d'instruments de travail de base si nous tenons à ce que ces populations puissent se libérer de l'aumône internationale.

Cet effort du Gouvernement angolais mérite d'être soutenu par un élan de solidarité de la Communauté internationale en vue d'accélérer principalement le programme de réintégration socio-économique des déplacés, réfugiés et démobilisés de guerre dans le secteur agricole et non agricole du milieu rural de mon pays.

Il est à reconnaître que, durant les moments difficiles, mon pays a pu bénéficier d'une assistance technique et financière de diverses institutions et organisations de caractère régional et international, dont la FAO, le PAM, la CEE et bien d'autres, à l'égard desquelles je témoigne, au nom de ma délégation, les plus profonds et sincères sentiments de reconnaissance du peuple angolais.

Tous les distingués intervenants qui m'ont précédé ont, du haut de cette tribune, brillamment formulé et conseillé des programmes et stratégies dans divers domaines tels que le développement durable, la lutte contre la désertification, la conservation des ressources phytogénétiques, le reboisement, l'intégration de la jeunesse rurale, le rôle de la femme dans le développement rural et communautaire, la participation active des populations rurales dans l'identification et la gestion des programmes et projets dont elles sont les premiers bénéficiaires, la gestion des ressources hydriques et halieutiques, le renforcement des opérations de terrain et du soutien technique, l'ajustement sectoriel et structurel, etc., raison pour laquelle je ne voudrais pas y revenir puisque, sans ressources financières et matérielles, toutes ces bonnes intentions ne seront que vœux pieux. Et tous ces projets iront rejoindre tant d'autres dans les tiroirs de nos bureaux.

C'est sur cette question que ma délégation éprouve une grande gêne associée à une profonde préoccupation, compte tenu du taux des arriérés accumulés par certains pays membres par rapport au volume total des contributions, et son impact négatif sur la liquidité et la solvabilité de la FAO, affectant ainsi dans une grande mesure la viabilité et l'exécution de son programme de travail durant le présent biennium, situation qui a amené le Directeur général à recourir aux emprunts.

Le projet de budget présenté à cette Conférence, bien que réaliste, apparaît plutôt très éloigné de nos espérances. Nous souhaiterions un budget qui puisse appuyer de façon importante l'essor agricole des pays en

développement, notamment ceux qui, pour des raisons objectives et conjoncturelles, se trouvent dans une situation économique qui laisse à désirer.

Je suis convaincu que si, un jour, les pays nantis se décident, pour le bénéfice de leur propre économie et de leur stabilité sociale, à orienter un flux soutenu d'investissement vers nos pays, ils créeront ainsi des conditions propices à l'autopromotion économique et sociale de nos populations, rompant ainsi le cercle vicieux de la faim et de la misère, d'une part, et, d'autre part, nous pourrions tous ensemble atténuer, pour ne pas dire freiner, la marche des laissés pour compte ou réfugiés économiques vers le Nord.

Malgré les difficultés financières que connaît actuellement la FAO, nous ne pouvons que manifester notre satisfaction devant des progrès accomplis dans l'application de la Résolution 10/89 de la vingt-cinquième Conférence liée à l'examen de l'Organisation dans un certain nombre de domaines importants.

Comme par exemple, nous nous félicitons de toutes les initiatives qui ont été prises en ce qui concerne les préparatifs de la première Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, et spécialement de l'attitude des pays qui se sont proposés, d'une façon volontaire, à prêter une assistance technique et financière aux phases préparatoires afin de permettre une participation massive et active des pays en développement.

Dans mon pays, une commission interministérielle a été créée à cet effet, réunissant des spécialistes de différents secteurs sociaux et économiques du pays et des experts des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et de certaines ONG travaillant en Angola, sous la coordination du Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural dont je suis le coordinateur.

Certaines études de cas sont déjà en cours.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, personne n'ignore son efficacité qui est appréciée à sa juste valeur par les pays bénéficiaires.

Mais nous regrettons qu'il n'ait pas été possible d'atteindre l'objectif de 17 pour cent stipulé dans la Résolution 9/89 de la vingt-cinquième Conférence.

A cet égard, ma délégation souhaite que le Directeur général puisse, lors de l'élaboration du Programme de travail et du budget du prochain biennium, prendre en considération le stipulé dans ladite résolution en attribuant une augmentation nette au PCT équivalant aux 17 pour cent.

Dans le domaine de l'accès aux connaissances, je suis d'avis qu'outre la formation classique et académique, la vulgarisation comme forme d'enseignement informel au niveau des formateurs et agents de développement et au niveau des paysans, principaux acteurs du développement rural, constitue une composante indispensable à la réussite des programmes et projets de développement.

D'autre part, la libre association des paysans dans des coopératives de service constitue un atout important dans le cadre de la modernisation progressive de l'agriculture. Et la formation dispensée aux membres de ces

coopératives constitue également un aspect fondamental leur garantissant une gestion autonome et des occasions propres à leur consolidation et à leur développement.

Sur ce point, je prie la FAO de prêter une attention particulière aux pays africains d'expression portugaise en y organisant à leur profit des cours et séminaires spécifiques visant à promouvoir une participation plus effective dans les activités animées par la FAO.

Je ne pourrais terminer sans vous affirmer que le Gouvernement de mon pays soutient les efforts que déploie la FAO pour renforcer les capacités techniques de ses Etats Membres en vue de construire un monde plus juste et plus humain.

**Abdul Magid AL GAUD (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. At the outset, allow me on behalf of my country's delegation to congratulate you upon your election to the Chair of the Twenty-sixth Conference. Your experience and wisdom will undoubtedly lead us to great successes. I also wish to extend my congratulation to the Vice-Chairmen, wishing them all the best in their duties. It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of my delegation, to welcome the new members of this Organization. Mr Chairman, Mr Director General, Honourable Delegates, their membership will doubtless increase further the universal dimension of multilateral cooperation within this Organization.

Mr Chairman, the food situation in a large number of countries is below minimum requirements; consequently, millions of human beings still suffer from hunger, poverty and malnutrition. This requires that the international community lend all its support to developing countries suffering from food deficit so that these countries may increase their food output; adopt policies enabling them to constitute their own food stocks and benefit from technical transfers which will permit them to produce food at reasonably low costs. We are pleased to note that despite the difficulties it has encountered, FAO, under the able leadership of Dr Edouard Saouma, has been able to overcome these obstacles and has thus managed to come to grips with its responsibilities in the areas of food and agriculture through its activities in a large number of countries.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is convinced of the importance that should be granted to both integrated agricultural development and food security. These are the underlying principles of our development plans. We have assigned the highest priority to: the optimal use of human resources, establishment of necessary infrastructures, as well as agricultural development policies aimed at protecting natural resources. Their conservation will be vital to future generations. One of the major projects undertaken in the Jamahiriya to achieve food self-sufficiency, defeat the desert, cultivate the soil to produce food and prosperity, in sum, to guarantee a dignified existence for future generations is that of an artificial river. This project has been planned to take place in three stages. Six million cubic metres of drinking water will be thus made available every day. This artificial river will run along 3 400 kilometres. It will be made up of a system of canals with a 4-metre diameter. Each individual stretch weighs 70 tons and measures 7.50 metres in length. All are being produced in Libya. The water to be distributed through this network of irrigation canals will be pumped from underwater tables which have a reserve of 34 800 cubic metres of drinking water over a surface of

800 000 square kilometres. Upstream from the artificial river, at an altitude of 270 metres above sea level, there is a reservoir of over one thousand wells. The water is pumped and then by gravitation channelled to the areas where it is needed. Eighty-six percent of the water thus channelled will be used to irrigate some 200 000 hectares of farmland, whereas the remaining 14 percent will be used in households and industry.

Last August we celebrated the completion of the first stage of this project. Seven hundred million cubic metres have already been primed for this first year. The average cost per cubic metre of water is 30 cents of an American dollar, whereas desalinization of sea water costs US\$1.50 on average.

Mr Chairman, we have listened with a great deal of attention to the speech delivered by the independent president of the Council and we would fully support the appeal he launched for coordination and cooperation between FAO, IFAD and other organizations with headquarters here in Rome.

The campaign against the New World screwworm engaged in my country is a symbol of this collaboration and cooperation. We hope that such joint efforts will be pursued in the future.

As far as a reference which was made to funds frozen in the IFAD, I would like to explain as a Chairman of the Governing Council of IFAD that these are funds that have already been allocated to projects which are at present under way, projects that cover a time span of 6 to 8 years. Therefore such funds can only be invested on a short-term basis and the income derived from such investments can be invested in yet other projects. Such operations require the authorizations of both the Executive Board and the Governing Council.

Mr Chairman, as you know in 1988 my country had to face a dangerous threat, and I refer here to the New World screwworm. In order to contain this invasion my country mobilized all its bacteriological warfare resources in order to control the movement of insects. We also developed the monitoring infrastructure we had at our disposal. Thanks to the collaboration between FAO, IFAD, the Ministry for Agricultural Improvement and Agrarian Reform in my country, as well as other organizations such as the UN Programme for Development, the AIA and the assistance of many other countries, a scientific and practical programme was set up to contain the invasion which was ultimately arrested. Biological techniques were applied which were based on the introduction of sterile males in the infected areas. We were able to assess results in the field, and we can state safely on that basis that the threat has been contained and that the programme fulfilled its aims and all hopes that had been placed in it. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the JAMA, international organizations and donor countries, this scourge was contained. We were able to put a stop to the extension of this invasion that might have threatened the whole of Africa, and possibly the southern regions of Europe.

Mr Chairman, the Medium-Term Plan for 1992 to 1997 is an added response to Resolution 10/89 of the Twenty-fifth Conference. This is a complementary document to the Programme of Work and Budget. A vacuum has thus been filled and we are now in a position to study the Organization's activities in a comprehensive manner. We can establish our priorities and amend when

necessary future programmes and budgetary allocations. We support all the priorities set out in the Medium-Term Plan; priorities which take into account the needs and requirements of different countries and regions.

We also note with satisfaction the tangible and concrete improvements that have been made in order to ensure the maintenance of all the activities of the Organization. My country is also in favour of the strengthening of the Organization's capability to face its commitment vis-à-vis developing countries. We favour the Director-General's proposal regarding the budget level for the upcoming biennium.

We hope that this proposal will be adopted by consensus. Furthermore, we consider that it is necessary to have a Working Capital Fund and that the budgetary reserve should be such that it allows for monetary fluctuations and unexpected expenditures to be offset.

Technical cooperation has proven its usefulness and its efficiency. It has enabled the Organization to help a number of countries to remedy natural disasters and emergency situations. We feel that, pursuant to Resolution 9/89 of the Conference, the monies devoted to this should be increased.

Mr Chairman, we also support the Organization's activities and we would like to reiterate our full confidence in its leaders and its Secretariat in general.

We would like to encourage the Organization to pursue its work in implementing decisions in order to find the appropriate solutions to the problems of food and agriculture in the world, to ensure food security and peace for humanity at large.

I wish you all the best in your deliberations. Thank you for your attention.

**Hermann REDL (Austria) (Original language German):** Mr President, Mr Director-General, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel particularly honoured and privileged to present to you today the policy statement by the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Dipl. Ing. Dr Fischler. Dr Fischler regrets that, owing to other engagements, he is not able to attend the deliberations of the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference.

First of all, Mr Chairman, may I congratulate you on your election to this responsible function and wish you a successful outcome of this Conference. Also I would like to welcome the new Member Countries, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Puerto Rico and welcome them most warmly.

Since the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference in November 1989, there have been major changes in all parts of the world. New economic blocs are forming now and if you look at the EEA process, the emergence of a new Europe, the negotiations under GATT as well as at the situation of the developing countries, you see that agriculture is becoming more and more a key issue in international relations. Furthermore there is a paradox that the number of starving people is increasing with the quantity of agricultural surpluses, becomes more and more striking.

However, the transfer of surpluses to the affected areas can only be a solution to emergency cases. If we seek a solution in the long run, we need a new global solidarity against hunger. This is also in the interest of peace. How can we tackle this problem. New worldwide trade regulations have to foster the development of those countries, which are now stricken by hunger. A Marshall Plan for the developing countries might be a viable approach.

If we succeeded in raising the social and economic value of farmers in the developing countries, the first step towards overcoming a foreign trade-oriented agriculture with mono-cultures, fire cultivation, plantations and other nature-destroying production methods would be achieved.

This is in the interest of the whole of mankind and the protection and permanent security of the vital resources of soil, air and water become a matter of survival. Environment, in previous decades was often seen as a disturbing factor in operational processes, has become the focus of any future oriented policy. Any harmonious approach aimed at reconciling ecology, economy and social factors also calls for new approaches in agricultural policy. But this new approach cannot be taken by farmers alone. Society and policy makers are equally called upon and challenged and have to let the farmers know that they are not left alone.

What the richest tenth of the world in energy, water, land area and other natural resources consume directly or indirectly cannot be extended to the remaining 90 percent without causing an ecological collapse - described by Ulrich von Weizsäcker when he shows the limits there are to consumption growth. Each second throughout the world, 1 000 tons of soil are washed away, 5 000 square metres of forest disappear. This means that in a year a forest area the size of Germany disappears.

Every day some 30 animal and plant species become extinct and in one second, the hothouse effect of the earth is increased by some 1 000 tons of waste-gases emitted in the air.

These few examples show that the environment is threatened by human activities, and in order to save the earth from ecological collapse, as it is called by scientists, new approaches have to be found and at the same time, agriculture will have to play an ever more decisive role.

In the elaboration of new strategies, I feel that FAO is of particular importance. I therefore note with satisfaction that in the future programme of work special priority will be given to environmental issues.

In Austria we favour rural small holdings in agriculture and forestry, covering the whole country. The predominant farm is the family farm. Society expects from agriculture and forestry the fulfilment of a variety of things to ensure vital natural resources, preservation of the cultivated and recreational landscape, maintenance of settlements and supply of quality food, raw material and energy.

To enable agriculture and forestry to fulfil these functions, it is necessary to pursue an income policy for the farmers, which gives them a share in welfare development. In my country it is achieved by a package of resources covering, apart from production, additional income sources,

socio-political measures, compensation for beneficial functions and measures to reduce costs. Allow me now, Mr President, to make some remarks on the future Programme of work for the biennium 1992-93.

Austria welcomes the priorities set in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget and in particular its priorities and activities but consent to FAO's priorities and activities also means that the member countries should comply with their obligations, as laid down in the statutes.

The budget estimate presented by FAO's Director-General for 1992-93, implying zero growth, cannot satisfy us in view of the existing problems. However, it does seem to be realistic. Nevertheless, I may express hope that proposal will meet with a broad consensus in the Conference.

A few weeks ago the Tenth World Forestry Congress was concluded in Paris with the adoption of the Paris Declaration. I hope that the results of the deliberations in Paris will be reflected in FAO's future programmes.

The Medium-Term Plan presented by the Director-General, for the years 1992-97, as stated in Conference document C 91/23, seems to be the right way for the orientation of FAO's future work, but current updating will be required and the question of financing these measures will have to be carefully examined.

The new concept of preparing the programme and budget has in our opinion proved successful. The elaboration of strategies for the forthcoming 90s decade is therefore particularly urgent and deserves our support. Concentration, or division of work, as appropriate, seems to be urgently needed. Here in Europe I mainly think of a close cooperation with EEC and at a global level with OECD and other organizations.

As a consequence of the ongoing political changes in Europe it seems to be necessary that also FAO's work in Europe should take account of the new situation. The development of the new Europe confronts us with a great deal of hard work. In this connection education and advanced training deserves our full support.

Within the framework of its possibilities Austria will support FAO's activities both at regional and global level. This applies to agriculture as well as to forestry.

We also follow with interest the activities of the FAO/UN World Food Programme. Also I can assure you that Austria will constructively help to fight poverty also in the future. Austria will pay an appropriate contribution to the IEFR and FAC (Food Aid Convention).

May the Food and Agriculture Organization in its future activities, and with the active support of its members, make a valuable contribution to the benefit and well-being of mankind.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, I have the pleasure of introducing Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund. Dr Sadik, it is particularly heartening to note that you



have travelled to Rome specifically for the purpose of sharing with our Member Nations your ideas and perceptions of the population and development issues which are of great concern to us.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, many of you are already familiar with Dr Sadik's achievements reached in the course of a career which has been an eminent expression, first of the medical doctor's commitment to the people's health and wellbeing, then of the international civil servant's commitment to the promotion of public population policies that pursue these same human goals.

Dr Sadik has been active in the field of population activities for almost thirty years. She joined the United Nations Population Fund in 1971 and has headed it since 1987. Under her leadership the Fund has been substantially reorganized, strengthening its technical capabilities and making it an ever more precious source of support for developing countries' policies regarding population data collection and analysis, policy formulation and programme implementation. It is also largely during Dr Sadik's mandate that the FAO/UNFPA population programme has developed to unprecedented levels. The number of UNFPA projects entrusted to FAO for execution is now close to 50 with total allocations of US\$8 million this year. We are looking to US\$80 million here! With UNFPA's support, FAO has been able to respond to many Member Governments' concerns about rapid population change and its implications for the prospects of agricultural and rural development. In cooperation with the Population Fund, FAO has developed and backstopped a wide range of projects that integrate population related issues with informal educational activities directed at rural women and youth. They include agricultural extension programmes, development support communication and assistance to agricultural planning. We welcome the further development of this cooperation in the future.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr Director-General, thank you for your introduction, and now I have the honour to give the floor to Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

**Ms Nafis SADIK (Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)):** Mr Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues and Friends, first of all I want to thank you, Mr Saouma, for your very wonderful introduction. I hope that my statement here lives up to the expectations that you may have created in your audience.

I am extremely pleased and honoured to have the opportunity today to address the FAO Conference and to exchange views with such a distinguished group on population, food agriculture and rural development.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Director-General and his colleagues for having extended this gracious invitation to me. It is yet another indication of the close and constructive collaboration pursued by UNFPA and FAO through many years. I am also confident, as is Mr Saouma, that our cooperation can be still further expanded in response to the tremendous needs for support by countries in both the population field and the food, agriculture and rural development area.

In my remarks today, I would like to first briefly review the global population situation and what we have learned from twenty years of experience in this field. I will then offer some views on the many important linkages between population variables and food and agriculture, as well as discussing the integration of population considerations in the work of the FAO and its collaboration with UNFPA.

Ladies and Gentlemen, every two years, the United Nations produces a series of projections of population growth. According to the most recent, world population is 5.4 billion people in mid-1991 and it will total 6.4 billion by the year 2001, 8.5 billion by 2025 and eventually reach 11.5 billion people before it stabilizes. This is the medium variant. There is another variant which shows a much higher projection.

These estimates are reckoned the most likely. They are relatively optimistic; they assume that family planning practice will increase and that fertility and rates of growth will decline. If they are too optimistic, population could reach 9.5 billion by 2025, and might rise to as high a level as 14 billion.

About 95 percent of this tremendous growth will be in today's developing countries. In sheer numbers of people, the biggest increase will be in South Asia, where populations will rise from 1.2 to 1.5 billion within the coming 10 years. In East Asia, it is good to report that population growth rates have declined rapidly in the past decades. However, because of the very large population base in this region, population will still increase from 1.3 to 1.5 billion people.

The rates of population growth will be most rapid in Africa, where in the coming decade, population will rise from 650 million to 900 million people. Growth at more than 3 percent per year, Africa has been experiencing the highest regional growth rates the world has ever known. At these growth rates, countries like Nigeria and Kenya will double their population within the next 20 years.

The population of Latin America and the Caribbean is projected to increase by 100 million - from 440 to 540 million. In Central and South America, most countries have annual growth rates in excess of 2 percent. Several Arab countries in the Middle East have extremely high population growth rates as well. The 12 countries in Western Asia will increase their populations from 131 million in 1990 to 287 million by the year 2025. In much of the region, high population growth rates are the result of cultural and social factors, such as early marriage, lack of contraceptive services and preference for large families.

In sharp contrast to the developing countries, most North American and European countries have annual growth rates of less than 1 percent. Since 1965, the fertility rate in Europe has dropped from 2.1 births per woman to 1.7, which is below replacement level. Without immigration, the population of North America and Europe would not increase at all. At the same time, increased life expectancy in the industrialized countries has raised the proportion of older people. This is already changing the patterns of demand for housing, health and welfare services, and is having serious effects on national planning for retirement benefits.

Population factors - in terms of growth, distribution, migration, age structure, and urbanization - influence and interact with all aspects of socio-economic development. The argument is not that population is the single most important variable, but that population characteristics are among a number of key variables which have to be taken into account if, nationally and globally, we wish to achieve sustainable and sustained development.

Population factors, when out of balance with available resources, have an exacerbating effect on food sufficiency, the ability of countries to provide water, shelter and health care, not to speak of meeting the expanding needs for education and employment. As a consequence of too-rapid population growth and its uneven distribution, combined with poverty as well as external and national economic factors, countries cannot meet current demands for food and other essentials, like health and education, still less the demands of future economic and social investment.

Let us look for example at the bleak prospects that many developing countries are facing in regard to food and education, as well as at the population, environment and development nexus. In what concerns food production - and I am sure the distinguished group here know this better than I - at the global level, in all continents except Africa, food production has kept pace with population growth. But at country level in Asia and in the Middle East, and in many other parts of the developing world, the situation is the reverse. In Africa the circumstances are critical to such an extent that without improved food production on one hand and comprehensive population policies on the other, most sub-Saharan African countries are headed toward disaster.

In education, the situation is no better. More children in the population means more demand for schooling. Already about 105 million children, aged 6-11 years old in developing countries are not in school. If current trends continue, by the year 2000, the number of out-of-school children will almost double to approximately 200 million.

Turning now to the environment, we have all witnessed how problems related to environment and natural resources are increasing at an alarming rate. In addition to localized problems of deforestation, erosion, desertification and pollution, the 1980s saw growing awareness and concern about global threats to life (bio-diversity) and the ecological balance of our planet. These fears arose from appreciation that the threat comes not only from the sum of local problems, but from their interaction.

Among the world's 5.4 billion people, two groups are largely responsible for environmental damage: the top billion and the bottom billion. Most of the top billion live in the industrialized countries (the North). With one fifth of the world's people, they produce, for example, about half the annual total of six billion metric tonnes of greenhouse gases which are responsible for global warming, consume 75 percent of the energy used and 85 percent of all wood products. Their demands for timber are partly supplied from the 7.6 to 10 million hectares of tropical forest lost each year in the developing world. Forest land is also cleared for ranching: in Central America, cattle ranching has destroyed some 20 000 square kilometres of forest a year since the late 1970s, to provide cheap beef for North America and Europe.

At the same time, the combination of poverty and population growth and distribution among the bottom billion, the poorest part of the population of developing countries, is damaging the environment in several of the most sensitive areas, notably through deforestation and land degradation. Deforestation is a prime cause of increased levels of carbon dioxide, one of the principle greenhouse gases. Resettlement schemes and encroachment by villagers and landless farmers are major causes of deforestation. Overgrazing and over-cultivation are also linked to population growth, especially when farmers are too poor to replenish the soil. Rice paddies and domestic cattle - food supplies for two billion people in developing countries - are major producers of methane, another of the greenhouse gases. Both are linked to population numbers.

While the current population situation and future trends are truly disconcerting, it is important to recognize that without sustained efforts over the past two decades, the population situation would have been even more daunting. The fact is that many developing countries have made much notable progress in implementing increasingly more comprehensive policies and programmes.

These include collection and analysis of population data to assist forecasting and planning in all sectors, and demographic research and training to assist the integration of population policies into development planning. Much headway has also been made in designing better communication and education activities to various key target groups, including community leaders, politicians and parliamentarians, the public at large, adolescents, etc. Maternal and child health and family planning services have been expanded and special programmes have been directed to improving the role and participation of women.

All these efforts have made a big demographic and development difference. For example, without these efforts the population of the developing world would be 412 million larger than it is today. Many countries have solid experience of the effectiveness of strong family planning programmes, including China, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea, Mauritius, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Thailand, amongst others. Other programmes, such as Kenya and Zimbabwe, are also achieving results. Most countries now have at least adequate population data and the tools for analysis to assist them in making policy decisions. Most also now have population policy units to help in the process. The policies which are emerging in the developing countries are overwhelmingly in favour of slower and more balanced population growth and smaller, healthier families.

The experience of population programmes has contributed useful lessons. We know what works and we generally have the means at hand for successful results. Strong political commitment is essential and it must be translated into adequate allocation of resources, both human and financial. Successful programmes also include multi-sectoral activities, which take careful account of the socio-cultural context.

It is also important to underscore that at the core of population programmes is the necessary expansion of access to family planning information and services. Access to family planning is essential for reducing maternal mortality, which claims half a million lives every year, 99 percent of these deaths occurring in the developing world. It also improves infant health and development and it is also a matter of basic human rights.

Apart from these, perhaps the most important factor influencing the success of population programmes is the role and status of women. Research in many countries has shown that female literacy and formal education are closely connected with later marriages, in postponing the birth of the first child, spacing births, and smaller families overall.

The low status of women contributes to poor education levels, early marriage, frequent childbearing, lower rates of formal employment and unequal pay for similar work. Men make most of the decisions, even on such issues as childbearing and parenting. And yet more women than in any previous generation have been making it very clear that they want fewer children.

There is at present an unprecedented international consensus that a better balance between population growth, available resources and socio-economic development will be a necessary part of national strategies for survival and development. There is also a greater appreciation of the need to redefine our approaches to overall development. Concern about the rapid growth of world population, uncontrolled migration and urbanization and increasing degradation of the environment has recently been acknowledged by the United Nations General Assembly, and by the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. Both the World Development Report, 1990, of the World Bank and the Human Development Report, 1990 of the United Nations Development Programme cited the role of population in the development process.

On the occasion of the World Food Day last month, the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, referred to the importance of the population factor in our understanding of the current lack of equilibrium in the balance between nature and people, and between farmers and trees. Mr Saouma stated, inter alia, that for finding solutions, we must go back to and analyse the causes of today's imbalance. We must start by finding ways of tackling the population explosion and defeating poverty, declared the Director-General.

At the 1989 International Forum on Population in the Twenty-first Century, held in Amsterdam, representatives of 79 countries and a number of international organizations agreed by consensus to specific targets for population programmes. The Amsterdam Declaration, endorsed by the UNFPA Governing Council and the General Assembly, calls for a reduction in the average number of children born per woman commensurate with achieving, as a minimum, the medium variant population projections of the United Nations. The medium (or most likely) variant is based on the assumption that total fertility will fall in developing countries from the current 3.9 births per women to 3.3 by the year 2000. This, in turn, implies that modern contraceptive use will rise in developing countries from the current 50 percent to 59 percent in the year 2000. There is a consensus that this target is reasonable and reachable. But in order to achieve this, we need additional resources.

In 1989, population programmes cost the global community about US\$4.5 billion. More than two-thirds of this was provided by developing countries themselves.

To provide the services for couples to meet international targets will require about US\$9 billion annually. Half of this will be mobilized by developing countries themselves and the rest by the international community.

The mobilization of additional resources is absolutely critical for the expansion of population programmes and the integration of population considerations into all aspects of development planning. Likewise, UNFPA is placing special emphasis on improving the effectiveness and coordination of population activities, in close cooperation with all partner UN organizations, bilateral donors, and the non-governmental sector.

It is essential that the quality of the assistance UNFPA, together with its partner UN organizations, provides to countries is improved. Toward this end, we have defined a new approach. The essence of this approach is to look beyond the UNFPA programme proper and help establish a concrete strategic framework for a country's entire population programme.

Also, as you may know, UNFPA is engaged, as requested by our Governing Council, in establishing a new technical support system, aimed at providing more coordinated, effective and timely support for population programmes and policies. This new system will utilize, to the maximum extent possible, national and regional capacities in the area of population activities, and call on the most effective and competitive sources of technical assistance, taking into account the relevant capacities of the UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to convey our full appreciation for the constructive and useful manner in which FAO participates in this undertaking.

A key element of UNFPA's work is improving collaboration and coordination with all our partners. We start with the premise that our role is to strengthen the government in this regard. We also stress that exchange with UN organizations and donors has to become regular and precede important programming decisions, rather than take place after the fact.

Before turning to fruitful cooperation between UNFPA and FAO, let me mention another current UNFPA priority area. In recognition of the many linkages between poverty, population and environment, UNFPA has made special efforts to include population in the preparation and agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. We have convened an expert group on these issues, and we are proud to have just published a major book on population and environment. In working on these linkages in countries, we very much look forward to an even closer collaboration with FAO in the future.

As I noted a few moments ago, cooperation between UNFPA and FAO dates back many years. Since its foundation, FAO has been more visionary and perceptive than many others, in that it has been concerned with the interrelationship between food needs and food supply, agricultural production, rural development and population factors. As early as in 1967, the Fourteenth FAO Conference recommended that the Director-General increasingly involve the Organization in a study of the food-population dilemma. In 1972, FAO formally established its Population Programme and, with the support of UNFPA, a comprehensive population programme was initiated. I would like to mark here UNFPA's special appreciation for the exemplary leadership and vision the Director-General, Mr Saouma has continuously provided for these efforts. We are deeply grateful to him for this.

Population dynamics have become recognized as a major determinant of the growth and changes in food needs. Population characteristics also largely influence the social and technical organization, as well as the physical

conditions of agricultural production and rural development overall in developing countries. This implies a great need to coordinate population and agricultural and rural development policies and programmes.

Against this background, UNFPA and FAO collaboration has taken many useful forms. It has included research, data collection and dissemination of results related to the interrelation between population and agricultural and rural development. For example, a seminal study sponsored by UNFPA and FAO demonstrated that a given country's ability to feed itself depends a great deal on three factors: enough arable land, accessible water, and population pressures. This carrying capacity study has been widely used worldwide.

Important work has been carried out in the crucial area of integration of demographic variables in agricultural planning. Much progress has been made through the CAPPAT model (Computerized Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training) designed with UNFPA support, and now applied in an increasing number of countries.

UNFPA and FAO cooperation has also involved FAO activities in support of national population policies including information, education and communication activities and special efforts to improve the participation of women in agricultural development. The personal support and interest of the Director-General has been of utmost importance in moving this cooperation in the right direction, and in placing emphasis on country level collaboration and in encouraging the integration of population considerations in the regular activities of FAO.

In the last five years, notable progress has been made in the integration of population components in FAO's regular programme of work. Some 12 technical branches are carrying out population activities, with some 50 regular staff members involved. There is a general consensus that the FAO is the most advanced UN Organization in this process of integrating population components into its own programme. This is undoubtedly due to the strategy to incorporate population dimensions throughout the Organization's work.

For the future, this is where the challenges lie. The trend of integrating population work in regular FAO programmes must be further expanded. For example, efforts should be directed to ensuring that population issues are fully integrated into agricultural education curricula for future agricultural and rural development professionals, in faculties of agriculture and other specialized training institutions. We should aim at linking population education with existing nutrition education programmes, as well as including population components in training programmes for rural development planners. There are also promising new opportunities for collaboration in the area of sustainable agricultural development and environment - a priority for both FAO and UNFPA.

We see great opportunities for expanding cooperation with FAO's Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Departments by systematically integrating population dimensions in a large range of rural development and agricultural investment projects. We are pleased to note that there are already some promising new developments, for example in the Forestry Sector, where work has been initiated for incorporation of demographic variables in the planning of forestry resources at national, regional and community level. Also, population information, education and communication

will be pursued through forestry extension programmes, including environmental issues. The Fisheries Department carries out similar activities, which have a great potential for the future, and which are reaching small fisheries communities and supporting in particular women's participation.

There are obviously a number of other areas for collaboration and much more could be said about any of these areas. For the sake of time, however, perhaps we can come back to some of them in the course of your deliberations. Let me mention, nevertheless, that UNFPA is working closely with FAO and WHO on the preparations of the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition.

We are confident that, given our past fruitful record of collaboration, and the exemplary commitment of FAO leadership to factoring in the population component in all of FAO's programmes, the future will yield even more productive and useful results. In so doing, FAO will continue to take the lead in the UN system. Given the enormity and urgency of the needs of developing countries, we must seize this challenge. For our part, UNFPA looks forward to a continued close and productive partnership with FAO.

**Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** On behalf of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference for the trust the delegations assembled here have placed in their persons. We are fully confident that, thanks to your experience and wise leadership, this session's deliberations will reach constructive resolutions and decisions to the benefit of all FAO Member States.

Agriculture in the Republic of Egypt is the mainstay of our existence and also the focus of our interest. Egypt is, in fact, an agricultural country where the agriculture sector employs 5 million workers. Agriculture is also the main source of hard currency generated from exports. It accounts for 20 percent of gross domestic product and provides food for our people and the necessary inputs for national industries. Agriculture has also a vital role in financing the economic and social development programmes in my country.

The Government of Egypt took a number of measures in order to face up to the problems of this important sector through economic adjustment measures in the field of crops, pricing and marketing policies. It has eliminated the compulsory export quotas on all agricultural crops except those on cotton and sugar cane. It increased the prices of exported agricultural crops taking into account the prevailing international prices. It discontinued the financial subsidies to production inputs and mitigated the constraints imposed on the processing, export and distribution of agricultural inputs.

The Government has also encouraged the private sector to engage in the import and distribution of agricultural inputs and production requirements as well as in the export of agricultural outputs.

Furthermore, the Government has laid down new credit policies determining the exclusive role of the Bank of Development and Agricultural Credit in financing agricultural activities, introducing the necessary adjustments to



the Agricultural Reform Body and limiting the landownership by the state. Thanks to these policies, we do expect to achieve positive results, namely the achievement of a higher degree of self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

My delegation noted with satisfaction that the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1992-93 has been prepared on the basis of the recommendations of the Organization's Technical Committees and it contains the agreed-upon priorities for environmental development, sustainable development, biodiversity (including plant genetic resources), promotion of agricultural data and the role of women in development.

That said, the Director-General of the Organization made commendable efforts in order to maintain the budget level as close as possible to the previous one. He also endeavoured to minimize cost increases. We therefore wish to welcome the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

My delegation praises the FAO TCP - Technical Cooperation Programme - for its positive impact on economic development programmes and for its speedy response to urgent needs. Hence we do welcome the Director-General's proposals for the TCP during the 1992-93 biennium despite the fact that the TCP share does not exceed 11.9 percent, which is far less than the percentage set by the Conference at its last session.

Moreover, we cannot but welcome the support to FAO country offices, particularly because Egypt enjoyed a successful experience with them. We deem it necessary to maintain a well-balanced relationship between country offices and regional offices.

The Arab Republic of Egypt supports regional cooperation in its various forms and manifestations for the positive effects it entails, particularly technical cooperation between countries. However, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 indicates a trend towards cutting resource allocation to regional offices which calls for concern. My delegation considers that it is necessary to further examine this issue with the utmost care and attention, taking into account the importance of regional offices, as well as their prominent role in assisting member countries, particularly at the present time of growing importance and relevance of regional cooperation. Thus, we do hope that the necessary efforts will be deployed so that adequate resources are earmarked for the proper functioning of these offices even on an interim basis.

May I, Mr Chairman, seize this opportunity to convey the Government of Egypt's welcome to the return of the Near East office to Cairo in September 1990. This is in compliance with the Conference Resolution at its last session. We wish to thank the Director-General for the efforts he made concerning this very issue.

Moreover, my delegation welcomes the Medium-Term Plan proposed for the 1992-93 biennium considering its importance in providing a sound guidance to the Organization's activities at a time of swift and sweeping social, economic and political changes.

The Medium-Term Plan identifies the challenges facing the Organization and the relevant policies securing the attainment of its goals and the best ways of facing up to those challenges. My delegation deems it important for the Organization to get involved in the economic reforms and structural adjustments initiated by numerous developing countries, among them Egypt.

FAO is the data bank to draw upon when implementing these programmes. In conclusion, may I be allowed to express my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for the laudable and sincere work they perform for the attainment of FAO's lofty goals, namely the promotion of food and agriculture in the different regions of the world. Thank you.

**N'Koley KOFFI ABOTCHI (Togo):** M. le Président, permettez-moi avant toute chose d'exprimer, à vous-même et aux membres du Bureau, les chaleureuses félicitations de la délégation togolaise pour votre élection à la présidence de la Conférence et pour la manière efficace avec laquelle vous conduisez les débats de cette auguste assemblée, de féliciter également les nouveaux membres venus tout dernièrement dans notre Organisation.

Depuis la dernière session de notre Conférence, les conditions économiques n'ont pas fondamentalement changé pour les pays en développement. La crise de l'endettement sans cesse croissant, avec à l'évidence l'impact de la guerre du Golfe, n'a fait qu'accentuer la dégradation continue des conditions de vie de nos populations.

Le grand vent de liberté continue de souffler sur la planète emportant un à un dans son tourbillon les régimes monolithiques et totalitaires.

Au Togo, cette ère démocratique vient d'éclore et mon pays est en train de vivre aujourd'hui un processus de transition irréversible vers un état de droit de type universel. Ce changement en cours autorise tous les citoyens à caresser un nouvel espoir, celui d'asseoir de meilleures conditions de vie dans une liberté plus grande.

Tous ces grands événements, ces faits de société apparaissent à la fois comme des lueurs d'espoir et des sources de préoccupation et d'inquiétude. Lueurs d'espoir car ils confirment la volonté commune à bâtir un monde meilleur et de paix.

Source de grande préoccupation et d'inquiétude à cause des menaces qui pèsent sur la démocratie naissante dans les pays pauvres du sud confrontés à de sérieuses crises socio-économiques et qui se sentent délaissés par l'Ouest au profit des pays de l'Est.

En Afrique où le mot agriculture est presque synonyme de nourriture et d'échange avec l'extérieur, la faim continue de faire des victimes. La misère s'installe et contraint les plus démunis à détruire les ressources naturelles, favorisant ainsi l'avancée de la désertification sous la pression de plus en plus forte d'une population sans cesse croissante.

Ce tableau, maintes fois dépeint, réaffirme l'actualité et rappelle l'urgence des actions à entreprendre. On connaît aujourd'hui l'ampleur de cette crise alimentaire, sa nature et ses causes de même que les facteurs qui l'ont aggravée. Des voix, du haut de cette tribune, en ont largement fait état et se sont accordées à reconnaître que le redressement de la situation appelle à la fois des efforts individuels des Etats et une action internationale concertée.

La FAO qui avait déjà lancé la vision humanitaire d'un monde dont la faim serait exclue, continue d'intensifier ses interventions en menant une action intelligente et résolue. Elle tente de s'adapter à l'évolution des besoins afin de rendre ses activités plus efficaces.

A l'examen des programmes de terrain et des programmes ordinaires, nous notons avec satisfaction que les préoccupations exprimées et soutenues par les Etats Membres lors des précédentes sessions ont été largement prises en compte.

Les orientations retenues, les priorités définies, les approches et les instruments mis en oeuvre semblent appropriés et mettent ainsi notre Organisation dans une bonne position pour aider nos pays à affronter les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire.

Seulement, l'expérience nous force à reconnaître qu'en dépit de la justesse des orientations et de la pertinence des actions, les efforts entrepris jusqu'ici, bien que réels, semblent toujours modestes par rapport à l'ampleur des nécessités. Tout se passe comme si la volonté seule faisait défaut puisque la communauté internationale dispose aujourd'hui de moyens technologiques et financiers suffisants pour créer les conditions d'un vrai développement socio-économique durable.

Les efforts de la FAO pour réaliser ses programmes sont des plus méritoires et dignes d'éloge, mais les difficultés rencontrées dans la mise en oeuvre sont telles que notre Organisation ne peut progresser raisonnablement dans un contexte de crise financière.

A cet égard, la présente session constitue un nouveau test de la capacité de notre institution et de la détermination des Etats Membres à promouvoir le développement agricole et alimentaire.

Au moment où les efforts de désarmement laissent augurer des perspectives d'utilisation des ressources financières et humaines à des fins autres que militaires, nous lançons un appel aux pays industrialisés, à tous les organismes et institutions de financement pour qu'ils soutiennent les actions de lutte contre la faim.

S'agissant du plan à moyen terme, il convient immédiatement de faire deux observations:

La première, pour saluer cette initiative et la justesse de la Résolution 10/89 qui nous permettent aujourd'hui de débattre et de connaître l'essentiel des directives nécessaires à la réalisation de nos objectifs.

La deuxième, pour souligner que la teneur du schéma général des actions pour les six prochaines années, les défis identifiés et les idées forces qui nous sont soumises répondent à nos attentes. Ainsi, les propositions issues du plan à moyen terme pour le prochain biennium reçoivent leur pleine justification.

L'une des grandes préoccupations est la lutte contre la pauvreté. Il y a quelques semaines, dans le monde entier, nous avons célébré la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, et le thème retenu pour la circonstance était l'Arbre, source de vie. L'idée était de sensibiliser le monde rural et de le convertir aux nécessités d'une exploitation compatible avec la conservation de la forêt.

Mais comment protéger l'environnement et gérer de façon rationnelle les ressources naturelles sans s'attaquer d'abord à la racine du mal, la pauvreté qui est l'un des principaux obstacles au développement durable? Il

va sans dire que le premier et incontestablement le plus grand défi est d'éliminer la pauvreté.

Atteindre cet objectif permettra aussi répondre aux aspirations de mon pays, le Togo, où le Gouvernement de transition, nous exhorte à apporter tout notre concours pour soulager la misère de nos soeurs et de nos frères cultivateurs qui peinent dans nos villages pour une maigre subsistance et qui n'ont jamais goûté que les fruits amers de nos trente années d'indépendance.

Le Togo ne peut donc qu'appuyer sans réserve le Programme de travail et de budget présenté par le Directeur général pour le prochain exercice biennal, car l'argumentation développée en faveur du renforcement des programmes cadre parfaitement avec la mission de la FAO et avec les besoins accrus des couches visées.

Au Togo, l'ambition du gouvernement est d'arriver à une économie prospère, indispensable à la satisfaction des besoins essentiels, et surtout de parvenir à garantir à la population son autosuffisance alimentaire.

Il faut pour cela relancer la production agricole et redresser les équilibres fondamentaux de notre économie sinistrée. L'enjeu est de taille et la tâche ardue.

En effet l'agriculture, qui occupe aujourd'hui environ 75 pour cent de la population active du pays, représente un secteur stratégiquement vital. Elle est de type traditionnel et reste encore vulnérable aux aléas climatiques et aux incertitudes du marché mondial.

Une analyse rapide de la situation de l'agriculture au Togo vue sous l'angle des résultats globaux confirme la nécessité de définir une nouvelle politique, de mettre en oeuvre et d'élaborer des programmes de travail conséquents.

Pour réaliser ces objectifs, d'importants moyens financiers et humains sont requis. Le Togo sait pouvoir compter sur ses partenaires traditionnels et sur l'appui de la FAO dont il a toujours apprécié le soutien technique et financier.

En cela, les principaux rôles de la FAO, à savoir: collecter et diffuser les informations, fournir une assistance technique aux Etats Membres, les aider à formuler leur politique, à les mettre en oeuvre et à mobiliser les ressources nécessaires à cet effet, restent très utiles.

Ma délégation voudrait d'ailleurs saisir cette occasion pour témoigner sa profonde reconnaissance au Directeur général de la FAO et à ses collaborateurs pour avoir accepté d'organiser à Rome, au siège de notre institution, une mini-table ronde des bailleurs de fonds sur le secteur rural au Togo. Que toute l'équipe d'experts qui a pris part à cette réflexion trouve ici l'expression de notre profonde gratitude pour sa disponibilité et sa mobilisation.

M. le Président, ma délégation estime que l'assistance technique est vitale pour nos pays en développement et souhaite qu'elle soit renforcée. Mais, en réclamant une FAO plus active, elle ne perd pas de vue la question de l'emploi des jeunes et de l'utilisation des compétences nationales. L'objectif d'une réduction significative du chômage, qui est déjà une

épreuve insupportable pour ceux qui en sont victimes, reste aujourd'hui une priorité que notre Organisation doit aider à atteindre dans nos pays respectifs.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'évolution observée ces dernières années dans la mise en oeuvre de nos projets où le recours à des cadres nationaux devient de plus en plus sensible. Notre souhait est que cette tendance soit renforcée car nos sans-emploi ne comprendraient pas que des activités à leur portée soient en priorité confiées à d'autres.

Enfin, je voudrais ici saluer les efforts qui sont déployés un peu partout pour créer des marchés sous-régionaux et régionaux dont les avantages pour les pays concernés sont multiples.

La FAO doit continuer à appuyer toutes les initiatives tendant à promouvoir le nouvel ordre économique international. Elle doit favoriser les échanges d'expérience entre pays en développement et accorder une plus grande attention à toute approche régionale de coopération économique.

Nos pays et la Communauté internationale ont accepté d'organiser une vie commune. Il faut donc qu'ils joignent leurs efforts et leurs bonnes volontés dans la mise en oeuvre des politiques et programmes cohérents. La solidarité doit s'affirmer surtout lorsqu'il faut traiter les problèmes des plus démunis qui sont souvent à la merci de la sécheresse, des inondations, des épidémies et d'autres fléaux qu'il nous faut affronter.

Nous souhaitons que cette concertation puisse nous permettre de faire un pas vers ce développement intégral que nous appelons de tous nos vœux pour toute l'humanité.

**Wahab Mahmoud Abdulla AL-SABAGH (Iraq) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Iraq delegation and in my own name to sincerely congratulate the Chairman of the Conference and the Vice-Chairmen for their election to chair the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO General Conference.

I am confident that this session will adopt decisions and recommendations furthering the noble objectives for which the Organization was established. We also convey our congratulations to the countries that joined FAO recently. On this occasion, we would like also to express our thanks to Dr Edouard Saouma, the FAO Director-General, together with our appreciation of his distinguished and tireless efforts in developing FAO actions and providing the best service for member countries, despite the financial difficulties faced by the Organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you are all aware that Iraq had the honour of being one of the co-founders of FAO by virtue of its participation in the meetings that led to the establishment of FAO in 1945, charting out its tasks and responsibilities, namely seeking ways and means for increasing agricultural production in addition to finding solutions for the problems of food availability together with eliminating the scourge of hunger and poverty suffered by the peoples of the world, particularly in developing countries. We are also cognizant of the increasing significance of FAO in its continuous endeavours for assisting countries in securing their food needs at a time when the twin problems of hunger and poverty constitute one

of the daunting challenges to mankind today. Notwithstanding the increase in agricultural production in some countries, food shortages and hunger represent a major problem to many developing and poor countries. The solution of these problems can only be effected through cooperating among countries, organizations and specialized agencies like FAO and the World Food Council. Solutions can also be reached through the efforts of governments in according priority to agricultural development. In order to enable these international organizations and agencies to extend the required assistance and advice, member countries should provide them with financial and moral support in order not to be forced to reduce various of their important activities due to lack of financial resources.

Rich countries are called upon on the one hand to extend more material assistance to these organizations. On the other they have to undertake appropriate measures to provide direct assistance to peoples suffering famine and poverty. They should also facilitate the exchange of goods and services, solve the problem of international indebtedness in the interest of poor developing countries, so as to assist them to surmount these problems or at least alleviate their consequences. Based upon this premise, we highlight the need for continuing the agricultural strategies and policies charted by FAO. Such strategies and policies should be intensified and further enhanced in order to develop various agricultural sectors. Efforts must be increased in addition to the extension of more assistance, technical and scientific advice to poor countries so as to enable them to achieve a full agricultural renaissance. We also endorse the need highlighted by the Director-General in his address before the Conference, the need for the establishment of a new world order which guarantees progress for developing countries, saves them from economic crisis, in addition to providing for the freedom of trade, mutual benefits on an equitable basis and ensuring economic development for all countries.

Mr Chairman, allow me at the present juncture to review the current state of food and agriculture in my country, Iraq. Over past decades the Government of Iraq accorded top priority to the development of the agricultural and rural sector through well-conceived scientific plans. The sector enjoyed marked development at accelerating rates. Significant quantitative and qualitative strides were possible in agricultural production as a result of agricultural policies which aimed at promoting private investment in agriculture with the government providing all necessary production inputs and extension services. Numerous infrastructures were established to enhance the sector of agriculture. Many dams, reservoirs and barrages were built with a view to controlling waters and regulating their use, in addition to reclaiming over a million hectares. We also introduced mechanization on a large scale, provided improved seeds, modernized the chemical fertilizer industry in addition to providing all the support required for controlling agricultural pests.

On the other hand the Government pursued agricultural policies with a view to encouraging the intensive use by farmers of production inputs. A remunerative pricing policy was applied ensuring appropriate income for farmers. This policy was coupled with the provision of consumer subsidies. Both resulted in a qualitative rise in agricultural output. Financing opportunities were also given through the extension of credits at reduced interest rates in addition to free veterinary services.

Mr Chairman, the pursuit of the above mentioned agricultural policies in Iraq resulted in the development of agriculture in two aspects: plant and animal production. This was reflected in an appreciable and marked increase in total agricultural revenue. As a result of the Gulf War, agricultural infrastructures were the target of unjust aggression, although they were civilian and not military targets. Consequently, the agricultural sector was adversely affected and its production and service base undermined.

Under the circumstances it was difficult to operate the network system controlling water resources since it was bombarded and destroyed in the major part.

Cereal production was adversely affected by over 50 percent, poultry farms by 95 percent and stations for milk cows faced the same destiny. The majority of river and stream dams and barrages were bombarded. Eighty percent of bridges linking rural and agricultural areas to urban centres were also destroyed. All this resulted in the virtual paralysis of this vital sector. Intensive bombardment of power stations and oil facilities led to serious pollution of the agricultural environment and the stoppage of water pumping stations for agricultural and drinking purposes.

This aggression caused extremely serious damage to economic and agricultural development. The damage is estimated at about 75 percent of the share of agriculture in GDP. In addition the economic siege which is still inflicted upon our people rendered the major portion of our agricultural machines and tools non-operational due to the severe lack of spare parts for machines and tools, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers since most facilities in these areas were destroyed.

In the field of food supplies, Iraq as a result of the unjust siege imposed still suffers a serious shortage in food supplies. This resulted in the spread of numerous diseases and the increase of mortality rates particularly among children and old people. This fact was affirmed by the UN Commission in its report. It was also reaffirmed by the Committees of this Organization. These reports stressed that the import requirements needed as a minimum to guarantee actual food needs are valued at US\$2.64 billion.

However, the UN Security Council Resolution 706 allows for oil exports covering the purchase of food commodities valued at US\$650 million only, in other words about one quarter of the actual consumption requirements estimated by UN and FAO committees.

Added to this there are unfair conditions imposed together with the unpractical method set for importation since all sums accruing from the export of oil are to be kept in a special fund outside Iraq with Iraq having no right to dispose of any sums from that fund. This is further confounded by the imposition of a weird system for the distribution of foodstuffs which constitutes a flagrant violation of national sovereignty provided for in the UN Charter.

On the other hand, no funds from oil export earnings are earmarked for providing the peasants and farmers with the agricultural inputs like agricultural tools, insecticides, veterinary drugs and seeds, etc. Is it conceivable, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the Iraqi farmer will be able to

produce in the absence of these inputs? Is it appropriate to paralyze and destroy agricultural activity at a time when FAO is trying hard to help develop and increase production all over the world?

Therefore, we appeal to you and through you to the peoples of the world to work seriously and effectively in order to put an end to this abnormal situation and to terminate the economic siege which is aimed at making the Iraqi people hungry. We request you to make a recommendation calling for the immediate lifting of the economic siege because the Iraqi people are threatened by widespread famine.

Adopting this recommendation will mean that FAO is really working for achieving its noble objectives, namely the provision of food and combating hunger all over the world. I am really surprised by the false charges directed by the delegate of Kuwait against my country. This runs counter to the policy of FAO as that delegate imposed political matters upon agricultural issues. Our organization is a technical forum which should not be politicized. We hope that this Conference will be a complete success. I thank you, Sir.

**Maximiliano Micha NGUEMA (Guinea Ecuatorial):** Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, Sr. Director General, distinguidos delegados, señoras y señores, en nombre de mi delegación y antes de iniciar nuestra intervención, quiero expresar mis felicitaciones a los miembros de la Mesa por su brillante elección para presidir estos debates durante la presente Conferencia, augurándoles éxitos en su cometido y, de una forma especial, felicitar a su excelencia D. Edouard Saouma, por su brillante y acertada dirección de los destinos de la Organización.

Séame permitido, Sr. Presidente, igualmente felicitar y dar la bienvenida a las Repúblicas Bálticas de Estonia, Letonia y Lituania así como al Estado asociado de Puerto Rico, todos ellos, como nuevos miembros recién incorporados a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, como expresión de su vivo deseo de contribuir también con sus esfuerzos, conocimientos, experiencias y recursos en la búsqueda común de soluciones a los múltiples problemas que afectan a nuestros sistemas de producción primarios.

Sr. Presidente, centrándose en la temática de la Conferencia, mi delegación quisiera en primer lugar transmitirle el reconocimiento y profundo agradecimiento de mi Gobierno por el esfuerzo que despliega la FAO en el cumplimiento de su misión para la consecución de los objetivos que define su esencia, concretizados en los apoyos de los proyectos de desarrollo agrícola, ganadero, pesquero y forestal que se implementan en todos los países en desarrollo, en general, y, en particular, los de Guinea Ecuatorial.

Sr. Presidente, como es habitual en nuestra Organización, una vez más nos reunimos aquí, en este foro, los responsables de las políticas silvoagropecuarias de nuestros países para analizar juntos los problemas que en este sector nos son comunes y encontrar juntos las soluciones armoniosas y adecuadas para todos.

El mundo está atravesando una grave crisis que no es coyuntural ni fortuita, pues la venimos sufriendo ya desde un largo período. Esta crisis azota tanto al Norte como al Sur, pero con mayor vehemencia a los países en



vías de desarrollo y, fundamentalmente, a aquellos que, como el mío, la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, su economía se basa en la agricultura, ganadería, pesca y forestal, principalmente.

El nuevo ordenamiento económico mundial, cuya consecuencia es el Programa de Ajuste Estructural y cuyo principal escenario son los países económicamente más frágiles, unido al anticuado sistema de monocultivo, constituye una barrera difícil de franquear para autofinanciar y alcanzar niveles racionales de autosuficiencia alimentaria a través de programas coherentes de diversificación de la agricultura y, consecuentemente, alargando aún más nuestro nivel de endeudamiento en detrimento de la seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo agrícola, objetivo, entre otros, vivamente perseguido por la FAO.

Sr. Presidente, en la búsqueda de soluciones viables a esta situación, estamos todos involucrados, y moralmente, tanto unos como otros, para encontrar y aplicar estas soluciones, fomentando un intercambio comercial agrícola más justo y equilibrado, a fin de acelerar el desarrollo de nuestros países y disminuyendo el desequilibrio de distanciamiento entre unos y otros, cuyas consecuencias negativas estamos sufriendo actualmente.

Hoy en día, pese a los esfuerzos de nuestros pueblos y a los grandes cambios que han operado en el contexto internacional sobre la situación del hambre y la pobreza, no ha operado ningún cambio sustancialmente significativo. Seguimos sufriendo en nuestros hogares, en nuestras sociedades, en nuestros pueblos las consecuencias de una política que unos marcaron sobre otros así como la dependencia de la ayuda alimentaria y de la importación de los productos alimenticios. Nuestros productos se encuentran con un mercado estrecho y con unos precios muy bajos debido al intercambio comercial injusto que impera en los mercados internacionales.

Pues todos reconocemos que nuestra agricultura y economías son consecuencias de las imposiciones de antaño al beneficio de otras comunidades, por ello los campos fueron orientados hacia una producción de monocultivo de exportación tales como el cacao, el café, la madera, etc., olvidando el autoabastecimiento y subvencionando los alimentos importados en detrimento de la producción local.

Por otra parte, mientras el cacao, el café, el algodón y otros de nuestros productos de exportación sufren cada vez más un descenso de los precios en los mercados mundiales, los insumos, por el contrario, reciben precios cada vez más elevados, reduciendo los niveles de beneficios de los agricultores, a veces, incluso, por debajo de los costos de producción.

Esta situación no sólo afecta a los países en desarrollo sino también a los industrializados por cuanto los excedentes de la producción de leche y ciertos cereales como el trigo, arroz, y maíz, entre otros, les obliga a promover con frecuencia políticas de subvención que frenan la posibilidad e intención de comercialización y expansión, incluso dentro de los países en desarrollo, de aquellos cultivos tradicionales y acordes con nuestros hábitos alimentarios, tales como la yuca, malanga, plátanos, maíz, arroz, cebada, por citar algunos.

La necesidad de una transferencia tecnológica real y efectiva, el poco apoyo para el desarrollo de la calidad de los recursos humanos, el elevado costo de los insumos, el insuficiente apoyo técnico y económico, los obstáculos para la apertura de mercados así como la falta de fuentes de

financiación para el pequeño agricultor constituyen las barreras infranqueables para la mejora y desarrollo de la vida del hombre rural sumergido en el mal del hambre y la miseria, y, dentro de este mismo orden, acentúa el impacto negativo en cuanto a las fórmulas que puedan mejorar el cultivo de los productos alimentarios tradicionales para el incremento de su producción, conservación de los mismos y de sus almacenamientos así como del estudio del procesamiento industrial de los mismos. Un apoyo en este sentido sería importante y redundaría positivamente en el tema de la seguridad alimentaria para las vidas de miles de familias rurales cuya subsistencia se basa fundamentalmente en lo que obtienen de sus propios campos.

Sr. Presidente, el mejoramiento o desarrollo de la agricultura viene a significar, como es sabido, combatir el hambre y la miseria, mejorar la vida de la población rural, asegurar o establecer la base de sus ingresos y su producción alimentaria y, con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional a nuestra Organización y a los gobiernos afectados, permitiría acelerar los pasos ya dados hacia un mundo más equilibrado y fraterno.

Sr. Presidente, quisiera señalar que, pese a las acciones llevadas con resultado positivo y altamente valoradas en el contexto del desarrollo agrícola, ganadero, pesquero y forestal, sigue existiendo en una mayoría de nuestros países la necesidad del factor planificación y, como ésta, la de incremento de conocimientos técnicos para la calidad de los recursos humanos, producción de carne para mejorar la dieta carente de proteínas, diversificación de los productos alimenticios para combatir la malnutrición y dependencia alimentaria de importación, así como la de proteger la fauna frente a la indiscriminada cacería que se lleva sobre la misma en muchos países como el mío, con amenaza de extinción de muchas especies.

En relación con lo anterior, se recomienda la búsqueda de fórmulas o procedimientos inclusive para la capacitación de los campesinos analfabetos por cuanto en una mayoría de nuestros agricultores concurren estas circunstancias y son los que más se dedican a esta actividad, y, en cuanto a la ganadería, la introducción de técnicas modernas de zootécnicas para su incremento.

Sr. Presidente, volvemos a insistir en lo que respecta a medios económicos, teniendo en cuenta que la desnutrición proveniente de insuficiencia de producción alimentaria se deriva de esa insuficiencia que no posibilita ninguna adquisición o producción suficiente para comer, y una alternativa de salida sería intensificar la movilización de fondos internacionales para la agricultura, apoyando los programas de la FAO.

Sr. Presidente, aprovechamos este foro y la concurrencia de todos nosotros hoy aquí para proponer y solicitar un apoyo más eficiente tanto de las organizaciones internacionales como de las cooperaciones bilaterales en programas de autoabastecimiento alimentario, pues las ayudas a través del Programa Mundial de Alimentos podrían dirigirse además a apoyar aquellas acciones ya iniciadas y conocidas por todos, como decimos, hacia el fomento de los cultivos tradicionales de nuestras zonas, respetando y evolucionando en armonía con nuestros hábitos alimentarios así como con los programas de transformación y conservación de nuestros productos.

Sería muy loable para todos nosotros el fomentar una política de armonización de las ayudas alimentarias con las necesidades reales y efectivas de los países, de forma que tome en cuenta una visualización de

futuro, respetando y orientando nuestros hábitos alimentarios, mejorando las dietas para alcanzar mejores niveles nutricionales pero sin tratar de desviarlos hacia productos cosechables en nuestros suelos, pues es una de las causas del aumento del endeudamiento el habituarse al consumo en mayor medida de alimentos importados, constituyendo un freno al desarrollo agrícola, y, consecuentemente, conduciendo a un estado de inseguridad alimentaria permanente.

Naturalmente todos estos programas y planteamientos difícilmente serían alcanzables si no se disponen, como se ha dicho anteriormente, de los recursos financieros y humanos adecuados ni de un mayor apoyo a los programas de formación de cuadros técnicos nacionales para la implementación de estas políticas, teniendo en cuenta que la carencia de productos y de recursos humanos capacitados afecta de una manera relevante al desarrollo de los programas de asistencia técnica.

Sr. Presidente, en muchos de nuestros países en desarrollo, las estructuras administrativas y públicas en general acusan un alto grado de debilidad, externo que demanda la necesidad de ayuda para la creación de una capacidad nacional que permita la formulación de planes y políticas adecuadas a las necesidades de cada país.

Los recursos haliéuticos están siendo seriamente lesionados por la falta de respeto de las normativas aplicables a las artes, por las capturas no autorizadas ni controladas, debido principalmente a la dificultad de patrullaje y control de nuestra zona económica exclusiva, castigando indiscriminadamente nuestros recursos marinos.

El desarrollo rural y la conservación de los recursos, no son en principio contradictorios, pero la salvaguardia de los recursos depende de iniciativas tomadas en común por los países en vías de desarrollo con los industrializados y que sobre todo deben traducirse en hechos.

Por lo que respecta a la protección y conservación del medio ambiente, Guinea Ecuatorial es muy rico en recursos naturales que constituyen la mayor fuente de ingresos al Estado, y en consecuencia, el tema del medio ambiente reviste una importancia vital en las estrategias políticas de su desarrollo.

El Gobierno por Decreto, creó un Comité Nacional de Protección del Medio Ambiente, con competencia en todo lo que tiene que ver con dicho medio; esta institución debido a la precaria situación económica del país, funciona con bastantes dificultades.

Sr. Presidente y distinguidos delegados: refiriéndose al tema forestal, para mi país Guinea Ecuatorial, significa recurso de primer orden para la exportación y fuente que genera divisas e ingresos al arca del Estado y de suma utilización para las viviendas, mobiliarios y para las pequeñas embarcaciones pesqueras. Y de este patrimonio, no se tenía información cuantitativa ni cualitativa fiable alguna del mismo hasta hace unos meses, y gracias al proyecto de evaluación y manejo de recursos forestales en la región continental del país, financiado por el PNUD y ejecutado por la FAO, se tiene dicha información. En un futuro muy cercano se concluirá con el mismo proyecto evaluando la región insular.

La deforestación por las explotaciones forestales indiscriminadas sin ninguna iniciativa de repoblación, así como el sistema de cultivos

itinerantes con quema de bosques y como práctica tradicional de cultivos alimenticios, son los más predominantes daños que se registran en el ecosistema, sobre este subsector, el Gobierno ha promulgado varias disposiciones legislativas que regulan un aprovechamiento forestal con la conservación de la naturaleza y las de vigilancia, creando el cuerpo especial de guardería forestal.

En los sectores agrícolas, ganadería y pesca, se están ejecutando varios proyectos de desarrollo con participación activa, tanto de las mujeres como de los hombres, en una política de promoción de la mujer en su activa participación en el campo agrícola. Dichos proyectos son financiados por el PNUD-FAO, CEE, UNICEF, FIDA, FED, BAD, PMA, USAID, Banco Mundial, organizaciones no gubernamentales, Cooperación francesa, española, italiana y japonesa. A todos ellos y en nombre de mi Gobierno, mío personal y de mi delegación, les formulo la sincera expresión de reconocimiento y profundo agradecimiento por sus eficientes y positivas contribuciones a la causa de mi país, emitiendo voto favorable para la integración de la Comunidad Económica Europea a la FAO, por su ya anticipada contribución a los objetivos de nuestra Organización.

Y para terminar, mi delegación expresa su total apoyo al Programa de trabajo, al Presupuesto bienal y a toda la acción emprendida y a emprender por nuestra Organización, bajo la acertada dirección de Su Excelencia D. Edouard Saouma, al que formulamos votos y éxitos en el desempeño de sus altas funciones, reiterando una vez más, nuestras efusivas felicitaciones a nuestros hermanos integrados de Estonia, Letonia, Lituania y Puerto Rico.

**Juan Agustín FIGUEROA YAVAR (Chile):** Sr. Presidente, Sr. Director General, Excelencias, señoras y señores. Ante esta eminente Asamblea, traigo la voz de mi pequeño y lejano país, cuyo sino ha sido vencer los obstáculos que el destino nos va deparando y, paulatinamente, ir superando nuestra subdesarrollada y marginal realidad.

Tras un largo y ensombrecido período, hemos recuperado la senda de la democracia. Nuestra orgullosa adhesión a estos valores esenciales, experimentó un doloroso eclipse, del cual hoy hemos salido. Pero de esos oscuros días, rescatamos los principios de economía de mercado y estímulo al emprendimiento individual y colectivo, hoy generalmente aceptados, y cuya aplicación global parece ser una cercana realidad.

Sin embargo, queremos enfatizar, que entendemos estas directrices como un claro compromiso con el desarrollo y crecimiento en equidad, de manera que los beneficios que se deriven de la actividad económica, no se radiquen en unos pocos, sino que se expandan, alcanzando también, y preferentemente, a los más desposeídos.

La democracia, como sistema político supone una razonable similitud de oportunidades, lo que sólo se logra cuando la modernización y sus beneficios se proyectan hacia las grandes mayorías.

Estamos conscientes también, que nuestra tarea de desarrollo y crecimiento debe ser sustentable. Y sólo lo será en la medida que sea compatible con la preservación y mejoramiento del medio ambiente.

En esta perspectiva y su íntima relación con la situación de los países agrícolas exportadores, -entre los cuales se cuenta Chile -, es la materia en la que quiero centrar esta intervención.

Ya mucho se ha hablado en este encuentro, y con razón, que el hombre ha puesto en grave riesgo su hábitat. La explosión demográfica ha adquirido un ritmo alarmante; la deforestación, que año a año hace desaparecer miles y miles de hectáreas de bosques oxigenantes; el peligroso avance de los desiertos; el progresivo calentamiento del planeta; la disminución de la capa de ozono, principalmente en el hemisferio sur, lo que muy particularmente afecta nuestro territorio, las importantes extensiones dedicadas a la producción de drogas; la constante merma del patrimonio genético, y muchos otros angustiantes requerimientos, amenazan nuestro próximo futuro y el de las generaciones venideras.

Pero afortunadamente, como si el latente subconsciente humano y colectivo hubiere aflorado, tengo la intuición que se ha comenzado a producir la alianza de todos los hombres para, mancomunadamente, superar estos flagelos. ¿Cómo si no interpretar la crisis de los ideologismos globalizantes y excluyentes, el término de la odiosa guerra fría, la desaparición del oprobioso telón de acero, los crecientes aires de libertad y democratización que soplan en todos los continentes, la voluntad de dismantelar los arsenales y proveer los graneros, y los redoblados esfuerzos para ir a una economía mundial más libre y fluida?

Pero estos esperanzadores síntomas, sólo se harán realidad con grandes y colectivos esfuerzos. Y me quiero detener en aspiraciones de libre comercio global, sentido anhelo que muchos centramos en las severas cortapisas a las que está sometido el intercambio agrícola.

No quiero reiterar lo tan dolorosamente sabido en el sentido que las distorsiones en este ámbito importan enormes restricciones y zozobras a los que cultivan la tierra en los países exportadores agrícolas, muchos de los cuales siguen sumidos en el subdesarrollo. Sabido es, que las deformaciones del comercio, provocadas por proteccionismos de todo tipo, desembocan en precios deprimidos, que soportan empobrecidos campesinos. Sólo quiero subrayar ahora, que la angustiosa situación de pobreza que describo, es también causa directa e inmediata de graves ataques al medio ambiente. Así, el campesino pobre, frente a bajísimas rentabilidades, depreda para poder subsistir.

Como expresión de esta realidad, sobreexplota el recurso tierra, sometiéndolo a desgaste y erosión, difícilmente reversibles; en busca de nuevas posibilidades de labranza, destruye el bosque y somete ecosistemas frágiles a solicitudes imposibles de resistir; las aguas se enturbian con la tierra que se va perdiendo; se embancan los cauces y las desembocaduras de los ríos; el desierto da un paso más y riquezas genéticas desaparecen para siempre.

De esta manera, el mejoramiento de las rentabilidades agrícolas, no es tan sólo un compromiso con la pobreza. Lo es también, y muy fundamentalmente, un compromiso con el medio ambiente.

La retórica y las declaraciones fueron útiles para despertar la conciencia colectiva, pero junto a laudables iniciativas preservacionistas - cuya importancia no minimizamos - enfatizamos la causa fundamental. Ayudemos al campesino de los países exportadores a obtener precios justos en un mercado

libre, fluido y transparente, eliminando las prácticas mercantiles deformantes ayudaremos a erradicar su pobreza, evitando que siga deslizándose en la pendiente del subdesarrollo, la pobreza y la depredación ambiental.

Antes me referí a la dramática situación derivada de los cultivos de los que se extraen las drogas. Son conocidos los esfuerzos para erradicarlos. Pero nuevamente la pobreza se ha constituido en una barrera difícilmente superable para lograr este objetivo. ¿Cómo conseguir que el campesino renuncie a los beneficios económicos de esta práctica ilícita? Sólo brindándole reales perspectivas de sustitución, razonablemente rentables. Nuevamente las distorsiones mundiales derivadas de proteccionismos aberrantes coayudarán poderosamente a la mantención de la alarmante situación actual. Todas las políticas represivas, por draconianas que ellas sean, no serán suficientes para el abandono de los plantíos de alucinógenos. Sólo sustituyendo marginalidad por posibilidades de bienestar, daremos un paso decisivo en el aludido sentido.

Quiero especialmente subrayar que mi voz de dolida protesta no nos sume, como país, en una espera fatalista. Aun soportando las iniquidades que tan gravemente nos afectan, hemos dado señales inequívocas de protección a nuestro entorno. Profundamente respetuosos del hombre y de sus derechos, creemos que una expresión de esta dignidad suya es la preservación, actual y futura, de su hábitat y, en tal sentido, hemos adoptado medidas concretas que apuntan hacia allá. La declaración de monumento de la naturaleza en beneficio de especies vegetales vulnerables, el acrecentamiento de las áreas silvestres protegidas, el saneamiento de nuestras aguas, el amparo de la fauna en extinción, nuestra preocupación por la preservación de las cuencas, la formación de la Comisión Interministerial de Medio Ambiente, nuestra adhesión al Plan de Acción Forestal, nuestro creciente control sobre emanaciones, la política de racional preservación del bosque nativo y nuestro reciente apoyo internacional para extirpar métodos destructivos en la pesca pelágica, son algunas de las palpables demostraciones que, una vez más, hemos emprendido un camino señero. Además, y con especial vigor, hemos redoblado la lucha para extirpar la pobreza rural y su consubstancial agresividad ecológica. Queremos conservar y enriquecer el legado natural que recibimos.

Cada país es bello para sus nacionales y todos instamos por su patriótico cuidado pero reclamo, el raro privilegio que el mío nació de un poema, como lo recordó Neruda, aludiendo a D. Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga, bardo y soldado que lo describió y consagró su nombre en la epopeya.

De esta manera, ayudadme a preservarlo. Así conservaremos realidad y poesía o, mejor dicho, poesía hecha realidad.

**Siène SAPHANGTHONG (Laos):** M. le Président, c'est pour moi un honneur et un plaisir de mener la délégation lao participant à la vingt-sixième Conférence de la FAO.

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi d'adresser mes félicitations à tous ceux qui ont participé à l'organisation de cette conférence pour le soin qu'ils ont apporté à sa préparation afin qu'elle puisse s'ouvrir aussi solennellement.

Durant les deux années passées, depuis la dernière Conférence en novembre 1989, bien que la FAO ait connu des problèmes variés, en particulier des problèmes de financement, elle a tout de même, appliquant les résolutions de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence, poursuivi son assistance fructueuse aux pays membres. Dans le secteur de l'agriculture, un effort particulier a été accordé à la fourniture d'engrais, à la fertilisation des sols ainsi qu'au développement de l'irrigation et de la mécanisation. Par ailleurs, les crédits attribués aux agriculteurs leur ont permis de mieux exploiter les ressources naturelles, d'utiliser des intrants et d'adopter des technologies nouvelles.

En dépit des calamités naturelles qui se sont produites et des circonstances défavorables qui ont prévalu dans plusieurs pays, la production globale a connu un taux de croissance important.

Au Laos, durant ces dernières années, le Gouvernement a continué d'entreprendre des réformes pour l'établissement d'un nouveau mécanisme de gestion, et de promouvoir le développement économique en se basant sur plusieurs formes de propriété. Le Gouvernement s'applique ainsi à accélérer le processus de privatisation. Il encourage le développement de l'économie familiale dans le milieu agricole et libéralise la distribution des biens pour favoriser le développement d'une économie de marché. Ces réformes ont permis un développement économique et social avec un taux de croissance annuel de 5,5 pour cent.

En 1987 et 1988, tout le pays a été affecté par la sécheresse, mais toutefois, on a évalué que le niveau de production agricole s'est accru d'environ 30 pour cent durant la période du Deuxième plan quinquennal allant de 1986 à 1990, alors qu'on estime que, dans le même temps, la population a augmenté de 15 pour cent depuis le dernier recensement datant de 1985. Ces chiffres attestent qu'un progrès notable a été réalisé et que s'est produit un changement positif important dans notre économie. Actuellement, le taux d'inflation ainsi que les fluctuations des prix restent dans des limites acceptables et les conditions de vie des différentes couches sociales sont devenues à peu près normales.

Il semble donc que l'agriculture lao soit en mesure de couvrir les besoins alimentaires du pays. Les coopératives agricoles ont été restructurées et la famille est maintenant considérée comme l'unité de production de base, ce point est un facteur très important pour le développement rural. Les terres peuvent maintenant être attribuées aux familles pour une durée illimitée, ce qui signifie que le droit d'héritage est par là même reconnu. Cette réforme foncière, qui s'appuie sur le droit à la propriété, encourage les agriculteurs à investir et à travailler pour augmenter la production.

Pour ces cinq dernières années, on estime que la production de riz s'est accrue d'environ 20 pour cent, celle du maïs d'un tiers et celle des légumineuses de plus de 30 pour cent. On estime, par ailleurs, que la production animale augmente à un taux d'accroissement annuel moyen de 6 pour cent pour le cheptel bovin, de 3 pour cent pour le cheptel buccalin et de 8 pour cent pour la volaille.

Les résultats encourageants qui viennent d'être mentionnés ont été rendus possibles, non seulement par les réformes de notre gouvernement mais aussi grâce à l'aide, l'assistance technique et la coopération des pays amis, des organisations internationales ou non gouvernementales. En effet, les

soutiens accordés par nos partenaires de coopération contribuent de façon positive au développement socio-économique de notre pays et en particulier au développement du secteur agro-forestier.

Pour ce qui est de la FAO, nous recevons de cette organisation, sous la signature du Directeur général, que ce soit dans des conditions climatiques normales ou dans les périodes où se sont produites des catastrophes naturelles, des aides qui nous arrivent toujours en temps opportun. La FAO fournit aussi à notre gouvernement une assistance technique précieuse par le biais des projets de coopération technique. Pour sa part, M. le Représentant de la FAO à Vientiane, en étroite collaboration avec notre ministère, se préoccupe de nous aider en cette période où, encore une fois, notre pays est affecté par les dégâts causés par la sécheresse, les inondations et les ennemis des cultures.

Aussi, en cette occasion, au nom du gouvernement et du peuple lao, je tiens à présenter toute ma reconnaissance et mes sincères remerciements aux pays amis, aux organisations internationales, aux organisations non gouvernementales et, plus particulièrement, au Directeur général de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma, et à ses collaborateurs pour l'assistance technique et les aides qu'ils nous octroient.

Si de bons résultats ont été enregistrés, il faut bien reconnaître que l'agriculture lao a toujours des faiblesses importantes, qu'elle continue à rencontrer d'énormes difficultés, restant vulnérable aux caprices de la nature, et que la grande majorité de la production familiale est encore autoconsommée.

En fait, les ressources naturelles, en particulier les sols, ne sont pas bien utilisées, la diversification des cultures n'est encore qu'embryonnaire, la commercialisation des produits agro-forestiers reste limitée, la qualité de ces produits est inégale et la production alimentaire ne peut pas toujours être assurée.

De plus, à l'heure actuelle, un des dangers qui menacent notre pays est l'effet néfaste des pratiques de la culture itinérante sur brûlis et de la mise à feu incontrôlée des forêts. A cela, il faut ajouter les dommages causés par l'exploitation illégale des forêts et l'emploi par les entreprises du secteur forestier de techniques inappropriées. Ces facteurs accélèrent la dégradation des forêts et de l'environnement. Il a été estimé que pas moins de 300 000 hectares de forêts étaient détruits chaque année au Laos, presque un tiers étant considéré comme de la forêt primaire.

La dégradation du couvert forestier a eu des conséquences négatives en plusieurs endroits sur la production agricole et hydro-électrique, le transport fluvial ainsi que sur les travaux d'aménagement pour l'irrigation. Les phénomènes d'érosion en saison des pluies, le manque d'eau en saison sèche s'aggravent à travers le pays, alors même que le climat est déjà caractérisé par l'alternance de périodes sèches et très pluvieuses.

Pour résoudre les problèmes énumérés ci-dessus, le gouvernement dans son III<sup>ème</sup> plan quinquennal, pour la période allant de 1991 à 1995, considère à nouveau que l'agriculture, alliée à la sylviculture, est la priorité numéro un. Ce plan met ainsi l'accent sur trois programmes principaux qui prévoient: de développer la production et la sécurité alimentaires; de



réduire la culture itinérante sur brûlis, de mettre fin aux exploitations illégales des forêts et de protéger l'environnement; d'accroître l'exportation des produits agricoles et forestiers.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, le gouvernement entend appliquer pleinement le nouveau mécanisme de gestion économique, en s'efforçant de résoudre les problèmes qui surgissent, et compte aussi formuler les mesures supplémentaires nécessaires.

Ainsi, dans le but de contribuer à la préservation des ressources forestières et à la conservation de l'environnement, reprenant à son compte le mot d'ordre: L'arbre, source de vie, thème de la onzième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le Gouvernement a adopté le Plan d'action sur la forêt tropicale pour le Laos. Il entend suspendre l'exploitation des bois et réviser la législation forestière.

L'année 1991 marque le début du Troisième Plan quinquennal, mais déjà les conditions climatiques ne se sont pas montrées favorables pour notre pays. En effet, après une période prolongée de sécheresse au début de la saison des pluies, les inondations au mois d'août ont causé des pertes sérieuses dans les régions productrices de riz que sont le centre et le sud du pays.

Les crues et les inondations qui en ont résulté ont causé la mort de 25 personnes, événement jusqu'à présent inconnu pour nous. Des milliers d'animaux ont péri et bon nombre de maisons et de greniers ont été emportés par le courant. Les routes et les systèmes d'irrigation ont été endommagés. Sur des milliers d'hectares les récoltes des cultures ont été insignifiantes.

Selon les premières estimations, la production de riz serait d'un tiers inférieure à celle de 1990. Par conséquent, des centaines de milliers d'habitants des zones affectées vont devoir faire face à des pénuries de nourriture. Des dizaines de milliers d'habitants sont déjà confrontés à de telles pénuries.

En de telles circonstances, le Gouvernement a pris toutes les mesures possibles pour faire face à la situation et rétablir l'équilibre rompu. L'aide aux populations sinistrées qui commence à être accordée par les pays amis, les organisations internationales, les organisations non gouvernementales nous réconforte et nous voudrions exprimer ici notre reconnaissance à tous, en espérant que ces gestes de solidarité se poursuivront, en ce moment difficile pour la population de notre pays.

Pour terminer, je souhaite que cette Conférence aboutisse à de très bons résultats.

**Adolfo BOPPEL CARRERA (Guatemala):** Sr. Presidente de la Conferencia, Sr. Director General, señoras y señores, permítame, Sr. Presidente, felicitarlo por el honroso cometido que le ha sido conferido unánimemente. Estamos seguros que, con su sabiduría, conducirá nuestras labores para alcanzar la meta que nos hemos fijado los aquí presentes de lograr un orden más justo que garantice la existencia digna de todo ser humano. Deseo asimismo, felicitar y'dar la bienvenida a Puerto Rico, Estonia, Letonia y Lituania por su ingreso a nuestra Organización.

El momento histórico que vivimos con los cambios mundiales que se han producido refuerza la convicción democrática. Ello nos debe inducir a tomar conciencia y responsabilidad para que permita a los pueblos un desarrollo integral que conduzca a un bienestar social.

Estamos conscientes que este nuevo orden de concordia y solidaridad ha generado efectos positivos en el mundo, permite definir y vislumbrar una dimensión más amplia e integral de la seguridad internacional.

Este organismo creado para la tutela del bienestar alimenticio de nuestros pueblos es el foro adecuado para solicitar que unamos esfuerzos y hagamos todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance para engrandecer y contribuir a consolidar las nuevas democracias.

Por todos es conocido que el sector agropecuario constituye en nuestros países la base fundamental de la recuperación económica; estratégicamente, también es el punto de partida para el desarrollo social. Esto implica que debemos estar atentos para que los esfuerzos que realizamos en la aplicación de los programas de ajuste estructural estén encaminados al fortalecimiento y desarrollo del mismo.

Todo ello debemos hacerlo teniendo el cuidado de evitar profundizar en diferencias sociales y perder nuestra identidad. Es primordial lograr el crecimiento económico y sostenido de nuestros pueblos partiendo del principio de la equidad.

Bajo esta premisa, los países centroamericanos hemos iniciado la implementación de una estrategia de reactivación agropecuaria y agroindustrial, la cual tiene tres componentes: el fortalecimiento del comercio agrícola intrarregional y la promoción de las exportaciones, el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria en la región y la puesta en acción de un nuevo modelo de desarrollo que proteja a los grupos de menores ingresos, todo dentro del marco de la liberalización económica.

Durante la última década, el marco de la política agropecuaria nacional se definió por la política económica global de sustitución de las importaciones a nivel centroamericano como respuesta a la crisis del sector externo, marcada al inicio de este período. De esta manera, los mayores desequilibrios de la economía a nivel del sector tienen su origen en la política cambiaria y comercial. Los ajustes recientes para el desarrollo del sector están orientados al estímulo de las exportaciones así como a la contribución de éste a la generación de empleo y el mejoramiento del nivel de ingresos para el pequeño agricultor.

La política agropecuaria debe ser acompañada de medidas efectivas para alcanzar en el mediano plazo un impacto positivo en la economía nacional. Esta situación se manifiesta, en particular, en el desarrollo de políticas para el fortalecimiento de los sistemas de comercialización, la asistencia técnica, el crédito agropecuario, la infraestructura y la organización.

La agricultura en los países centroamericanos emplea por lo menos un 50 por ciento de la población económicamente activa y su producción representa cerca del 30 por ciento del producto interno bruto, genera, además, alrededor del 60 por ciento de las exportaciones regionales y aproximadamente el 14 por ciento del comercio intrarregional. El sector agropecuario hace también contribuciones indirectas a otros campos de la economía. Por lo tanto, juega un papel altamente compensatorio en el marco

de estabilización económica y de ajuste estructural en que se encuentran empeñados los países del área y, en particular, Guatemala.

Se pretende con ello contribuir a los esfuerzos de reactivación a través de una ampliación del comercio intrarregional y la apertura de nuevos mercados. De esta manera, conjuntamente podremos lograr la armonización de pautas de producción y transformación y estimular la inversión privada dentro de la región.

Por ello, las políticas de desarrollo del sector están orientadas al estímulo de las exportaciones a través de programas de reactivación del sector agroexportador contribuyendo a la generación de empleo y al mejoramiento del nivel de ingresos del pequeño agricultor.

En este sentido, agradecemos los esfuerzos de la FAO quien ha contribuido sustancialmente a: apoyar el diseño de políticas agropecuarias dentro de los procesos de ajuste estructural, lo que constituye un aporte positivo al programa de armonización de políticas para la agricultura; promover el proceso integracionista de la región a través de un grupo asesor de la FAO para la integración económica, con el fin de fortalecer la cooperación horizontal entre los países en desarrollo; brindar colaboración a la conformación del Plan Económico Centroamericano (PEC); la formulación de un proyecto subregional de desarrollo agroforestal.

Estamos seguros que contaremos con la asistencia de la FAO para impulsar el Plan de Acción para la Agricultura Centroamericana (PAC) que recientemente fuera creado por los Presidentes centroamericanos y sus respectivos Ministros en la Décima Cumbre Presidencial del Istmo Centroamericano, celebrada en la ciudad de San Salvador, con el fin de incentivar la producción, consolidar el comercio intrarregional de productos agropecuarios, garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, incrementar y diversificar las exportaciones, vigorizando a los sectores agropecuarios y agroindustriales.

Es evidente que existe una sustancial mejoría en los suministros alimentarios mundiales, situación dada por el aumento global de la producción agrícola de 1990. Sin embargo este indicador no es sinónimo de la seguridad alimentaria debido a la desigual distribución de las existencias, al descenso de los ingresos reales, a la alta tasa de inflación, a la reducción de las oportunidades de empleo y al servicio de la deuda externa. Hay que reconocer también que la seguridad alimentaria es un problema de acceso de los grupos vulnerables al suministro de alimentos, y, aunque el proceso de ajuste estructural puede contribuir a un crecimiento económico sostenido y a mermar el proceso de empobrecimiento de algunos sectores de la población, esto será a largo plazo. Por lo tanto, es oportuno insistir en la necesidad de adoptar en el corto plazo medidas específicas para compensar los efectos negativos del proceso de reajuste de los grupos en situación de extrema pobreza.

Asimismo, hay que reconocer la importancia de la ayuda internacional en la seguridad alimentaria, factor que constituye un recurso importante de desarrollo, pero a la vez es necesario reducir la alta dependencia que han llegado a tener algunos países con respecto a la misma, reduciendo, por tanto, el estímulo a la producción nacional.

Adicionalmente, la competitividad de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo se ve afectada por las políticas de subsidios que mantienen algunos países desarrollados, por lo que también es necesario que dentro del contexto de liberalización del comercio internacional se promueva la eliminación de esta distorsión en las nuevas corrientes del intercambio comercial.

**Thien Luan NGUYEN (Viet Nam):** Qu'il me soit permis tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation vietnamienne, de vous adresser mes félicitations à vous, M. le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Conférence, d'une portée extrêmement importante.

Nous tenons à exprimer notre satisfaction à M. Saouma, une personnalité internationale bien connue par le monde entier, qui, avec la collaboration active du Secrétariat et de tout le personnel concerné de la FAO a préparé cette Conférence avec tant de soin.

Nous nous félicitons de l'entrée à la FAO des honorables membres que sont l'Estonie, la Lituanie, la Lettonie et Porto Rico.

Notre Conférence se déroule dans un contexte international marqué par de profonds changements. Le développement économique mondial continue à se heurter à des difficultés. Les pays pauvres, les pays endettés n'ont pas encore trouvé de solution efficace. Le cycle des négociations d'Uruguay et les réunions des G7 n'ont pas abouti au changement souhaité dans le domaine économique et ne répondent pas encore aux besoins financiers. Les termes de l'échange restent encore injustes. D'autre part, un grand nombre de calamités naturelles ont pesé sur beaucoup de pays qui souffrent de grandes pertes humaines et de répercussions graves sur le plan du développement économique. Cette situation a aggravé les maladies chroniques de l'humanité telles que la famine, la malnutrition le manque d'hygiène et l'analphabétisme.

La gravité de cette situation exige que la FAO et d'autres organisations conjuguent activement leurs efforts afin d'y remédier.

A l'instar d'autres pays en voie de développement, nous avons subi les effets négatifs des bouleversements survenus dans le monde. En dehors de cela, la reconstruction d'après-guerre et le développement du Viet Nam souffrent malheureusement de la politique d'embargo qui nous cause pas mal de difficultés.

Conscient qu'à l'heure actuelle les pays en développement doivent conjuguer leurs efforts tant sur le plan national qu'international, afin de surmonter les difficultés, le Viet Nam a pratiqué, durant les 4 années écoulées, une politique de rénovation approfondie et d'une grande envergure dans la vie économique et sociale, notamment une rénovation du mécanisme de gestion économique. Sur le plan extérieur, le Viet Nam a donné une impulsion à l'expansion de la coopération avec les autres pays et les organisations internationales, à la création de facilités pour les partenaires internationaux qui investissent au Viet Nam.

Les nouvelles politiques de l'Etat du Viet Nam, approuvées par son peuple, les aides précieuses de nombreux pays et organisations internationales parmi lesquelles la contribution de la FAO, ont renforcé la stabilité politique, un facteur de toute première importance qui assure la continuité

de la politique de rénovation, de développement et l'amélioration de la vie de la population. Dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous avons obtenu de bons résultats dans le domaine de la culture industrielle des plantes et de l'élevage. Sur le plan de la production alimentaire en particulier nous avons obtenu un rendement assez élevé durant ces dernières années. Nous nous efforçons d'assurer l'approvisionnement de denrées alimentaires à la population dans son ensemble et de réserver une partie pour l'exportation afin de payer les dettes et importer les matériaux nécessaires à la reproduction. Les plantes industrielles et l'élevage continuent à se développer et attirent l'attention d'un certain nombre d'investisseurs internationaux dans la coopération et dans des joint-ventures.

Pourtant, notre développement économique dont l'agriculture est au premier plan doit encore affronter un grand nombre de difficultés principalement le manque de fonds, de technologie appropriée et d'expérience dans le domaine de la gestion économique. C'est pourquoi le Viet Nam continue à pratiquer la politique de rénovation en déployant des efforts encore plus grands dans le pays. Le Viet Nam accueille avec joie des offres de coopération et d'aides de tous ordres de la part de tous les pays sur la base d'intérêts mutuels, et de toutes les organisations internationales afin de créer une agriculture nationale stable.

Pour atteindre ce but, le Viet Nam reconnaît que la FAO en tant qu'institution spécialisée nous a apporté de grandes contributions. Nous souhaitons qu'à l'avenir la FAO et les autres pays continuent à jouer leur rôle indispensable, et nous aident à consolider notre politique de rénovation, à élaborer une stratégie et des projets de développement, à apporter une assistance technique appropriée de haute qualité, en particulier la technologie nécessaire à une production de riz de haut rendement, et de variétés de riz hybrides.

Au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple vietnamiens, notre délégation est profondément reconnaissante aux gouvernements, aux peuples, aux organisations internationales des Nations Unies, aux organisations non-gouvernementales et aux personnalités pour leur aide, leur coopération, et leur assistance dans le processus de rénovation et de développement du Viet Nam.

**Jaime MARCHAN ROMERO (Ecuador):** Sr. Presidente, distinguidos amigos Jefes de delegaciones representadas en esta Conferencia, en nombre de mi Gobierno y en el mío propio deseo expresarle a usted y a los señores Vicepresidentes la felicitación más cordial por sus nombramientos y la ratificación de la confianza de que, bajo su acertada dirección, esta Conferencia alcanzará los logros que todos nosotros deseamos.

Deseo también en nombre del Gobierno ecuatoriano felicitar a los nuevos miembros admitidos de la Organización. Su integración en este foro es una ratificación más de la universalidad de la FAO y estamos seguros que su participación constituirá un aporte altamente positivo a las labores de la misma.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, la humanidad está enfrentando una nueva etapa de su historia caracterizada por vertiginosos cambios. Si revoluciones y guerras de la mitad del siglo dejaron como secuela un esquema de distribución bipolar del poder, que generó la Guerra Fría y tuvo

al mundo en vilo con la amenaza de una guerra nuclear, este último lustro ha visto en cambio el despertar de la conciencia y el deseo de libertad y democratización de muchos pueblos que están llevando al mundo a una nueva etapa de distensión propicia para la búsqueda de la paz en las zonas donde aún existen conflictos y para el fomento de la cooperación internacional, que permita a todos los pueblos alcanzar el grado de desarrollo adecuado a las necesidades de sus poblaciones.

La rapidez de estos cambios ha sido tal que aún no es posible valorar objetivamente su alcance y significado pero ésta será una tarea que quedará para los historiadores de generaciones futuras. A nosotros nos corresponde no dejar pasar la oportunidad para recoger y cuidar las semillas que traen estos cambios, hacerlas crecer y obtener sus frutos para poder así cumplir con la primera y más importante de todas las obligaciones de los gobiernos a los cuales representamos y que no es otra que librar a nuestros pueblos del flagelo del hambre y de la desnutrición, objetivo primordial de esta Organización.

Estamos en un momento propicio para infundir nuevas fuerzas a los mecanismos multilaterales de cooperación que, como en el caso de la FAO, han demostrado capacidad para dar respuesta a los requerimientos de muchos países del Tercer Mundo que luchan por superar problemas crónicos en materia agrícola y alimentaria. Creemos que todos los países miembros deben renovar su apoyo político a esta Organización, apoyo que debe traducirse en acciones concretas orientadas a dotarla de los medios para que pueda cumplir eficientemente su cometido.

Esta afirmación no significa disminuir la importancia real de una cooperación bilateral cimentada sobre bases de respeto mutuo e intereses comunes, siendo el instrumento indispensable para contribuir a la solución de problemas que afectan al desarrollo cordial y sostenido de estos países.

La historia reciente nos ha demostrado que los progresos científicos y su aplicación en los campos de la agricultura, la alimentación, la biotecnología, la nutrición, la medicina y tantas otras disciplinas del saber no han estado al alcance de los países pobres para aliviar el sufrimiento de grandes masas de población. La utilización selectiva de determinadas técnicas, restringida a menudo a los países ricos, debe extenderse indiscriminadamente a todos los miembros de la comunidad internacional.

Por otra parte, la inequidad en el tratamiento que se concede a los países pequeños por parte de los grandes y poderosos en las relaciones económico-comerciales, los costos cada vez más altos de la tecnología y el capital, las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias de acceso a los mercados dificultan nuestras opciones de desarrollo porque se oponen a una sana cooperación internacional en el plano bilateral llamada a desempeñar un papel preponderante en la solución de los problemas que afectan a millones de seres humanos.

El Gobierno ecuatoriano, sabedor del importante papel desarrollado por la FAO en sus 46 años de vida, ha apoyado siempre su actividad. Ha sido beneficiario de programas importantes en el sector agrícola y, por ello, reconoce y apoya el Programa de Cooperación Técnica al cual deberían asignarse cada vez más recursos en vez de limitárselos, como sucede actualmente, por motivo de la estrechez presupuestaria que afecta a la Organización.

Reconocemos el extraordinario trabajo realizado por la Secretaría, especialmente en cuanto se relaciona con la distribución de los pocos recursos disponibles. No estamos de acuerdo con el crecimiento cero del Presupuesto impuesto por algunos países. Consideramos que todos los miembros de la FAO deben hacer un esfuerzo y cumplir puntualmente con el pago de sus cuotas porque no se pueden ignorar las situaciones críticas que atraviesan países pequeños del Tercer Mundo para los cuales el aporte a las organizaciones internacionales representa un esfuerzo significativo.

Sr. Presidente, el Ecuador es un país eminentemente agrícola: un 48 por ciento de su población está ubicada en las zonas rurales. Su vocación ha estado y continúa orientada hacia la agricultura. Ciertamente, esta vocación no ha sido suficiente para superar algunos problemas crónicos derivados de estructuras ancestrales de tenencia de la tierra, métodos de explotación e inclusive de modos de ser sociales y familiares. Es en este marco donde un incipiente desarrollo industrial ha traído como consecuencia el incremento del éxodo del campo a la ciudad, éxodo formado principalmente por el jefe de familia y los hombres jóvenes. La consecuencia inmediata es la atribución a la mujer campesina de un papel que no le había correspondido y para el cual no estaba adecuadamente preparada.

Frente a este orden de cosas, el Gobierno está llevando a cabo un programa denominado Red Comunitaria, mediante el cual se han creado en cada comunidad guarderías infantiles regentadas por mujeres de la propia comunidad. Esto permite a aquellas otras que, obligadas por las circunstancias, han debido asumir el rol de jefe de familia, dedicarse a las tareas agrícolas, incluyendo el mercadeo. De la misma manera, el Gobierno se ha preocupado por solucionar un vacío legal que impedía a la mujer campesina ser sujeto de crédito para labores agrícolas y ha legislado en forma tal para permitir a la mujer campesina ser titular de la propiedad, cosa antes imposible y que aún ahora no existe en legislaciones de otros países de la región.

El Gobierno ecuatoriano, consciente de su responsabilidad ante las generaciones futuras, ha emprendido una serie de programas orientados a la recuperación de suelos en zonas donde la erosión ha limitado el área agrícola a través de la enseñanza de nuevas técnicas de cultivo, sector en el cual la recientemente creada Red de Cooperación Técnica de Desarrollo Rural podrá desempeñar un papel de primer orden todo ello sin descuidar los aspectos vinculados a la preservación del medio ambiente, especialmente en cuanto se relaciona con la floresta tropical amazónica.

También se ha concedido atención especialísima a la preservación de las áreas que constituyen el medio natural de poblaciones aborígenes. En muchos países desarrollados, ciertos grupos interesados han brindado mucho oído a denuncias sobre supuestas devastaciones de la floresta amazónica y desplazamientos de tribus aborígenes que contrastan con la realidad y la aplicación de la política gubernamental del Presidente Rodrigo Borja de convertir a la década de los años 90 como la década del ecodesarrollo en el Ecuador.

Esta política del Gobierno ecuatoriano consiste básicamente en la adjudicación de tierras en propiedad a las distintas tribus que pueblan la región amazónica ecuatoriana, adjudicación a la que va unida un conjunto de medidas orientadas a facilitarles un desarrollo sociocultural que respete su cosmovisión, sus tradiciones, sus formas de relación, sus métodos de aprovechar los frutos que les brinda su hábitat.

Estas y otras son acciones enmarcadas en una política seria y responsable de administración de los recursos naturales que otorga lugar destacado a la preservación ecológica del medio ambiente en una área tan crítica como la cuenca amazónica. El Gobierno ecuatoriano en ello actúa conjuntamente con los demás países miembros del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica para impulsar acciones que, manteniendo las peculiares características de este pulmón del planeta, permitan a sus pueblos explotar soberanamente sus recursos naturales con miras a un desarrollo sostenible.

Estos esfuerzos, similares a los que realizan muchos países del Tercer Mundo, deberían encontrar adecuada respuesta en la comunidad de países industrializados a través de la apertura de sus mercados para los productos agrícolas, la facilitación de crédito en condiciones favorables para sus programas y proyectos de infraestructura, la liberalización del mercado, temas algunos de ellos tratados en la Ronda Uruguay, que esperamos pueda concluir exitosamente en los próximos meses.

La agenda de esta Conferencia contiene también temas de trascendental importancia para todos los países miembros y es por ello que desde esta tribuna nos permitamos hacer un llamado ya realizado por algunos de los señores delegados que se han dirigido a esta Asamblea, en el sentido de debatirlos no exclusivamente desde la óptica puramente técnica sino con un enfoque político y principalmente humano, pensando que lo que está en juego es la posibilidad de evitar a ingentes masas de seres humanos el flagelo del hambre, la desnutrición y la muerte prematura y que nosotros, los delegados, tenemos una seria responsabilidad sobre nuestros hombros y no sólo ante nuestros respectivos Gobiernos sino ante la humanidad entera que ha puesto en la FAO muchas de sus esperanzas.

**Amran H. MAYAGILA (Tanzania):** Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, my delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to extend our congratulations to you Mr Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen for having been elected to chair this Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference. We believe and we are confident that under your guidance and able leadership the objectives of this Conference will be achieved and to the satisfaction of all the participants.

Mr Chairman, allow me at this juncture, on behalf of my delegation, to congratulate and welcome the newly admitted Members to FAO namely, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Puerto Rico as Associate Member. May I also congratulate FAO on marking the 40th anniversary of FAO's transfer to Rome.

Mr Chairman, in Tanzania the agricultural sector continues to play its pivotal role of economic growth. The sector accounts for about 50 percent of the GDP and 75 percent of foreign exchange earnings. It employs about 85 percent of the population, and it is the major source of food for the people, raw materials for the industries, as well as providing the market for industrial goods.

The state of food and agriculture between 1986/87 and 1988/89 was quite satisfactory. The agricultural sector played a dynamic role in the country's economic recovery programme registering growth rates of above 4 percent per annum during that period. On average food production increased by 7 percent per annum between 1986/87 and 1988/89. This was encouraging in view of the annual population growth of 2.8 percent.



However, surplus production especially of maize, coupled with shortage of storage facilities and haulage problems led to increased post-harvest losses.

Since the 1989/90 season (that is during the past two crop seasons) the picture has changed. Due to erratic rainfall and problems of crop pests and diseases, the national food security situation has remained unsatisfactory. On the other hand, cash crops production trends have generally been positive, registering on the average growth rates of 9-10 percent between 1987/88 and 1989/90.

The livestock sector which contributes about 10 percent of GDP has the potential of contributing more. Despite the size of the sector, the productivity is still very low. The per caput consumption of animal protein in Tanzania is also low. The poor performance in the livestock sector is attributable to the sector being composed mainly of traditional stocks which are low-yielding, persistent diseases, some of them unusual such as lumpy skin disease reported in 1989/90, acute shortage of veterinary drugs, vaccines, poor infrastructure which inhibits utilization of rangelands and poor marketing infrastructure.

We have already prepared the livestock programme which is being translated into implementable projects. At the same time, with the assistance of UNDP and FAO, we are finalizing the second phase of formulating a comprehensive national food security programme. While we are grateful for all the assistance that has been extended to this sector so far, we would like to appeal to all the donors to join us in our endeavour to develop this sector further.

Agriculture is to a great degree dependent on the availability of a good environment, namely forests, which are major sources of water for irrigation, domestic and industrial development. The forests are also a source of domestic energy. Thus, without forests and trees, life is not possible. This message was embodied in the theme for 1991 World Food Day which was also marked in my country. In his 1991 World Food Day message, the Director-General of FAO said and I quote: A key feature in the struggle against hunger and poverty are the trees and forests that play such a vital role in maintaining the ecological health of our planet. Without a healthy, productive environment, we will not be able to feed the world either now or in the future. It is for this reason that, building on the environmental theme of last year, we have chosen 'Trees for Life' as the theme for World Food Day in 1991.

In Tanzania it is estimated that in total about 300 000 to 400 000 hectares of forest are cleared each year. In recognition of the vital role of the forests, my country has prepared and adopted the Tanzania Forestry Action Plan. The Plan provides a framework for improvement and management of forests and wildlife in Tanzania for present and future generations. The role of people in planting and managing forests to ensure ecological stability is emphasized. A community-based afforestation project is already underway. At the same time, nation-wide afforestation and environmental protection campaigns are ongoing. A national conservation strategy is also under preparation.

Tanzania is reviewing and adopting new economic policies which include among others reducing the level of direct government intervention in the operations of the economy. The implications of economic liberalization have

an impact on household and national food security. The food trade has been liberalized and cooperatives as well as individuals are allowed to buy and sell food grains. The major problem as far as food availability countrywide is concerned is distributional problems from food surplus to food deficit areas. It is mainly on account of such problems that some areas are occasionally faced with food shortages resulting in inflated food prices which obviously affect people of meagre incomes. Inflated food prices have led to a fall in consumption of high nutritive value foodstuffs. This has a negative effect on the nutrition of the population. My Government under the Economic and Social Action Programme (1989/90-1991/92) is pursuing economic reforms while strengthening efforts on social issues through poverty reduction and human resources development, especially among vulnerable groups.

Tanzania is an exporter of primary agricultural commodities which have continuously suffered from declining world market prices and an importer of agricultural inputs and implements. Food and industrial goods continue to suffer net foreign exchange and welfare losses on account of higher world prices for her imports. This is a cause of concern, not only for Tanzania but also for other developing countries falling under the same category. Tanzania has been following the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations. As you know the negotiations failed to reach agreement as planned in December 1990, and the February 1991 negotiation did not yield positive results. We hope the establishment of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) which seeks to enhance the growth of commodity export earnings of developing countries and complement other measures such as that of STABEX will in future have an impact on agricultural trade.

Tanzania is committed to the development of the rural poor through provision of the basic social services, promotion of popular participation and integration of women in development activities. Strategies and programmes have been charted out, although at times implementation of these programmes is constrained by inadequate resources.

Tanzania has established a relatively wide and equitable coverage of health care. About 93 percent of the total rural population live within 10 kilometres of some health facility and 72 percent within 5 kilometres or an hour's walking distance. About 50 percent of the population have access to safe water supply. Universal primary education has been achieved in 1978 and the rate of literacy stands at about 90 percent. However, these achievements are in great need of further support in terms of rehabilitation and operational supplies. Efforts are being made to integrate women in all developmental activities as we believe that their contribution would be higher if the implements and tools they use could be improved to ease their burden of work. Of late the national banks and nongovernmental organizations are extending credits to women's group for their economic activities under softer loan conditions.

Tanzania believes in the principle of self reliance and recognizes that the success of the recovery and development process very much depends on the effective participation of the people in that process. Popular participation is therefore being encouraged. For example, farmers and people engaged in the productive sectors have been allowed to form their own cooperative societies based on their capacity to run them commercially. Farmers are also free in making their own farm decisions. Tanzania is a member of Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), Preferential Trade Areas (PTA), Kagera Basin Organization (KBO) and Centre

for Integrated Rural Development in Africa (CIRDAFRICA), all of which aim at fostering development and trade among the member states. Tanzania has signed an agreement with UNDP on an umbrella project and has been able to utilize Indicative Planning Figures (IPF) and resources for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) with a number of developed countries.

My delegation is pleased to note that the review of the Regular Programme has been progressively improved despite financial constraints. My delegation also commends FAO for having completed the Medium-Term Plan covering a period 1992-97. We endorse this plan as the right step towards future development.

Finally, my delegation would like to express deep appreciation for the able leadership of the Director-General of FAO and his dedicated staff at FAO Headquarters as well as in the field for their very good work and endeavour in helping the rural poor.

FAO has always been in the forefront in assisting Tanzania's development efforts. Similarly, let me take this opportunity to thank all the donor communities, including IFAD, who have, through FAO or directly, extended assistance to develop the rural sector of Tanzania.

I would like to give an assurance for our continued support to all future FAO and donor community activities in my country. Our development efforts will always be directed mainly to the rural population.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, we have completed our list of speakers.

The next Plenary meeting will be held on Monday at 9.30. For your further information, Commission I will sit tomorrow at 9.30.

I wish you a quiet weekend in Rome with a lot of sunshine. As there are no further remarks from the Plenary, I close the meeting.

The meeting closed 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

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 12ª SESION PLENARIA

(18 November 1991)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Arpád Szabó, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Arpád Szabó, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Arpád Szabó, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES  
(continuación)

Afghanistan, Sudan, Botswana, Ireland, Nepal, Somalia, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mali, Algérie, International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

**Mohammed GHOFRAN (Afghanistan):** Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, please permit me to felicitate you cordially on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and its delegation on the occasion of your election as Chairman of the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

I am fully confident that under your able chairmanship, this Conference will achieve fruitful results. In particular, that the developing and least developed nations will gain satisfactory results from its deliberations, and it will take up effective steps toward the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Chairman, Afghanistan is an agricultural country whose special geographic location offers favourable climate for raising a variety of agricultural products.

During climatically favourable years, the needs of the population and requirements of industries depending on agriculture are met, to some extent, by plant and animal products. But in the past decade, the war has led to social disorder, inflicting on the agricultural sector and its supplementary installations considerable damage. As a result of the war, the majority of agrarian population emigrated from rural areas to towns inside the country or abroad. Consequently, the fields and orchards have been laid waste. The main agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems and canal headworks were destroyed and water management and conservation arrangements rendered unusable and consequently abandoned due to lack of timely maintenance. The closing of roads connecting various areas led to delays in marketing agricultural produce as a result of which total agricultural outputs were reduced each year. That is why the FAO and other international organizations were called upon to rehabilitate the irrigation systems.

Prospects exist to double agricultural outputs but there also exist formidable hurdles impeding this. Primarily, water resources for irrigation are limited. Secondly, agricultural machinery is lacking. The available tractors can cultivate less than 5 percent of the total cultivable land while draft animals cultivate more than 95 percent.

Providing better mechanized agricultural services constitutes the most urgent need of farmers. Therefore the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has set up several mechanized agricultural stations in various parts of the country. And farmers are making use of tractors in ploughing and harvesting at subsidized rates. The country has lost, as a result of

war, a large number of pack animals and these have to be replaced. Taking into consideration the significance of mechanization in farming, this was brought under cultivation through mechanized stations and units.

About 99 percent of agricultural lands belong to private farmers but each farm consists of smaller lots of different topographical levels making the use of agricultural machinery difficult. Therefore, the most effective way of utilizing modern agricultural machinery is to collectivize agriculture. For this purpose, a total of 679 cooperatives were established.

Natural forests and range pastures have also been greatly damaged in Afghanistan. Earlier records indicate that 12 percent of the total area was covered by forests. In 1981, the FAO estimated that 3.4 percent of the total area (2.2 million hectares) comprised forests but unfortunately, due to the impact of the prolonged war, this area has shrunk to 1.8 million hectares which represented, in 1987, 2.9 percent of the total area.

According to the latest estimates, owing to the indiscriminate cutting of trees, the natural forests have shrunk more. This results in rapid soil erosion and degradation, and consequently in reduction of agricultural outputs. Protection of forests and other natural resources constitute an integral part of Afghanistan's subsequent development programme.

Unfortunately during the 13 years of the prolonged war, we were not able to carry out technical activities to protect and develop range pastures.

Our Government has approved the law to encourage private enterprise, to cultivate public virgin lands for agricultural and animal husbandry purposes on easy credit terms to raise agricultural outputs.

This decision has been warmly welcomed by the people. Many entrepreneurs have approached the government, asking to be allowed to cultivate virgin public lands in various parts of the country. A number of agricultural and animal husbandry mechanized farms were created and the Government made available to the entrepreneurs credits from the Agricultural Development and Industrial Development Banks. Likewise, agricultural services and technical advice were made available to them gratis.

In Afghanistan, women play a vital role in the socio-economic and agricultural sectors by participating in rural development programmes. Approximately 48 percent of the nation's population consists of women.

They generally engage in weaving carpets and producing handicrafts. They also work in health, education, agriculture and communication. Rural women are engaged more in agriculture and farming than in other spheres.

Stock-breeding plays an important part in the nation's economy. For this purpose, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is highly desirous of improving the strains of milch cows, sheep, silkworms, etc.

The sericulture project is also of great significance as Afghanistan's climate is favourable for raising silkworms and mulberry trees. Therefore, the prospects for silk production in the near future look brighter. And silkworm care in villages provide farmers with gainful employment in winter when they are out of work.

Despite a series of activities carried out in connection with agriculture and animal husbandry, lack of food arising from reduced plant and animal outputs remains a formidable problem to date.

We believe that, with the use of improved seeds, appropriate agro-techniques, effective utilization of water and fertilizers and combatting against plant and animal diseases and pests, the introduction of superior strains of animals, the protection of trees and natural forests, better management of watersheds and expansion of agricultural cooperatives, the development of agriculture will be accelerated.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is greatly interested in the implementation of the programme to combat narcotic drugs. Based on Presidential Decree No. 293, dated 2 May 1991, a high state commission was set up to stop the cultivation, trafficking and abuse of such drugs.

In order to prevent the cultivation of poppy and cannabis seeds and solicit the assistance of international organizations interested in fighting this global menace, a special section has been opened within the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

The humanitarian national reconciliation policy implemented by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan at national and international levels enjoys tangible support. Based on the concept that the ongoing war cannot be ended through the use of arms, this policy encourages discussions and dialogues between the Government and the opposition.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan greatly supports the five-point proposal of 21 May 1991 of the UN Secretary General to end the fratricidal war and restore peace in Afghanistan.

Likewise, the joint US-Soviet statement of 13 September 1991, regarding the ceasefire, termination of arms shipments to the two sides of the present war as of 1 January 1992 has been warmly welcomed by the Government and people of Afghanistan.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan pledges to the FAO and other donor organizations that their technical assistance will be maximally utilized by the poor villagers to develop the agricultural sector.

Similarly, we invite the kind attention of other participants in this august gathering to the resolution of this urgent problem. We realize that as long as hunger threatens the lives of poor people in an unhealthy environment, there will be no peace. Therefore, it is imperative for those taking part in this gathering to make decisions on elimination of the danger of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. Procurement of enough stocks by the WFP and making these available at national level is considered one of the most effective ways to achieve this end. The FAO is kindly requested to actively participate in this effort and coordinate distribution of food donations from national and international sources.

Most of the population increase occurs in developing nations. The people in poor countries are in search of meeting their daily needs such as food, fodder and fuel, and they damage the watersheds, the forested lands and the ecosystem by so doing. Therefore, this green mantle covering our planet will be destroyed by abuse or excessive use.

Hence the main problem of our country is economic weakness of our people and the continuation of war has not only affected the environment but also impeded the procurement of food for our compatriots. In certain areas, our countrymen are suffering from malnutrition and we invite the kind attention of the FAO to this problem.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I wish you further success in chairing this conference which I am confident will prove helpful for the FAO, the status of agriculture worldwide and the prosperity of the people all over the world. Afghanistan will be contributing in its own way to the UN efforts in creating a prosperous, danger-free world and the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

**Mohmed Said HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** It is a pleasure and a privilege for me to address this august body on behalf of the people and Government of Sudan. I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on the confidence placed in you by the Conference on electing you as Chairman. This is a well-deserved election because of your wisdom. We are particularly proud of this choice because of the specific and strong relationship that links our two countries. We are convinced that, thanks to your wisdom and leadership, this conference will achieve positive results in a spirit of compromise. The benefits will be reaped by all the member countries.

I would also like to pay tribute to this outstanding Organization which has taken it upon itself to achieve noble objectives in order to bring development and prosperity to the world, despite the obstacles and difficulties it is facing. In this respect, I would like to pay tribute to the wise leadership of FAO by its Director-General Edouard Saouma and his staff.

We are meeting at a time when the world is being swept by major changes, some of which are a source of optimism and hope, while others are cause for concern and disappointment. All this will, undoubtedly, be reflected on FAO and its performance, as well as on the member countries and their poor. This situation has given rise to various challenges which make it imperative for FAO to muster all the forces it can in order to be able to face these increasing challenges which are impeding the march of development in the poor countries.

Let us all be aware that any shortcomings in the performance of FAO vis-a-vis these challenges are bound to reflect negatively on the poor countries for whose development and prosperity FAO has been established.

In order to play this important role, it is necessary for us to deal with the proposed issues in a spirit that transcends our differences and sensitivities and with a spirit of compromise to reach decisions by consensus. That is because the mission of FAO in essence seeks to achieve integrated development to combat poverty and to preserve the environment, vital to all of mankind. Therefore, this noble and permanent objective should not be affected by temporary stands and differences of any kind.

The increasing role of FAO in the light of these changes that have taken place recently and the noticeable decrease in food production, as well as the deterioration of the environment in many Third World countries all call for raising the capabilities and resources of FAO in order to enable it to



play its role fully. However, we are surprised, regrettably to see a budget unable to meet our increasing demands and urgent needs. But, in line with the spirit of consensus we have been advocating all along, we do accept this budget, for the reasons and the explanations given by the Secretariat and we call on all our colleagues to do so in the same spirit.

In as far as the Programme of Work is concerned, we agree with the priorities proposed by the Director-General in the relevant document but we have to make it abundantly clear that important issues of interest to our African countries, like combatting drought and desertification, should, frankly, be placed on the top of the order of priorities. The efforts made by FAO should be coordinated with the other relevant organizations and donors in order to avert this disaster. I mean the overall deterioration of life in Africa because this is the major problem for many countries in the Arab and African regions.

The Technical Cooperation Programme is one of the masterpieces of FAO. It is, in fact, one of the most effective programmes. Its impact has been felt by all our countries in emergencies. It has far-reaching effects in many fields like the agricultural sector, animal production and rural development.

While welcoming its increased size, we are, however, concerned by its falling short of the usual 14 percent called for by the previous general conference which also asked the Director-General to increase it to 17 percent. We urge the Director-General to continue his efforts aimed at increasing this percentage in a manner commensurate with our urgent needs. My delegation would also like to reiterate the importance of maintaining the policy of TCP without allocations by country because by so doing it will lose the necessary flexibility to meet emergencies and challenges.

Although Sudan has been, during the last years, on the list of the affected countries facing shortages in food as a result of drought and the absence of policies and strategies, we have a new and different situation today. We have achieved big increases in the production of many crops and food prices have gone down considerably. This has led to a satisfactory improvement of the food situation in Sudan. This was a natural result of the abating drought and the strategies and policies adopted by the government. These policies are aimed at transforming food production from its traditional weak base into a stable, strong base through the expansion of food production in the irrigated sector, the diversification of food crops, priority setting for the crop structure in favour of food crops, as well as the creation of a new favourable investment climate, thanks to the liberation of the prices of agricultural products.

Thanks to these policies and strategies and the results they have yielded so far, we are on the threshold of a new phase of agricultural development that would enable us to exploit the vast agricultural potential of the country through a scientific methodology and an evolving vision taking into account the environmental balance and the preservation of the natural resources for the coming generations. In this respect we have given special attention to the global concept of the environmental rehabilitation by developing an organizational structure to play this role. Thus the supreme Council for Environment and Natural Resources was set up as the highest coordinating body for environmental activities.

We are fully aware of our priorities and role when it comes to dealing with the environment because of the nature and reality of our environmental problems. From this perspective we are cooperating with the environmental bodies on both the regional and international levels.

We are always seeking to enrich the work of FAO and to expand the participation in its activities with a view to giving it more vitality and effectiveness. Therefore, we are very pleased to welcome during this session of the General Conference the three new members and the associate member.

My delegation has already supported giving membership to the Regional Economic Integration Organization following the request made by the EEC to this effect. Our support was based on a strong belief that expanding the participation base will undoubtedly enrich our collective efforts in FAO, but at the same time we stress that the criteria for granting membership status to the Regional Economic Integration Organizations should be flexible, clear, specific and in conformity with the roles of their individual members.

No doubt my delegation will comment on the different agenda items in the relevant commissions. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to FAO for the way it is dealing with the problems of the developing countries in general and of Sudan in particular.

May God help us bring prosperity and peace to humanity.

**Geoffrey O'TENG (Botswana):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Botswana delegation I would also like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Twenty-sixth Session of Conference. Let me assure you of my delegation's full cooperation during this current sitting. We are gathered once again in our continuing efforts as member countries of FAO to seek solutions for the problems of hunger and malnutrition which continue to face the whole world and the developing countries in particular.

In addition, there are the continued concerns of the environment and united food production in most parts of the world. Since our last meeting here two years ago we have viewed with both hope and concern a number of momentous events that have occurred throughout the world. These great events have a bearing on our efforts to tackle the problems that face us as an Organization. On the positive side, these events include the unification of Germany which was welcomed by the whole world. A year ago the revolution that took place in central and eastern Europe brought hope of the improvement of the lives of the people in those areas.

In Africa there were positive steps to resolve the conflicts that affected parts of the continent. In addition to all this, we viewed with great hope the increased cooperation between the superpowers and our allies in their efforts to reduce tensions throughout the world.

The determined efforts to reduce disarmament and reduce military spending brought hope that the scarce human resources and financial resources would be used for humanitarian efforts.

Despite this positive advance, we are of course aware of the fact that there were other events that reminded us about the volatility of world peace and it is our hope that we will all continue to work hard toward seeking a permanent reduction of differences that still cause tension and unrest in some parts of the world.

If we fail to do so, our efforts at improving the lot of those who still suffer from inadequate food supplies, hunger and malnutrition will continue to be a futile exercise.

The world food situation continues to be unsatisfactory as growth in food and agricultural production slowed down from its high rate achieved in 1989. Food production in the developing countries during the past year showed an increase which was below the average reached during the 1980s.

In addition, the majority of the developing countries failed to increase per capita food production. In Africa a large number of the countries are facing severe food shortages as a result of the decline in the per capita stable food production during 1989 and 1990 and the failure of food production to match the rate of population growth.

In Botswana the concern about the continued proponents of and the concern regarding the continued degradation of the environment has resulted in our decision to review the agricultural sector and developing the natural resources conservation strategy.

The new agricultural policy which resulted from the comprehensive review of the sector and the natural conservation strategy which recently was approved by Parliament will be the basis of our development strategy during the National Development Plan 7.

The main thrust of the agricultural policy will be food security and sustainable utilization of resources. The main objectives of the agricultural policy will be to improve food security at both household and national levels, to diversify the agricultural base so as to increase income and opportunities and to increase output and productivity through correct pricing policies and provision of subsidies. The development of manpower and appropriate technology will also be of high concern.

Additional important policy considerations will be the provision of a productive base through implementation of programmes that will conserve scarce agricultural and land resources.

While we are very much aware that the environment, especially land, is our most important resource and we need to ensure that it is used properly if it is to continue to produce efficiently for the coming generations.

This is why we are very much in agreement with the this year's World Food Day, namely Trees for Life. Our goal of increasing food production will not be obtained if we fail to protect the environment. The conservation and propagation of trees can play an important role in our efforts to arrest the continual degradation of our natural resources.

Most projects and programmes that are aimed at land reclamation and conservation are long term in nature and do not produce immediate tangible returns and require a great deal of investment in time and financial resources.

Most of the developing countries lack the necessary resources to undertake this important programme. Most of these countries are faced with a serious shortage of foreign exchange and already are greatly indebted. There will, therefore, be a need to provide increased assistance to be able to tackle these serious problems. The protection of the environment is a global issue that cannot be left to individual states nor to be done on a piecemeal basis. It is an urgent problem that should be addressed by all of us in a cooperative manner.

As member countries, it is important that when preparing our development plans, the protection of the environment should be accorded top priority so as to ensure the resources are used on a sustainable basis.

Member countries should develop programmes and projects and these must be prioritized so that cooperating partners and assistance agencies will be able easily to identify these areas in which they wish to participate within the national framework.

In many cases programmes, unfortunately, do not succeed because they have not been properly planned and integrated into the national framework but have been imposed from the outside.

Concern has been raised at this forum and at other fora about the possible reduction of assistance to developing countries, especially to Africa, as events unfolded in eastern Europe and other parts of the world. We hope that this will not be the case and that assurances that have been given by developing countries to maintain the existing level of aid and assistance will be adhered to.

In addition, it is our hope, as I said earlier, that with the easing of tension worldwide and the progress toward disarmament more resources will become more available for more peaceable development efforts.

Finally, Mr Chairman, let me thank you for this opportunity to address this Conference and we wish that our deliberations will continue to yield positive ideas and decisions that will assist us in our efforts to increase food production and reduce human suffering throughout the world.

**Derick MOCKLER (Ireland):** Mr President, Mr Director-General, Ministers, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to speak to you today at this most prestigious international forum. I make this statement on behalf of the recently appointed Minister for Agriculture and Food of Ireland, Dr Michael Woods, who regrets his inability to be present.

Since its foundation FAO has made a major contribution to agricultural development, resource management and the improvement of living standards throughout the world. While much remains to be done, the FAO and particularly Mr Saouma and his staff are to be congratulated for the major contribution they have made over the years toward improving the plight of the peoples of the underdeveloped world.

Like previous speakers I wish to congratulate Mr Abdul Majid, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Pakistan, on his election as Conference Chairman. I also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen, and the Chairmen and

members of the various Committees. I wish them well in their work in the days ahead. I would also like to welcome the recently admitted new members to FAO.

Many points on your Conference Agenda are of great interest to Ireland. The subject of The World Food and Agriculture Situation holds a special interest for me and I would like to make some remarks on this point.

Since our last Conference many changes have taken place which have given rise to new aspirations for peace and freedom, and greater prospects for international cooperation. I refer, in particular, to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have taken important steps toward democracy and market-based economic systems. To bring the opportunities offered by these events to fruition will require international understanding and cooperation. I believe FAO is well placed to offer technical advice to the Governments of these countries to help them in their development.

Among the major challenges facing the world community today are the demands to meet the requirements of an increasing world population, and to halt and reverse environmental degradation.

The world's population now stands at about 5 000 million. By the year 2025 it is expected to increase to 8 500 million. At present about 10 percent of the world's population suffers from malnutrition. Food supplies must meet present requirements, but they must also be able to respond to future demands. Ireland has long since recognized the inadequate access to food supplies by many vulnerable groups, and my Government has responded through its contribution to the World Food Programme. The Global Information and Early Warning System, set up and operated by FAO, provides very useful information on the food supply and distribution situation.

Information emerging over the past twelve months indicates that the pattern of growth in financial flows to developing countries has been uneven. Official and private disbursements to these countries in 1991 are expected, overall, to maintain the progress achieved in 1989/90. However, in many food-insecure countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, the volume of total flows has remained disappointing. Indeed, 1991 has been a year of crisis in food security in Africa where over 30 million people were threatened with famine. Poor harvests, combined with the disappointing net financial inflows, depressed commodity prices, debt servicing and continuing civil conflicts, created a disastrous situation in several countries. As the scale of these developments became clear the international community responded with large scale food aid. Unfortunately, lack of coordination between donor and recipient governments as well as the state of infrastructure often complicated the already difficult task of delivering the aid to the people most in need. Many of us here today felt a sense of frustration, indeed an angry impatience, as reports emerged of deaths from starvation while food aid accumulated in ports or was spoiled in inadequate storage depots.

Indeed, as I speak, many of these problems remain unresolved. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations continue to search for solutions to the most basic problems of delivering available and desperately needed food to vulnerable populations in areas made inaccessible by lack of transport or acts of war.

We must not fail to learn the lessons of the present emergency. There are hopeful signs that we may be more successful than in the past. The proposed appointment of a special UN coordinator of emergency aid is a significant step forward in this regard. Within the European Community also we are examining urgently how the delivery of emergency aid can be made more effective in future. But ultimately we shall fail in our task unless both donors and recipient governments demonstrate a willingness to treat the delivery of emergency aid to all sections of the population as an absolute priority.

In the longer term than, we must redouble our efforts to eradicate the causes of hunger. It is unacceptable that, as we approach the next millennium, the problem of hunger in the world continues to confront us. It is timely, therefore, that the FAO and the World Health Organization should sponsor a major International Conference on Nutrition next year, to be held in Rome. I note that among the objectives of the conference are the elaboration of a coordinated strategy for national and international action to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, the mobilization of the necessary resources and the establishment of a world information system to monitor human nutrition.

These are ambitious objectives. The sad experiences of so many countries and peoples in the past year must reinforce our determination to achieve them.

The need to counter the dangers that threaten us is clear, and it is also clear that in today's world, all problems assume an international dimension.

As a result, the role of the United Nations is increasingly recognized; the UN is ready to review situations, to organize consultations, to propose solutions and to help with their implementation. In particular, FAO's role in averting potential dangers and preparing for a brighter future is well known. Whenever international action needs to be undertaken and seen through effectively and impartially within its areas of competence, FAO goes into action.

A good example of this action is a scourge which has emerged in North Africa. I refer to the screwworm fly, which attacks livestock and even human beings and causes terrible harm. The FAO in 1990 launched a two-year programme for the eradication of screwworm in Libya and the prevention of its spread to neighbouring countries. Ireland in common with other Member States of the European Community and of the FAO is supportive of this programme. My Department has contributed to the programme since its inception. I was very glad to know that this effort is now paying off and will be followed by an intensive surveillance campaign which will continue until next summer when the Libyan government may be able to declare the country officially free of screwworm.

Other current issues of concern touch on the environmental issue which has been mentioned at length by previous speakers. Protection of the environment and sustainable agricultural development are now major issues. Of particular concern are atmospheric quality, soil loss, deforestation, desertification, drought, the maintenance of biodiversity and our ocean and fresh water resources. I am pleased to note that FAO has incorporated the concept of sustainable development in its projects and programmes. Policy makers must be aware of the consequences of environmental degradation and

be encouraged to implement policies that are environmentally sound. The issue of the environment has also been recognized by the UN General Assembly and a UN Conference on the Environment and Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992.

The FAO is playing a well-recognized role in this area of conservation through its Genetic Resources Conservation Programmes, the main objective of which is to maintain biodiversity. Ireland is pleased to be part of the international effort on Plant Genetic resources and also to be associated with another major international effort, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

In Europe itself, a number of Eastern European countries require economic, technical and even food assistance as their stocks have fallen. The European Community is directing resources toward these countries. In this context, I should mention the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). FAO is also playing its part, and sends experts to these countries to analyse the agricultural situation, examine the production systems and identify feasible new farming models.

It must be said that even within the developed world small countries such as Ireland have their own economic problems and that their contributions to development are not made without sacrifice. Donor funds must be used in an efficient and effective way. Recipient countries should also show their commitment to development by avoiding inappropriate policies, expenditures and hopefully armed conflict can be avoided. The international environment has now changed for the better. It can be hoped that international trading will be established on an improved and equitable footing and that the least developed countries in particular will now be able to make the desired economic progress.

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

I would like to say a few words now, but briefly, about the agricultural concerns of my own country. Ireland's position is, and must be, heavily influenced by the central importance of agriculture to my country's economy. That is no abstract position. Behind it lies the need to safeguard the future of rural people in a country which is a good deal less than affluent by European standards. Irish farm families and workers in associated industries have legitimate fears and concerns at the present time. In discussions with our EC partners on the Common Agricultural Policy, we in Ireland have recognized that changes in that policy are necessary. However, the central plank of our approach to CAP reform is that there must be balance between the legitimate expectations of our smaller producers for a fair level of income and the need to ensure that the commercial element in our agriculture, which is of crucial importance to the maintenance of a competitive and vibrant food industry, is not undermined.

The GATT Uruguay Round negotiations which are now entering a delicate and decisive stage are another very important element for the future of my country's agriculture. In the GATT negotiations, as in the CAP reform process, one of our national tasks is to ensure that within the overall EC position the needs of Ireland's agriculture and food sector are properly taken into account. Furthermore, we regard it as a basic requirement that any commitments undertaken by the European Community should be fully and fairly matched by the other major negotiating partners.

Irish agriculture will have to confront many challenges in the future. We will be seeking to ensure in the CAP and GATT negotiations a better market balance than in recent years. But domestically too we are preparing to meet those challenges in a number of ways, of which I will mention just a few. Firstly, we are promoting a full commitment within the Irish agriculture and food sector to meet the demands of the market place by improving quality standards and by diversifying the product range. We are helped in this endeavour by Ireland's widely acknowledged status as a country with a relatively unpolluted environment and a reputation for natural methods of animal production.

Secondly, we are building on experience gained through a Pilot Programme on Integrated Rural Development. This initiative has attracted widespread international interest and has demonstrated the willingness of rural people to become involved in the development of their own areas, in setting the objectives and in taking the necessary action to bring them to reality.

Thirdly, we are working, through a recently established Organic Farming Unit, to develop all aspects of organic production.

I will not comment in any detail on another item on our agenda, namely, the possible revision of the Basic Texts of the FAO to admit to membership regional economic organizations. I will merely express my hope that when we meet again in this forum, the European Community will have been welcomed as a Member of the FAO, consistent with its responsibilities. I have no doubt that this would be an entirely logical development which, by acknowledging the progressive transfer and evolution of EC Member States' competences, would facilitate the work of the FAO.

**B.P. SINHA (Nepal):** First of all, on behalf of the Nepalese delegation and on my own, I would like to express my heartfelt felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of the Conference, and our congratulations are also extended to all the Vice-Chairmen and the Committees Chairmen. Mr Chairman, we are fully confident that under your able chairmanship, this Conference will lead to many fruitful results. I, along with my delegation, would also like to welcome and congratulate the newly admitted members of our Organization - Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania and Associate Member Puerto Rico.

Mr Chairman, I feel greatly honoured to have this opportunity to address this august gathering and to share with you the views of my delegation on mutually beneficial issues. The Agenda of the Conference session includes a wide range of topics which are important to the FAO and most of the developing countries. But I will limit myself to some selected issues which my delegation considers to be of more direct relevance to Nepal.



I would like to discuss briefly about the efforts undertaken by the newly elected, democratic Government of Nepal toward increasing performance in agriculture and rural development sectors and toward raising the living standard of the people, particularly the rural poor. The Government's commitment to uplift the living condition of the down-trodden people living in the rural and hitherto by-passed areas is evident by the allocation of 70 percent of the development budget for these areas. Commensurate with this commitment, the Government has recently launched a rural self-reliance programme with the objectives of creating income and employment opportunities in the rural areas, expanding social sector services to the disadvantaged population, and developing self-reliant villages by mobilizing people's participation. In keeping with the last objective, the Government is promoting users' committees at the grass-root level for effective operation and maintenance of rural infrastructure, for protection and management of community forests, for easy technology transfer, and to reduce the Government's liability in their maintenance. In addition, target-group oriented programmes like the Small Farmers' Development Programme, Intensive Banking Programme, and Special Credit Programmes for Women being implemented in the country will be expanded further and their implementation will be monitored closely so that only the targeted beneficiaries will be served by these programmes. The Government will also establish a women's cooperative bank for the economic upliftment of rural women. These poverty alleviation programmes are consistent with the principles and programmes of action agreed by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD).

Although some progress has been achieved in the structural transformation of the Nepalese economy in recent years, agriculture continues to be the most important sector in terms of contribution to gross domestic product, employment, and exports. In order to improve the performance of this crucial sector, the Government has adopted several new strategies. Recognizing the fact that previous efforts in technology development have by-passed the rainfed areas, hill crops, horticulture and livestock, so research efforts will now focus on these areas and commodities. In order to make agricultural research more responsive to farmers' needs, functional autonomy has been granted to the agricultural research system. An outreach research programme has also been initiated so that research and extension can work together with farmers in technology verification and problem identification.

Mr Chairman, since the active participation of farmers is the key to increasing agricultural production, the Government is strengthening the mechanism to deliver production inputs, credit and other technical services in a unified manner at the grass-root level. The participation of the private sector is promoted in the production and distribution of agricultural inputs and delivery of other services. In order to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, the Government is determined to provide price supports for major food grains and cash crops. Agricultural cooperative societies are in the process of being reorganized by making them autonomous so that they can play an active role in the distribution of inputs and credit as well as in the marketing of agricultural produce and other essential commodities in rural areas. It has been increasingly understood that problems relating to post-harvest operations have adversely affected our efforts to increase our production. Our Government is, therefore, undertaking programmes to expand both on-farm and off-farm storage and processing facilities for such commodities as fruits, vegetables, spices, other cash crops, and dairy products which are

mostly produced by small-scale and marginal farmers and which involve a high degree of participation of rural women.

Mr Chairman, our major challenge in Nepal has been to design and implement sustainable agricultural development programmes for various agro-ecological zones which can generate employment and income for rural people and at the same time protect the environment. We are cognizant of the fact that sound natural resource management is a necessary condition for sustaining the productivity of farming systems that depend upon crop production, livestock and forestry. Furthermore, programmes designed for both environmental protection and agricultural production must be coordinated for their successful implementation. Our Government feels that watershed management plans should be prepared and implemented on the basis of an integrated land use approach involving agricultural, forest and grazing land management as well as soil and water conservation measures. My delegation therefore fully supports FAO's emphasis on sustainable agricultural, forestry and ecological development. In fact, the Forestry Sector Master Plan which is in effect in Nepal is in keeping with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan emphasized by the Director-General. Therefore, I would like to urge the FAO to mobilize additional support so that Nepal can take more advantage of international experience on natural resource management in hill and mountain environments.

Mr Chairman, allow me to take this opportunity to highlight on the strong linkage between environment and development in developing countries, particularly Nepal. Our problem is primarily related to economic disparity and widespread poverty. To overcome these, we are forced to speed up the pace of all-round development, which is likely to affect the overall condition of the environment. Therefore, we are now at a critical stage of identifying a trade-off between environment and economic development. In this area, we would like to be benefited from the experiences of the developed countries so that we could avoid undesirable future consequences and make the outcome of our endeavour a sustainable one. We are hopeful that the contribution of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED-1992) would be significant in addressing such issues.

Currently, our Government and the FAO have jointly completed a review of all the projects and programmes implemented with international assistance in the past and have identified four important areas for future FAO/UNDP cooperation in Nepal: (a) sustainable farming systems, (b) management of natural resources, (c) food security issues, and (d) policy and planning along with effective implementation and monitoring. These areas are critically important to bring about sustained development in Nepal's agriculture and our Government hopes that future FAO programmes will be guided by these programme thrusts. Over the last four decades, Nepal has much benefited from FAO's technical and policy assistance and therefore we would like to see this association grow further to the benefit of our people.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation fully endorses the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the biennium 1991-92. I would like to take this opportunity to plead the Member Nations, particularly the developed nations, to contribute generously to the Organization. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the support provided by FAO Headquarters, Regional and Country Offices to our development efforts.

I wish grand success to this Conference. Thank you all for your kind attention.

**Mohamed Sheikh Mohamud GULED (Somalia) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Heads of Delegations. I would like firstly, Mr chairman, to say how pleased and honoured I am personally for my delegation to be able to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Twenty-sixth Conference of FAO, and I am certain that with your wisdom and personal experience, yours is indeed a great country in agriculture, and will enable us through this important international event to arrive at positive and important decisions which will strengthen our unity and strengthen cooperation among different countries in food security, and likewise add to our confidence in this great institution which brings us together, the FAO namely, Mr Chairman.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for the considerable efforts which he has made in the different bodies of this Organization in preparing the work of this Conference. And I am sure the Director-General and his helpers will contribute great importance to the development of the agricultural sector in the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, the proceedings of the Twenty-sixth Conference which brings us together coincide with major changes occurring throughout the world and which have positive and negative consequences. There is a reconciliation between East and West, the fall of dictatorships in Africa and elsewhere in the world, the demands for self-determination of other countries. But these successes are not achieved without a large price.

The figures that we see in the Conference documents show, as we hear every day on the television and other media, that people are suffering in many countries, particularly developing ones. The convergence of internal and external factors constantly worsen the problems of hunger and poverty, despite all the efforts undertaken by international agencies and the donor countries to attempt to better the lot of those suffering this human tragedy.

The rich countries, the international organizations and those affected by these disasters should take steps to improve this serious position and find the best remedies to it.

I would like to express my thanks to all the countries and organizations which do grant aid to developing countries, in particular to those which suffer from droughts, civil wars and other catastrophes.

I appeal to these countries and agencies that they should increase their emergency aid, and I would also say that the best way to deal with these matters is to increase investments from the rich to the poor countries so as to make the latter more able to resolve their own problems through their own efforts.

Mr Chairman, as for my country, Somalia, I can only tell you a rather tragic position of which everyone is aware. Major human suffering due to civil war, which has lasted for three years, and a lengthy drought. More than 4.5 million people who are living in rural and urban areas may starve today because of the collapse of economic infrastructure and the paralysis

of development projects, in particular those intended to promote the agricultural sector, the mainstay of our economy.

We have received emergency aid, but I can say frankly that it is far from being enough, given the huge problems which beset the country throughout from north to south and east to west. And it is the farmers, small-scale farmers in particular, who are the most affected by these troubles and difficulties.

Food production has naturally been affected. Harvests in the last three years have fallen to only 20 percent of their previous level. Our main agricultural exports, bananas and cattle, have ceased altogether, and the food situation in my country is extremely grave. That is the message which my delegation would like to convey to you from this podium; it is an appeal which we are making to the advanced donor countries and to all international organizations, and to all non-governmental organizations, so that they should give us emergency aid and do everything they can to help our country to recover a normal manner of life. Since the FAO can contribute decidedly in this enterprise, we exhort it to take the initiative in convincing the others to help us to get Somalia out of this terrible position by increasing their technical assistance to farmers in our country.

Mr Chairman, if we set aside all the problems besetting us at the moment it will be seen that my country does have considerable advantages in agriculture. We have 8.5 million hectares of land, 40 million head of cattle, the longest coasts in the African continent after South Africa, which are filled with riches, with these advantages during the new political era which has commenced, our country has undertaken a more open agricultural policy in terms of the interior and abroad, and we have concentrated our efforts on the human factor, because whatever the importance of modern machinery in development, men will always be the mainstay of the dynamic, and by working out a development programme for rural areas, a theoretical and practical training programme will be vital for increasing agricultural output. During coming years these two programmes will be given the highest priority in our country's economic policy which tends, mainly, to firstly, increase the growth rate in agriculture, fisheries and stock breeding in order to improve the earnings of the population; secondly, to reduce inequalities between towns and countryside, in order to reach a fairer balance and to prevent unemployment and rural exodus; thirdly, to protect the environment to stop the degradation of forests and pastures to increase the productive capacity so as to combat erosion and desertification, and fourthly, to encourage national private investments and to welcome foreign capital for agriculture.

I would like to join those before me who have expressed their support for the EEC joining our family. The accession of such an important regional organization can only strengthen this organization and make it better able to deal with the main problems concerning food and agriculture, particularly in developing countries.

We would also like to express our support in general terms to the Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Secretariat.

I would close by saying that the resolutions of this sessions should give rise to solutions adapted to the problems of our countries, particularly those most affected, in the hope of a better tomorrow when there will be food, peace and security for all.

I thank you, Mr Chairman, and all the guests here for your attention. I also thank those who work in this organization under the guidance of Mr Saouma and the representatives of regional organizations.

May the blessings of God be upon you.

**Ali AYOUB (Observer for United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)):** It is my privilege and great pleasure to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO General Conference on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to convey to you all his best wishes for a successful meeting. Dr Tolba very much regrets being unable to participate in this Conference personally. Therefore, it is on his behalf that I renew his pledge to this meeting and to his colleague and friend, Dr Saouma, for continued cooperation between FAO and UNEP in the numerous areas of mutual interest.

The mandate of UNEP, namely, to coordinate the environmental activities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, act as a catalyst for their efforts, keep the world environmental situation under review, and ensure that the emerging environmental problems of international significance are considered by governments, was specified nearly 20 years ago following the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. This broad goal remains valid today even as we prepare for next major global conference on the Environment - the so-called Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit".

Environmental phenomena are interrelated and the implications of this interrelatedness have to be taken fully into account in the formulation of policies for agriculture, industry, energy and in the management of terrestrial ecosystems, atmosphere and marine resources. A more systematic approach towards sustainable agricultural practices is required.

Several major developments took place during 1990-91. These are: one, the dramatic events in the Middle East arising out of the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and the heightened concern over the current and potential dangers to the environment in the area; two, the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); three, the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating process under the General Assembly's auspices, supported by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for the negotiation of a framework convention on climate change; and four, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on biological diversity.

Other major developments show the urgency attached to solving environmental problems. For example, the heads of the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and UNEP reached an agreement to cooperate in the establishment of a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of more than US\$1.5 billion. UNEP has established the Scientific and Advisory Panel to advise GEF on technical issues.

We enter the 1990s knowing that the state of the world's environment is now worse than it was a decade ago, despite growing awareness of the dangers, and that the major global issues - among them, climate change, loss of biodiversity, destruction of water quality, loss of productive soils and desertification - remain to be solved.

In the run-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, progress towards agreement on the two mutually reinforcing treaties on climate change and biological diversity will test our collective commitment to save the planet. While 1992 is our target date, no one is willing to sacrifice content for expediency in preparing either Convention. However, in the negotiations towards global treaties on climate change and biological diversity, on the elaboration of necessary financial mechanisms and technology transfer agreements - in these and other issues, we have shifted gear, from debating the necessity of cooperative action to defining their details. While progress has been made, it is critical to understand that we have only begun to tackle global problems in earnest. The task ahead is daunting. Climate change and global warming; ozone layer depletion; the proliferation of hazardous wastes; the extinction of biodiversity and genetic resources vital for species evolution, biotechnology and medicines; the mismanagement of oceans and coastal areas, of fresh water and land resources, are global problems demanding global strategies.

There is wide recognition that strategies intended to halt ecological destruction cannot succeed unless they tackle the underlying economic and development causes of such destruction. There is little point in crusading for greener policies, if they are consistently offset by powerful though short-sighted economic forces. There is little point in crusading for sustainable development, if unfair terms of trade, Third World debt, unstable and unpredictable commodity pricing continue to deepen the development crisis in the global South. Indeed, there is no point in imposing hefty theoretical environmental solutions to issues in a world steeped in hunger, squalor and poverty.

We will not save our Earth unless, first, ecological considerations become integrated into all facets of economic, fiscal, monetary and industry policies, and second, market mechanisms are needed to generate new revenues to address global environmental problems and at the same time, address the real causes of poverty. Transfer of environmentally-sound technologies to developing countries is one of those pivotal steps to be taken in the next global environmental agenda. The 1990 amended Montreal Protocol to protect the ozone layer is a pointer on how effective mechanisms can be put in place once a global consensus exists.

FAO and UNEP have continued to work closely with each other on policy issues that can assist countries to achieve sustainable development and implementation of an international programme for the conservation and management of genetic resources of all types, and has been the main catalyst in raising to a higher status the hitherto neglected animal genetic resources. UNEP also hopes that the genetic resources of aquatic systems will begin to receive the due attention they deserve.

The ongoing project between FAO and UNEP concerning tropical forest mapping is well under way, and a letter of intent between UNEP and FAO was signed recently. Long-term expanded scope of forest resource monitoring and assessment will continue. UNEP/FAO cooperation for the development of a

methodology for forest cover monitoring, and assessment of the real value of world forest continues. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) has been one of the major focus of attention in the past five years.

As one of the activities under the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the World Soils Policy and the World Soil Charter, UNEP is collaborating with FAO and ISSS to assist developing countries to draw up and apply their national soil policies. In the regard UNEP also appreciates efforts by FAO in the preparation, for the first time, of a world map on the Status of Human-induced Soil Degradation prepared by UNEP and the International Soil Reference and Information Centre in Wageningen.

UNEP and FAO are co-operating in the implementation of projects on mycotoxin control and establishment of a training network in Asia.

With respect to the integration of information leading to improved environmental assessments, UNEP is pleased to note that FAO GIS might become a Cooperating GRID Centre. We assure FAO that we continue to be willing to cooperate in both system development and project applications, as has been done in the past in the fields of fisheries, forestry and land degradation.

We welcome FAO's interest in a cooperative effort with UNEP to improve or generate a sub-tropical vegetation map of the world. The choice of South America as the first pilot area, because of availability of information and willingness of the countries to cooperate in such effort, is agreeable with UNEP's Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean.

With a view to a future sustainable society, and within the context of preparation of UNCED, FAO has spearheaded a global strategy for sustainable agriculture. In its elaboration, UNEP has played an active role, as was mandated by its Governing Council in Decision 15/24. We hope that this strategy will gain wide acceptance at the UNCED and we will continue to play an active role in its implementation.

**Mme Sy Maïmouna BA (Mali):** M. le Président, je voudrais de prime abord vous remercier pour l'insigne honneur et l'immense privilège de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée. C'est pour moi un très grand plaisir de saisir l'occasion solennelle qui m'est ainsi offerte pour vous adresser au nom du peuple malien et de son Gouvernement mes très vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette vingt-sixième session.

Vous me permettrez aussi, au nom de la délégation qui m'accompagne et en mon nom propre, de vous assurer de notre totale et franche collaboration dans l'accomplissement de votre haute mission.

Nous voudrions également réaffirmer notre haute appréciation des efforts inlassables déployés par le Directeur général de la FAO avec le concours de tout son personnel, en vue de l'accomplissement des nobles idéaux de notre Organisation.

Il me plaît aussi de souhaiter, au nom de mon Gouvernement, la bienvenue aux nouveaux pays adhérents de notre Organisation, la Lettonie, l'Estonie et la Lituanie, ainsi que le Porto Rico comme membre associé.

Il est de tradition que chaque session de la Conférence de la FAO offre à juste titre, l'opportunité pour la communauté internationale de méditer sur la situation alimentaire mondiale.

A cet égard, force est de reconnaître que celle-ci ne cesse de se détériorer.

Le rapport C 91/2, qui est soumis à la présente session, n'indique-t-il pas que la production alimentaire et agricole mondiale s'est ralentie en 1990 par rapport au niveau qu'elle avait atteint en 1989. Le commerce agricole est resté déprimé dans les pays en voie de développement et les termes de l'échange ont contribué à se détériorer considérablement.

On estime que la consommation alimentaire des céréales par habitant en 1990-91, a diminué dans toutes les régions en développement.

La Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation qui s'est tenue en 1974 n'avait-elle pas fixé une échéance de dix ans pour enrayer la famine dans le monde?

Dix-sept ans après, cet objectif n'est, hélas, pas encore atteint!

La pauvreté interdit à des centaines de millions d'âmes l'accès à la sécurité alimentaire. De graves pénuries alimentaires continuent à se poser dans nombre de pays africains, mais aussi dans d'autres parties de notre planète.

Et pourtant, les disponibilités pouvant couvrir les besoins alimentaires de la totalité de la population mondiale existent. Des initiatives internationales plus vigoureuses s'imposent afin de résoudre cette situation inacceptable. La FAO peut et doit jouer un rôle de premier plan à cet égard.

Permettez-moi à présent d'évoquer la situation alimentaire et agricole qui prévaut dans mon pays.

Le Mali, vaste pays sahélien enclavé, fait partie des pays les plus défavorisés de l'Afrique. Son économie essentiellement agricole a été durement éprouvée par deux décennies de sécheresse qui ont anéanti les efforts des populations rurales.

La dépendance alimentaire de l'Afrique s'est globalement accrue au cours de la dernière décennie. Cette évolution négative est due à l'effet conjugué de facteurs endogènes et exogènes, notamment la crise économique qui secoue le monde et qui se manifeste par deux faits majeurs sur les marchés internationaux des produits agricoles qui intéressent le continent africain. Il s'agit de:

- la chute brutale des prix des matières premières, et
- le maintien des taux d'intérêts élevés.

Il est indéniable que tout développement agricole dans les pays en voie de développement, et particulièrement dans les pays africains, restera gravement hypothéqué tant que des solutions globales ne seront pas trouvées aux problèmes d'une dette de plus en plus étouffante et d'une baisse des cours des matières premières de plus en plus persistante.



Cette situation de crise aggravée par les calamités naturelles a favorisé la paupérisation du monde rural en le privant de ressources qui lui permettaient d'acquérir les intrants nécessaires à l'amélioration de la productivité.

Malgré la priorité accordée à l'agriculture dans le Plan d'action de Lagos et le Programme des Nations Unies pour le Redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique (PANUREDA), les besoins essentiels restent encore non satisfaits. En conséquence, il nous faut trouver ensemble les moyens d'une croissance économique durable, car nombreux sont les besoins essentiels non encore satisfaits en Afrique.

Compte tenu du poids économique de l'agriculture, tous les plans nationaux de développement du Mali élaborés à ce jour ont accordé une priorité au secteur de l'économie rurale. L'objectif fondamental demeure l'autosuffisance alimentaire et la sécurité dans le cadre de systèmes de production et de systèmes agraires assez rémunérateurs, l'effort du paysan ne devant pas dégrader l'écosystème.

Dans cette optique, la politique de développement au Mali repose sur les piliers suivants:

- l'organisation du monde rural en vue d'un développement intégré à la base avec la participation active et consciente des paysannes et des paysans;
- la maîtrise de l'eau;
- la lutte contre la désertification.

L'évolution récente de la production au Mali démontre que les cultures céréalières demeurent globalement tributaires des aléas climatiques. Ceci explique les fluctuations interannuelles compromettant la sécurité alimentaire. Ainsi, la production alimentaire a atteint, selon les conditions et la situation phytosanitaire, un million de tonnes en 1984/85, 1 780 700 tonnes en 1986/87, 2 154 729 tonnes en 1989 et 1 767 816 tonnes en 1990/91.

En résumé, l'autosuffisance alimentaire à base de céréales au Mali est presque réalisée quand la pluviométrie est satisfaisante, et en l'absence de pertes importantes dues aux déprédateurs. Mais il suffit d'un accident climatique pour qu'un déficit important apparaisse.

C'est dire, que la mise en oeuvre de notre politique de développement de l'agriculture avec le concours de notre Organisation, la FAO, et celui des partenaires au développement du Mali a permis d'obtenir des résultats significatifs qui n'ont cependant pas répondu à toute notre attente pour les multiples raisons évoquées plus haut. Je voudrais donc saisir cette occasion pour remercier à nouveau tous les partenaires au développement du Mali pour l'élan de solidarité que nous enregistrons chaque année en faveur de nos programmes de développement économique et social. Ceux-ci s'inscriront très prochainement dans le cadre du Schéma directeur du secteur du développement rural, en cours de finalisation.

Au Mali, nous sommes profondément convaincus que la sécurité alimentaire et la prospérité que nous voulons pour les populations dépendront essentiellement des efforts que la collectivité nationale est prête à

fournir en recherchant la participation active et consciente des hommes et des femmes en milieu rural. Cependant la pleine manifestation de la solidarité internationale ne peut qu'améliorer les chances de succès de notre lutte commune contre la faim, la malnutrition, la pauvreté et la maladie.

L'ajustement entre les objectifs de production et les besoins de consommation sera à la fois quantitatif et qualitatif afin d'assurer l'équilibre nutritionnel des populations. Nous recherchons activement un tel équilibre par la mise en oeuvre de programmes de diversification des productions végétales d'une part et de développement de l'élevage et de la pêche d'autre part.

Dans le domaine de l'élevage, la situation a évolué favorablement au cours des deux dernières années.

Dans le souci constant de rechercher des solutions viables visant à améliorer les performances et l'efficacité des systèmes de production animale, divers projets et programmes sont mis en oeuvre.

Dans l'optique d'imprimer une nouvelle dynamique au sous-secteur élevage afin de contribuer plus efficacement à la réalisation des objectifs fondamentaux de développement économique et social, il s'avère nécessaire de procéder à un réexamen plus global des politiques et stratégies en vue d'entreprendre des programmes de développement plus efficaces et mieux adaptés au contexte actuel.

La formulation et la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes seront réalisées en fonction des réformes actuelles et des nouvelles options de développement, à savoir, la libéralisation de l'économie et la décentralisation. Pour le sous-secteur de l'élevage, ceci devra se traduire, par un désengagement de l'Etat en vue d'une participation plus accrue du secteur privé et d'une plus grande responsabilisation des organisations d'éleveurs.

Cette révision de la stratégie et de la politique du sous-secteur et l'identification d'un nouveau programme d'investissement entrent dans le cadre de l'instruction de la deuxième phase du Programme d'ajustement sectoriel agricole (PASA II).

Tout comme les sous-secteurs de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, les sous-secteurs de la forêt, de la faune et de la pêche, sont pris en compte dans le programme de la gestion des ressources naturelles consacré par le Programme national de lutte contre la désertification (PNLCD) adopté en 1987 par le Gouvernement.

Le PNLCD est une approche globale et multisectorielle d'utilisation rationnelle des ressources naturelles avec la participation des populations.

D'ailleurs, le Gouvernement du Mali, en accord avec ses partenaires, est en train de finaliser un plan d'action pour la mise en oeuvre efficiente du PNLCD.

En outre, le Mali a été parmi les premiers pays à souscrire au Plan d'action forestier tropical (PAFT) qui constitue un volet très important du PNLCD.

Le domaine de la pêche et de la pisciculture connaît un regain d'intérêt. La pisciculture est de plus en plus prise en compte lors des actions de maîtrise de l'eau et de l'élaboration de petits projets de développement. L'amélioration de l'équipement des pêcheurs, leur organisation et le contrôle des pertes après capture ont non seulement retenu l'attention mais fait également l'objet d'efforts constants de la part des divers intervenants dans le développement de ce sous-secteur. Outre les séries de formation entreprises, une vaste étude sur le stock et la dynamique des populations aux fins d'une organisation rationnelle des captures est en cours dans le Delta intérieur du Niger.

L'apiculture moderne s'est rapidement développée et continue de se développer depuis l'intervention de la FAO (1983) et du PNUD (1985).

Quant à la faune, des actions plus rigoureuses de restauration sont encore nécessaires en vue d'éviter la disparition de certaines espèces et de procéder à son aménagement pour en tirer le meilleur profit possible.

Des études en cours doivent définir les moyens d'une gestion rationnelle du patrimoine faunique du pays, dont l'importance dans l'alimentation des populations n'est plus à démontrer.

Je voudrais, à présent, évoquer la position de ma délégation à propos des principales questions soumises à notre attention, à l'occasion de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'élaboration, pour la première fois, d'un plan d'action à moyen terme pour la période 1992-97.

Nous approuvons également la proposition d'adopter par consensus le programme de travail et budget de notre Organisation.

Toutefois, nous insistons sur le respect du niveau de financement affecté au PCT, conformément à la Résolution 9/89 de notre vingt-cinquième session.

Par ailleurs, mon pays souscrit aux amendements proposés quant aux Textes fondamentaux afin de permettre l'acceptation de la candidature de la Communauté économique européenne.

L'acceptation des organisations d'intégration économique au sein de notre Organisation permettrait assurément à celle-ci de réaliser plus rapidement et plus efficacement ses objectifs.

Enfin, le Mali s'intéresse vivement à la Convention mondiale sur les Ressources forestières et à la Convention mondiale sur la Biodiversité.

S'agissant de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement durable, les deux premières sessions préparatoires ont connu une participation très active du Mali.

Lors de la récente Conférence des Ministres de l'agriculture des Etats de l'Afrique de l'ouest et du centre tenue à Paris, nous avons partagé l'idée de relever le défi de la Sécurité alimentaire et celui du maintien de la part des produits agricoles du continent africain sur les marchés mondiaux dans un cadre rénové de concertation favorable à la création de zones de libre échange intrarégional en améliorant la productivité et la compétitivité des filières céréalières et de la viande.

Je souhaite que nos réflexions et échanges d'idées pour répondre à ces défis permettent à l'Afrique d'ouvrir une nouvelle porte sur l'espoir.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to announce that the delegation from Algeria has given me its country's statement which will be included in the verbatim report of this morning's session.

**Mohamed Elyes MESLI (Algérie):** Permettez-moi d'exprimer en premier lieu les sentiments sincères de fierté et de satisfaction qu'éprouve la délégation algérienne pour sa présence dans cette enceinte et pour l'occasion qu'elle a de confronter son expérience, ses préoccupations et ses idées avec celles de l'ensemble des pays de la planète.

Nul doute, M. le Président, que nos travaux déboucheront sur des solutions, au moins partielles, aux multiples problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde. Et ma délégation voit dans votre brillante élection, dont vous me permettrez de vous féliciter, un gage certain de réussite.

M. le Président, vous comprendrez aisément que ma délégation veuille également saisir cette occasion pour rendre hommage au travail accompli par la FAO dans les domaines qui nous préoccupent tous et dans lesquels elle a déjà tant fait. Au demeurant, nous ne saurions assez féliciter son Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer pour concrétiser les idéaux que représente la FAO.

Ceux-ci, M. le Président, ne sont hélas pas atteints, mais c'est précisément à cette fin que nous nous réunissons périodiquement. Faire état de nos réflexions respectives sur l'évolution de la situation alimentaire et agricole mondiale et mettre au point les solutions qui répondent le mieux aux grands défis de notre époque sont en effet les objectifs premiers de nos conférences. Et aujourd'hui plus qu'hier, nous nourrissons l'espoir que nos travaux ne seront pas vains. Le monde évolue vers des jours meilleurs semble-t-il. Pourquoi n'en serait-il pas ainsi pour les problèmes qui nous préoccupent ?

M. le Président, mon pays connaît également de profondes mutations tant sur le plan politique qu'économique. Consolider la démocratie est certes l'objectif primordial à court terme. Mais ce dernier est conditionné par tous les autres. L'Algérie a entamé ce processus bien avant les derniers changements politiques intervenus ces deux dernières années. S'il n'est pas adéquat d'en retracer ici toutes les réformes, je voudrais cependant en exposer le volet agricole, que l'on peut résumer en cinq points.

#### 1. Organisation de la profession agricole

La libéralisation des initiatives a permis la création d'un grand nombre d'associations professionnelles, de coopératives constituées et gérées par les producteurs et, depuis cette année, de chambres d'agriculture qui commencent à oeuvrer avec la ferme intention de s'affirmer progressivement comme des partenaires crédibles et privilégiés de l'administration agricole.

## 2. Organisation foncière et mise en valeur des terres

L'organisation foncière a fait l'objet d'une loi particulière qui a permis d'unifier le régime juridique des terres par la réorganisation des exdomaines agricoles socialistes et la répartition de leurs terres à des agriculteurs organisés en exploitations collectives ou individuelles et auxquels l'Etat consent un droit de jouissance perpétuelle sur la terre et un droit de propriété sur les biens autres que la terre.

Cette législation s'est renforcée par une loi de novembre 1990 qui fixe la consistance technique du patrimoine foncier et le régime juridique des terres, pose le principe de la liberté des transactions et mutations foncières et met en place des instruments de régulation du marché foncier.

L'extension de la surface agricole utile a fait l'objet d'une loi portant accession à la propriété foncière par la mise en valeur qui a donné des résultats probants et a été étendue à toutes les régions du pays après avoir été limitée aux seules régions du Sud.

L'Etat a mis en oeuvre un certain nombre de mesures destinées à favoriser cette action. Celles-ci vont des facilités accordées aux producteurs pour l'acquisition de matériels agricoles, à la construction et à l'équipement de forages. En outre, l'Etat prend en charge les actions liées aux infrastructures de base (électrification, voies et accès aux périmètres de mise en valeur...) et accorde des bonifications de taux d'intérêt aux promoteurs.

## 3. Financement agricole

L'Etat n'intervient plus dans les modalités d'octroi de crédit au secteur agricole et le secteur bancaire oeuvre librement dans ce domaine.

Cependant, l'Etat intervient par le biais de la bonification des taux d'intérêt pour les activités jugées prioritaires (mise en valeur, stockage sous froid, forages...). Il intervient également sur concours définitifs par le canal du Fonds national de développement agricole et du Fonds de garantie contre les calamités agricoles et par des exonérations fiscales sur le revenu réalisé par des producteurs qui pratiquent les cultures stratégiques ou de large consommation.

## 4. Politique des prix

Volet important des mesures d'encadrement du secteur agricole, elle vise à protéger les activités prioritaires par le biais de prix minimum garantis à la production, à assurer un revenu acceptable aux producteurs et la vérité des prix de tous les facteurs et moyens de production.

Le soutien des prix à la consommation qui concerne les produits de première nécessité va disparaître progressivement (ces produits ont connu des hausses sensibles cette année) pour laisser place à un système de soutien des couches sociales défavorisées selon des mécanismes en cours d'élaboration (allocations aux bas revenus, allocations chômage...).

## 5. Commerce extérieur

La réforme du commerce extérieur a supprimé les situations de monopole dont jouissaient les opérateurs économiques publics et mis en place de nouveaux

mécanismes d'intervention. Désormais, toute personne physique ou morale détentrice du registre du commerce peut accéder au commerce extérieur.

Des conditions tarifaires favorables sont consenties aux importateurs de facteurs de production qui bénéficient d'une exonération totale du paiement de taxes douanières.

Par ailleurs, l'Algérie essaie de développer une politique de partenariat avantageuse pour les parties concernées. Cette politique trouve dans le secteur agricole un cadre propice à son épanouissement si l'on considère tous les créneaux extrêmement porteurs et non encore investis. L'Algérie est également engagée dans une dynamique d'intégration régionale à laquelle elle croit fermement. L'Union du Maghreb Arabe est une réalité qui se construit progressivement et sans à coup, sur des bases saines qui ne manqueront pas d'influer positivement sur les échanges commerciaux intra-maghrébins.

M. le Président, j'ai tenu à rappeler succinctement les grandes lignes de la politique de réforme engagée en Algérie pour permettre une meilleure appréciation de ce qui se fait. Mon pays n'est pas le seul à s'être engagé dans cette voie et nombre d'Etats oeuvrent actuellement pour édifier une société nouvelle. Tous nos pays respectifs ont besoin plus que jamais du soutien de la communauté internationale, particulièrement dans le contexte économique actuel très défavorable.

A cet effet, les conclusions auxquelles aboutira notre conférence devront répondre à ce voeu afin qu'elles constituent une source d'inspiration pour l'élaboration de nos politiques de développement agricole.

Ainsi, ma délégation se réjouit de constater que cette volonté peut se concrétiser dans la majorité des domaines d'actions prévus au programme de travail de l'Organisation, programme auquel, au demeurant, nous adhérons globalement. Nous sommes également disposés à accepter le montant de budget proposé dans le cadre d'un consensus que nous appelons de tous nos voeux.

Nous estimons pour notre part que les propositions de reconstitution du compte de réserve spéciale et d'augmentation du fonds de roulement aux niveaux suggérés par le secrétariat sont parfaitement légitimes et devraient susciter un plus gros effort des pays développés et ce, en raison du poids énorme de la dette extérieure sur la situation financière des pays en développement.

A ce propos, je voudrais souligner que l'Algérie a toujours fait les efforts nécessaires pour être à jour dans le paiement de sa contribution, mais ne peut, compte tenu d'une situation difficile, envisager de contribution supplémentaire sans entamer sa crédibilité.

A cet effet, la proposition relative à l'instauration d'un système de remises pour favoriser le paiement anticipé emporte notre adhésion pleine et entière et constitue une mesure susceptible d'encourager l'ensemble des pays à une gestion rigoureuse de leur contribution financière au budget de l'Organisation.

Enfin, le thème relatif à l'environnement et au développement durable mérite de notre point de vue plus d'attention et plus de moyens compte tenu notamment des besoins des pays en développement...

Je suis convaincu que nous sommes à l'aube d'une ère nouvelle en matière de coopération internationale et que le concept de solidarité sur lequel sont fondées les Organisations internationales comme la FAO se trouve revitalisé, comme l'a montré la récente opération contre la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord.

D'autres indices probants montrent que cet espoir n'est pas irréaliste.

Ne faut-il pas en effet voir comme tel la demande d'adhésion de la CEE en qualité de membre de notre Organisation? A ce propos, l'Algérie est heureuse de constater que les travaux concernant cette question progressent rapidement et qu'ainsi, dans le cadre de l'Organisation s'établira un dialogue nouveau entre pays développés et pays en voie de développement.

Il y a quelques mois à peine, certains se demandaient si la notion d'organisation internationale n'avait pas atteint ses limites. Aujourd'hui, nous pouvons affirmer que cette notion a encore de beaux jours et surtout de grandes choses à réaliser. Faisons de telle sorte que l'histoire ne nous démente pas.

Je vous remercie.

**H.O.A. KJELDSEN (Observer for International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)):**

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers, IFAP, of which I have the privilege of being President, represents several hundred million farmers in developing countries and virtually all the farmers in the industrialized countries. The last biennium has been a very difficult time for farmers in most countries and the farmers find themselves in a situation of considerable uncertainty and instability - uncertainty created by the national agricultural policy reform process, and by delays in reaching a multilateral trade agreement in GATT; uncertainty about the ramifications of the dramatic changes in Central and Eastern Europe especially on future trade patterns, and also on aid flows to sub-Saharan Africa; uncertainty regarding the increased interest in negotiating regional trade agreements; uncertainty about prospects for an international economic recovery.

Many farmers today are asking themselves what is the future for agriculture and for the rural areas. They are seeking a long-range strategy for sustainable agricultural development specifying clearly-defined goals to be followed with the means and time to make necessary adjustments.

FAO has an important role in developing such a strategy for agriculture on an international basis. IFAP strongly supports a farmer-centered approach to sustainable agricultural development, an approach which regards farmers as the key to the solution, not part of the problem.

Agricultural producers have much to offer society. They strive to provide adequate quantities of high quality foods. They assume responsibility for the protection of the natural environment; they manage natural resources in a long-term perspective and they assure rural settlement and the economic and social vitality of rural areas.

Farming practices which are respectful of the environment require not only accurate and reliable techniques but also a favourable economic and social framework. It must be clearly recognized that only an economically viable

agriculture will be capable of achieving the objectives of environmental sustainability.

Four fifths of mankind live in the developing countries. They depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. For these farmers sustainable growth is a prerequisite for survival. Poverty is one of the fundamental causes of environmental degradation in developing countries. Since agriculture is the largest single economic sector in the developing countries, poverty can only be reduced through the sustainable development of agriculture. Farming in developing countries cannot be sustainable until farmers receive payments for their produce which are high enough to give them both the financial means and the motivation to conserve their land.

Solutions must be global. Environmental issues know no boundaries. Hunger, poverty, third-world debt, instability of farm commodity prices, rules for fair competition, harmonization of legislation on food safety and environmental protection all have a direct and dramatic effect on the environment in which farmers operate. There is, therefore, a need to establish international rules for the protection of the environment and particularly where these affect world trade. Sustainable development is a shared endeavour. It cannot be achieved by farmers alone.

This sharing implies a dialogue among the many sectors of society. It also means that the other sectors must live up to the same standard as agriculture. Insufficient attention is given to the fact that agriculture itself is often the victim of environmental degradation such as acid rain, industrial pollution and damage caused by visitors to the countryside.

Let me also say or underline that the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices cannot be successfully imposed from above. Farmers' participation, the harnessing of the individual efforts of millions of agricultural producers throughout the world is crucial. Consultation with and involvement of farmers through their own representative organizations is critical to achieving sustainable agricultural development. As the FAO document on the Assessment of Field Projects, C 91/4, correctly points out, Ultimately sustainability is in the hands of people, the main actors in development.

On several occasions in the past we have in IFAP urged closer cooperation between FAO and IFAP and I am happy today to report that this intensification of contacts has actually taken place during the past biennium at both the technical and political levels and a basis for future cooperation has been established. In particular IFAP appreciates that the Director-General addressed IFAP's Executive Committee when it met in Rome this year; a third informal consultation on Commodities between FAO and IFAP was held here at the FAO headquarters; a delegation of four farm leaders from developing countries led by IFAP were able to participate in FAO's Den Bosch Conference on Agriculture and the Environment, thanks to the generous support of the Government of the Netherlands, their views were taken into account in the final declaration; FAO participated in IFAP's Conference on Environment and Sustainable Growth, the Key Role of Farmers, held in Reykjavik last month. The conference expressed support for the FAO Den Bosch Declaration and follow-up Agenda for Action. Our Conference was part of a mutually-supportive effort in the preparation of the agricultural input for the 1992 UNCED Conference in Rio de Janeiro.



In addition to this, proposals for further joint action will also be made in relation to FAO's Plan of Action on People's Participation in Rural Development and FAO's Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. The preparation of the International Conference on Nutrition is another important area for cooperation.

We are gratified to note that the principle of people's participation advocated by IFAP over many years is now gradually but steadily penetrating FAO policies and programmes. IFAP is pleased to see that the Plan of Action on People's Participation has been finalized and submitted to the Conference for approval. We would also like to see included in terms of reference of programming or advisory missions - for example, those on marketing reforms - the importance of seeking contact with national farmers' organizations. Representatives from these organizations should be systematically invited to participate in relevant workshops, expert consultations and training courses at international, national, and even at local levels.

In conclusion, I stress again that farmers represented in IFAP are committed to the pursuit of sustainable agricultural development, to the health of the physical environment and to a dynamic future for rural areas. IFAP will work for a society and agriculture which, in industrialized and developing countries alike, continues in harmony with nature with the aid of ecological, technological, educational and economic knowledge. We look forward to working with FAO in this endeavour. I hope that when we meet again in 1993, significant progress will have been made.

In closing, I would like to thank the Director-General and his staff for the good working relationships with IFAP, particularly with our Permanent Representative in Rome, Ms. Pelà. I trust that governments will provide FAO with the necessary financial resources to carry out its important work programme, and I wish this Conference every success.

**Lino VISANI (Observateur pour l'Alliance coopérative internationale (ACI)):** Merci, M. le Président de m'avoir donné la parole au nom de l'Alliance coopérative internationale. L'ACI estime que le Plan d'action sur la participation populaire est une initiative très importante de la FAO. Ce Plan d'action peut devenir la réponse forte et équitable au problème fondamental d'aujourd'hui du développement durable, compatible avec la protection de l'environnement, indivisible du développement participatif. Ce sont deux aspects interdépendants du développement. Dans ce sens-là, les documents de la FAO et la déclaration du Directeur général à la Conférence accordent de l'importance à cette interdépendance. Je voudrais souligner l'actualité de cette position par rapport aussi à la déclaration sur la participation populaire de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural qui correspond aux grands changements et aux grandes contradictions de la situation mondiale avec des répercussions inévitables sur le système agro-alimentaire international. Cela exige, selon nous, des modifications stratégiques des politiques des gouvernements et de la FAO. Nous estimons que les sept domaines d'action proposés dans le Plan d'action sont valables. Il est donc nécessaire de trouver des formes, des méthodes et des priorités pour la mise en oeuvre rapide du Plan. S'agissant de ce Plan, nous estimons que les propositions qui figurent dans le document sont encore faibles, trop timides, même si nous nous rendons compte des différentes situations propres à chaque pays.

Permettez-moi de citer un exemple: l'ACI est la plus grande organisation internationale de coopératives qui représentent la forme d'association la plus répandue dans le tiers monde. La richesse d'expériences que possède cette organisation est fondamentale.

L'ACI affecte un rôle prioritaire à l'assistance pour le développement des mouvements coopératifs du tiers monde et dans l'Europe de l'Est. L'ACI est prête à apporter toute sa collaboration à la réalisation du Plan d'action dont la mise en oeuvre ne serait pas possible sans le recours à l'expérience directe sur le terrain de notre organisation, bien entendu en raison de son propre rôle et du rôle de la FAO. Nous pensons que cela vaut aussi pour les autres organisations sociales internationales à forte présence sur le territoire.

Dans le document, il est question de la nécessité de renforcer le dialogue entre ONG et gouvernements, nous aurons plaisir à collaborer avec la FAO pour que cela puisse se réaliser. Par contre, les propositions de collaboration entre FAO, ONG internationales et ONG sont un peu faibles. Au paragraphe 62 on propose d'assigner la supervision de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action à la Division des ressources humaines et à un comité interdépartemental; nous proposons au contraire de créer un point focal dans la Division des ressources humaines qui soit le point de repère et d'initiative pour établir un rythme régulier de relations consultatives et de collaboration avec les ONG et les ONG internationales et qu'il soit en même temps le point de convergence de l'action des différentes Divisions de la FAO.

Nous croyons que le Plan d'action nécessite une modification des relations entre la FAO et les organisations non gouvernementales; c'est un enseignement qui nous vient de la situation mondiale. Il s'agit de s'engager progressivement, en puisant dans le trésor de l'expérience. Nous souhaitons que le Plan d'action soit approuvé pour concrétiser l'action de développement agricole durable et participatif.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 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 91/PV/13

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

### TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

### 13<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA

(18 November 1991)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Gonzalo Bula Hovos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13<sup>a</sup> sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos. Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

## GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

### DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

### DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES  
(continuación)

Belgique, Kenya, Portugal, Malaysia, Burkina Faso

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Vamos a empezar nuestra sesión de esta tarde. Como aparece en el Diario de la Conferencia para hoy, estaba previsto que el primer punto de esta reunión de la tarde fuera la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión III sobre el tema 24. Adhesión como miembros de la FAO de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica y enmiendas de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización. Sin embargo, dada la importancia de este asunto y las sugerencias que al respecto han hecho algunas delegaciones sobre la necesidad de disponer de un poco más de tiempo, vamos ahora a proseguir con el debate general.

Harán uso de la palabra solamente tres oradores en el debate general, y luego pasaremos a ocuparnos de la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión III sobre el tema 24.

Antes de conceder la palabra al primer orador de esta tarde, debo informarles que el Excmo. Sr. Ministro de Bélgica, Sr. Keers Maeker, ha entregado a la Secretaría el texto de la declaración que debía hacer dentro del debate general. Entiendo que de acuerdo con la práctica vigente, la Conferencia no tiene inconveniente en que ese texto del Ministro de Bélgica se incluya en las actas.

**Keers MAEKER (Belgique):** M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs. Nous nous trouvons actuellement à un moment particulièrement crucial dans l'évolution de la planète. En effet, depuis la précédente Conférence, on constate une formidable accélération de l'histoire du monde. Si elle est, à ne pas en douter, porteuse d'espoir d'une part, elle est de l'autre génératrice de désordres dont il est maintenant difficile d'en appréhender les effets à l'avenir. Mais n'est-il pas vrai aussi, que toute transition est par définition complexe et difficile!

Dans cette conjoncture, le rôle de Forum que s'est toujours efforcée de jouer la FAO et son caractère Universel sortira, à ne pas en douter, renforcé et ce par l'intermédiaire d'un double élargissement; en premier lieu, le dégel des relations Est-Ouest conduit à l'indépendance d'Etats dont certains ont demandé leur adhésion à notre Organisation; en second lieu à côté des membres traditionnels, on voit apparaître des acteurs dont le poids en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation est substantiel. L'adhésion de la Communauté européenne est à l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence, la Belgique est d'avis qu'elle devrait engendrer non seulement un profit mutuel aux deux Organisations mais encore à leurs membres respectifs.

Cet environnement international en mutation met en évidence une fois de plus que l'agriculture et l'alimentation continuent à être des données primordiales pour le Monde et ce, nonobstant le fait qu'il évolue dans un contexte technologique extrêmement sophistiqué! Cette constatation m'amène à souligner des tendances que je qualifierais de préoccupantes:

1) Le recul sensible de l'accroissement de la production alimentaire dans certaines régions du globe et plus particulièrement en Afrique. Pour répondre à ce déficit et donc assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous, il faut que les niveaux adéquats pour les stocks céréaliers soient assurés. Or, je constate, à cet égard, qu'ils sont proches du minimum exigé par la FAO pour garantir uniquement la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, c'est-à-dire 17 pour cent de la consommation céréalière. Il est donc de la responsabilité commune d'oeuvrer afin de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire et d'en répartir les bienfaits. Dans un même ordre d'idée, nous répétons qu'il est impérieux d'articuler les activités du Programme Alimentaire Mondial avec celles de la FAO.

2) Le déséquilibre des échanges commerciaux mondiaux et une meilleure distribution des ressources notamment alimentaires sont des problèmes qui restent à ce jour aigus.

Comme vous le savez, la mise en place d'un système d'échange stable et équitable est le formidable enjeu des négociations multilatérales du GATT. Dans ces dernières, le dossier agricole est l'un des plus délicats. Comme, je l'ai déjà déclaré, lors de la dernière Conférence, mon pays est favorable à une libéralisation raisonnable du commerce agricole qui devrait tenir compte de la spécificité reconnue du secteur. Au plan interne de la Communauté, nous nous employons à réaménager notre politique agricole commune. Je suis persuadé que ces efforts importants conduiront à des solutions qui réduiront à la fois le déséquilibre et assureront une meilleure distribution des ressources.

3) La dette extérieure, selon la situation individuelle des pays concernés, peut être une grave entrave à la croissance et au développement de l'agriculture. Nous sommes partisans d'un renforcement significatif de la stratégie internationale en la matière et ce, en particulier au profit des pays les plus pauvres et les plus fortement endettés. Nous continuerons à agir dans ce sens au sein des enceintes multilatérales concernées.

Si l'on considère maintenant la période biennale à venir, la FAO devra adapter sa tâche intrinsèque. A cet égard le plan à moyen terme proposé est un excellent document prospectif dont il faut féliciter le Directeur général. Je considère que cette tâche devra s'organiser en fonction des trois principales missions suivantes:

1) l'information; celle-ci doit être objective car la banalisation des problèmes de la faim créée par des chiffres exagérément alarmistes engendrer la lassitude et l'indifférence de l'opinion publique.

2) donner des conseils notre Organisation doit pouvoir jouer le rôle d'une société de conseil en matière de politique de développement agricole, et il est évident que pour le remplir, elle doit continuer à compter sur un personnel de grande qualité, assuré de perspectives d'avenir.

3) l'assistance technique c'est une mission-clé de l'Organisation à laquelle mon pays est profondément attaché. Depuis de nombreuses années, nous disposons auprès de la FAO d'un Fonds fiduciaire, modeste certes, mais qui a permis de lancer et de poursuivre un certain nombre d'excellents projets.

Elle devra aussi s'adapter aux contingences extrinsèques et notamment au système des réformes des Nations Unies en veillant à ce que la direction choisie soit appropriée. C'est ainsi qu'il est indubitable que la mise en oeuvre, sous tous ses aspects, de la Résolution 44/211 de l'Assemblée générale, sur les activités opérationnelles des agences spécialisées, aura des conséquences directes pour la FAO.

Au cours de ses trente-septième et trente-huitième sessions, le Conseil d'administration du PNUD a pris des décisions importantes à propos des dépenses d'appui des agences d'exécution.

Nous espérons fermement qu'elles seront suivies d'effets grâce à l'esprit de coopération que se manifesteront mutuellement les agences spécialisées, le PNUD et les gouvernements bénéficiaires.

Je rappelle à ce sujet que la Belgique a toujours insisté sur la nécessité de préserver les compétences intellectuelles et techniques des agences. Ceci n'implique pas que les agences aient un droit de monopole sur l'exécution de projets financés par le PNUD, ni au contraire que le PNUD soit habilité à se substituer aux agences d'exécution traditionnelles. Nous sommes confiants dans la possibilité de créer, grâce aux nouveaux arrangements pour les dépenses d'appui, un nouvel équilibre entre tous les participants à l'exécution de projets y compris, pourquoi pas, le secteur privé.

Enfin pour assurer ses devoirs, notre Organisation doit impérativement sortir de l'ornière financière dans laquelle elle se trouve actuellement. Nous ne pouvons, en effet, imposer des tâches nouvelles et ambitieuses sans simultanément, tous, nous acquitter de nos obligations financières.

Pour conclure, M. le Président, je suis certain que les événements que nous vivons aujourd'hui induiront demain un nouvel état d'équilibre lequel sera, à ne pas en douter, plus fécond pour tous nos pays. Et dans cette métamorphose, je suis certain que la FAO jouera un rôle bénéfique.

Je vous remercie.<sup>1</sup>

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Es para mí un placer y un honor pedir a mi distinguido colega y amigo Embajador de Kenya ante la FAO, Don Nanjira, que por favor haga su declaración.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** I am pleased Mr Chairman, to see you in the Chair. The leader of the Kenya delegation and Minister of Agriculture for the Republic of Kenya, the Honourable Elijah Mwangale, could not travel to Rome to attend this Conference. He has, however, asked me to read the following statement on his behalf.

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<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Mr Chairman, Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegations, the Director-General of FAO, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the honour and pleasure to convey to the Twenty-sixth Conference of the FAO greetings and best wishes from the Government and people of Kenya. My delegation congratulates you and the members of your bureau on your election, and is confident that you will steer the deliberations of this Conference to a fruitful conclusion. I assure of my delegation's cooperation and full support.

I would also like to join the other delegations in congratulating and welcoming Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as full Members, and Puerto Rico as an Associate Member of FAO.

Mr Chairman, I would like to commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparation for the Conference, and to note that the agenda and the documentation before us are comprehensive and relevant to our discussions. My delegation welcomes the programmes initiated in an attempt to address issues related to the global threat of hunger and poverty that continue to be of major concern in developing countries.

It is regrettable to note that the general slowdown of the world economy during the years 1990-91, that was aggravated by the Gulf Crisis, has led to the negative impact on the economies of the developing countries. Furthermore, that the high indebtedness and debt servicing in developing countries, the continued depressed international markets for their primary commodities, and the protectionist policies of the developed countries continue to constrain the development of our countries.

We also note with great concern the expected increases in debt liabilities for the developing countries, and in particular, Africa south of the Sahara which is now faced with the highest level of debts that have reached 112 percent of the GDP. It is for this reason therefore that my delegation wishes to appreciate recent measures and programmes aimed at easing the debt burden in several developing countries. We nevertheless feel that a lot more could still be done by way of debt rescheduling, consideration of affordable interest rates and as much as possible, cancellation of some of these debts. My delegation also calls upon all donors to emulate those who have initiated such debt relief measures.

The slow growth in global food production is a source of worry for all of us. We are informed that though overall increases in growth were registered in world cereal production, in Africa the growth was not only well below the population growth but also translated into a decline in per caput terms. As a consequence, a number of countries are now facing severe food deficits, and a certain decline in per capita food consumption. The negative effects of this situation is reflected in other parameters of social and economic development where sub-Saharan Africa has the poorest performance compared to other regions.

Mr Chairman, the main explanation for this is connected with the weather and the political mishaps which have ravaged many countries of the region in the recent times. We however have the more long-term constraints which relate to the social and technological status of the region's population.

Unlike other regions, Africa is still moving from a subsistence agricultural system to a cash economy. This transition is characterized by undeveloped attitudes and social values, low level of agricultural



technology and undeveloped physical and marketing infrastructures, all of which constitute major bottlenecks to agricultural development.

The technology aspect is also very important. Agricultural research has performed quite well in the region particularly in breeding high yielding varieties of food crops and coming up with the appropriate husbandry techniques. If these were practiced or applied, farmers could easily double if not triple the yields they currently achieve. These technologies are however not widely adopted by farmers for a variety of reasons, such as: lack of finance for purchase of inputs and inadequate distribution of inputs; lack of appropriate mechanical means to aid or augment human power in farm operations; and, lack of knowledge on new technology by some farmers.

There is a strong need therefore to find a solution to these constraints. This can be done by the governments of the countries in the region through implementation of sound agricultural policies and strategies. The needed changes have amply been identified and prescribed in our past FAO Conferences and articulated inter alia under the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment and the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD). The implementation of these however leaves much to be desired. The main reason in our opinion is the lack of capacities by our governments for formulation of appropriate policies and strategies as well as for their implementation. My delegation feels that this can be alleviated through implementation of a strong programme of human resource development covering planners, agricultural economists and sociologists, extension managers, etc. The whole society has to be sensitized and mobilized to move in a well-charted direction. We believe that the basic resources for successful food and agricultural production exist, and that the people of the region can produce major achievements provided that the human resource issues are addressed. It is here that we appeal for greater focus and assistance of FAO and the international community.

My country appreciates the work which the FAO is currently carrying out, an agricultural manpower study which aims at assessing the adequacy, hence needs for technical manpower at all levels of agricultural research and extension. When this exercise is completed I earnestly hope that the Organization will proceed further to address the actions needed to rectify the situation.

In this connection we appreciate, Mr Chairman, efforts the FAO is making to assist LDCS to define, through the Programme of Action in the Second UN Conference on LDCS, an agricultural development strategy for the next ten years. The special emphasis to food security, seed improvement, animal diseases and locust control is relevant and timely. We however, urge for expanded training to support national institutions on policy analysis and agroclimatology for weather and crop monitoring. We reiterate the important role women play in development and the need for continued action to ensure support and enhancement of that role. We call for accelerated implementation of the plan of action on the integration of women in development by the Organization.

Mr Chairman, my delegation notes with regret the continued and unfavourable international markets and market prices for primary commodities from developing countries. For instance, coffee and cocoa which earn foreign exchange for many developing countries - Kenya included - have for the last

decade suffered very low prices. The situation has drastically affected our economies and incomes of our farmers. We would welcome greater initiatives to reverse this state of affairs within the context of GATT or other multilateral negotiations.

Mr Chairman, the proposed budget of US\$652 million meets with our approval. My delegation has studied the Programme of Work and Budget and supports the main priority areas being addressed. We would however like to re-emphasize our previous requests for more attention to research and technology development in agriculture for marginal areas, livestock production, aquaculture, forestry and environment. We wish to see more resources allocated to these activities. We on the other hand appreciate the continued attention given to biotechnology, as we believe this will enhance breeding programmes and maintenance of biological diversity. We especially welcome the efforts and proposals for strengthening improved seed technology and supply capacities in developing countries. Priority should be given to the improvement of indigenous food cereals, roots and tubers.

My delegation notes with keen interest the report of the Director-General on the review exercise contained in document C 91/21 and appeals for early implementation of the recommendations. The purpose of which was to enhance the operational efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of the Organization. We are encouraged by the work done so far but urge for continued effort to realize the goals of the review exercise.

Regarding WFP, my delegation is gratified that progress has been made in enhancing efficiency and effectiveness within the programme and that a basis for a more efficient working relationship between FAO and WFP has been achieved. Kenya has made a modest but genuine contribution toward these inter-agency relationships. We shall continue to work for further improvements in these mechanisms of the UN agencies.

Mr Chairman, Kenya has a large land resource and a wide diversity of livestock. Our dairy industry which is fairly well developed could however do a lot more with improvement in livestock feeds, milk collection, cooling and processing facilities. Regarding meat production we face constraints such as insufficient water supply in the rangelands, lack of improved forage particularly during the dry season, and insufficient capacity in livestock breeding and improvement.

Animal health problems and disease control in particular, are chronic constraints in terms of livestock movement to local markets and exports of livestock products. My country has made concerted efforts for many years to control or eradicate prevalent diseases affecting the livestock industry, such as F&M, CBPP, and lately lumpy skin. These efforts have, however, not produced a permanent solution because of reinfections through livestock movements across our borders. We believe that a lasting solution can be achieved if countries in the region can make appropriate arrangements for a coordinated disease control programme following the very successful example of the rinderpest campaigns of the 1960s and 70s. Joint programmes have already been agreed upon regarding CCP, CBPP and trypanosomiasis under OAU coordination, but implementation has been hampered by shortage of funds and related problems. I appeal to the international community and FAO in particular to come to our aid.

Mr Chairman, fisheries continue to be a contributor towards food security of many Member Nations. It also plays a significant role in the creation of employment opportunities. It is therefore gratifying to note that world fish production remained fairly steady with some encouraging trends particularly in aquaculture with Africa showing notable increases despite the positive trends, fisheries in Kenya continue to face a number of constraints which include high levels of post-harvest losses, poor fishing gear and severe competition between local small-scale fishermen and the deep sea commercial fishing nations, the latter of whom fish within the EEZs of the developing countries. However, my Government appreciates the contribution of FAO through the South-West Indian Ocean Programme (SWIOP) in improving statistical data collection and an on-going programme aimed at introducing improved small-scale fishing technology at the Kenyan coast.

Mr Chairman, my Government wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the conservation of the environment and supports all efforts geared towards its sustainable utilization. In this respect, we share the international concern for the continued destruction of the tropical forests.

Consistent with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), Kenya has launched a long-term national forestry master plan (KFMP) aimed at supporting sustainable agriculture, and providing forestry products to our people on a long-term basis. A major aspect of the Kenyan plan is the involvement of the people in the development, conservation and management of the forestry resource. This is due to the fact that Kenya has a limited forest cover (approximately 3 percent of the overall land area), mainly located at agriculturally high-potential, water catchment areas; and yet 90 percent of our people's energy consumption derives from fuelwood. The plan therefore envisages an extensive agroforestry programme, to cover all farmlands, and to extend forestry into Kenya's vast marginal lands. This is viewed as a realistic approach to improve the forest cover, enhance environmental conservation, and the forest resource sustainability.

Mr Chairman, Kenya greatly appreciates the support it receives from donor countries, and wishes to acknowledge the need for continued assistance, in the areas of forest research, extension, training and in forest resources inventory in order to realize greater institutional capabilities.

Concerning the recent invasion of the cypress aphid disease into our cypress plantations, I wish to thank the FAO, UNDP and the Finnish Government for their timely response to my country's appeal for assistance in combatting the pest. We still need more support since the cypress aphid threatens to wipe out all cypress plantations estimated at 116 000 hectares and the indigenous cedar (Juniperus procera) natural reserves in the next three years or so.

As these plantations are a major source of our basic industrial wood, their total destruction would reduce Kenya into a net importer of basic industrial wood. Kenya has an estimated 280 000 hectares of indigenous cedar natural reserves which are also valuable to the deadly cypress aphid disease. As the cedar forest reserves are located on important water catchments, their destruction would be a serious environmental catastrophe in Kenya, and the affected sub-region at large.

Without saying much, Mr Chairman, this is an area of grave concern to us, and calls for emergency technical and financial assistance by all friendly and sympathetic donors.

Mr Chairman, we feel that FAO has a major role to play in the development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries resources. Having examined the 1990-91 programme of work (by the FAO) my delegation notes with appreciation that in spite of the prevailing financial constraints, the Organization has achieved commendable results.

In conclusion, acknowledging that food aid requirements will continue to rise in the near future, particularly in the African region, it is a matter of great concern that current food aid levels fall below requirements. In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the turmoil and suffering of the millions of people in the Horn of Africa, which is the cradle of mankind. In this situation, Kenya has had to host many refugees and has closely co-operated with WFP and UNHCR among others in providing these people with food and shelter. We appeal to the international community to increase their support to the region in order to reduce human suffering and to initiate reconstruction and development in the affected countries. We would also wish to stress the important role food aid can play as a development resource and recommend its utilization to accelerate agricultural recovery and economic development in this area.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Kenya Government wishes to recognize the excellent role played by the donor countries, the FAO, IFAD, WFP, WFC and other UN agencies, which have generously assisted in our efforts toward accelerating food and agricultural development. We look forward to continued assistance from the donor community, which will supplement our national efforts in this field.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias a nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Don Nanjira, rogándole que transmita nuestros respetos al señor Ministro de Agricultura de Kenya.

Ruego, ahora, al Excmo. Sr. Luis Gaspar da Silva, Embajador y Representante Permanente de Portugal ante la FAO, que haga uso de la palabra.

**Luiz GASPAR DA SILVA (Portugal):** M. le Président, je vous adresse toutes mes félicitations. Malgré ma petite expérience dans le domaine multilatéral, j'estime que votre Organisation est magnifique et je vous en remercie. Ma délégation se réjouit de l'entrée dans cette instance des Pays Baltes en tant que membres. Je vous transmets les excuses du Ministre de l'agriculture du Portugal qui n'a pas pu se rendre à cette Conférence puisque, comme vous le savez tous, nous avons procédé, dans un passé récent, à des élections générales, et mon Ministre est resté sur place pour répondre aux questions des députés dans son secteur.

J'ai l'honneur de vous lire à présent le message du Ministre de l'agriculture de la République portugaise (continues in Portuguese).

I am very honoured to be speaking on behalf of the Portuguese Agriculture Minister. Might I say that my short experience here gives me hope for this Organization. I think this Organization is a magnificent one and congratulations, Mr Chairman. We welcome in our midst the Baltic countries and Puerto Rico, too, as an Associate Member.

I should like to apologize for my Minister's absence and explain the reason for his not being able to be here today. All of you, I imagine, are aware of the fact that we recently in fact, had general elections in Portugal. Today my Minister has to go before Parliament to answer agricultural questions. That is why he is unable to be here today and on his behalf I present his apologies. It is now my honour to read his speech:

The world situation of food and agriculture, in spite of the undeniable progress that has been achieved in some places, continues to present reasons for justifiable concern. Some countries have been achieving a reasonable balance between food consumption and food production while in others there are surpluses that jeopardize the proper functioning of national and international markets. For the majority of them they are still far removed from what we call self-sufficient.

In some countries the policies that have been adopted have not been very effective in containing surpluses but, after all, it is not an easy thing to do bearing in mind the legitimacy of farmers' interest, whereas in other countries, technical and financial investment, scientific insufficiency, the situation of war and instability and in some other countries very high taxes and increasing population have not facilitated the increase in production per capita that should have occurred. Africa is one country where this kind of situation presents itself in a more intensive way, where problems that are common to more or less all developing countries are particularly acute.

It is not desirable to maintain or indeed increase the distance between developed and developing countries. The principle of common interest and solidarity and equity militate against that.

However, efforts to bring two blocks closer to each other achieving appropriate levels of progress and welfare is something which requires the twofold effort of everyone. Some must increase aid in every possible way. Others must use the aid to promote development and stability. It is because of all this that my country takes the view that it is very important to apply very intensive efforts for cooperation, efforts to promote common interest between rich countries and the developing world. These must be intensified and extended in different systems and adapted on a case-by-case basis from the bilateral or multilateral cooperation to reach the objectives of all around development. We cannot dispense with either of the systems.

Within this multiple array of cooperation and help FAO occupies a very high profile situation in view of the work that has already been done to promote development and to resolve some of the very serious problems among the hungry of the world and fight human, animal and plant diseases.

The Member Nations of FAO continue to place a great deal of trust in it and desire its work to be ever more efficacious. Portugal is very happy to have complied with all its commitments in a spirit of dignity and efficiency, its commitments vis-à-vis the Organization. Of all donor countries Portugal satisfies with the highest regularity its commitments as to amounts pledged and Portugal participates according to its possibilities in other activities making contributions in favour of the needy as they are required by FAO.

More than that, however, Portugal has offered its best efforts to FAO by way of making available highly-skilled technical experts and internationally-recognized staff. These technicians have been professionally trained in the tropics over a period of many years where FAO has a majority of its development projects.

Besides this, there is a bilateral and multilateral cooperation providing for those technicians from the countries concerned who wish to finish their studies in Portugal to do so in such a way that they become the prime workers of development in their own countries which is their proper destiny, we believe.

Portugal wishes to intensify these activities ever more and to continue to be available to examine new forms of cooperation, including tripartite cooperation so that developing countries may reap the best possible benefit from their own acknowledged potential.

In missions of variable duration there have been more than one hundred Portuguese technical experts serving FAO, vying with others on the international scene, in work that does great honour to us in their field activities over the last ten years. However, my country does not believe that it can fulfil completely all of the needs of FAO. That is still far from being achieved. That is the situation, though, which the Portuguese Government would like to see achieved as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman, the Conference programme is vast and diversified, representing the multiple aspects of FAO's work, and also shows how much attention the Organization pays to the development and the progress of agriculture, silviculture, fisheries and the welfare of the people involved.

However, I do not intend, nor could I, given the short time available, to speak exhaustively about the various topics with which the Conference is exercised. The Portuguese delegation will be putting forward the position of Portugal as and when it falls to be discussed in the various Commissions.

Nevertheless, I should like to refer to some points that will surely dominate the attention of working groups at Commission level. One of these is the International Conference on Nutrition to contribute to the better understanding of nutritional problems and the better management of food resources. It will obviously have a very important part to play. We hope that in the Conference the problems of food and nutrition will be approached in a general way since the Conference will involve not only nutritionists, but also food producers, economists, sociologists, and other persons involved and interested.

Portugal is working carefully and with very great attention for the preparation of the Conference as required by FAO and it has done its best to provide technical and financial aid to Portuguese-speaking African countries.

The second point which I should like to raise is a brief reference to the International Conference on the Environment scheduled for next year in Rio de Janeiro. As one faces the dangers of more or less profound changes as they affect natural resources, one realizes that the topic is of indisputable importance. We hope that the idea of sustainable agriculture as it has been defined by the FAO Council will have immediate application

in the world threatened by the agents of its own destruction. We have been witnessing intense pollution of the environment, the ground, the air, the water, contamination of the water and the air in an irresponsible way.

We have witnessed natural vegetation being destroyed by improper use of soil. We have seen rain forests being destroyed in an unbelievable way: an area equivalent to one football ground disappearing every two seconds. We have seen the degradation of the soil and the looming desertification that follows. Eventually, we end up destroying our very potential. We will not be able to sustain production in a lasting way. The problem is already serious now, but its importance increases ever more when this sort of situation occurs in areas in which food production is the overriding priority. More than one third of Portuguese territory is under forest. Forest production produces important export earnings from cork, resins, tannins, essence, wood and paper, for example. But the forest's potential has been strongly adversely affected by forest fires raging in dry seasons. These are very difficult to control, as indeed is the case in other Mediterranean countries. In 1985, forest fires ravaged 146 000 hectares in Portugal. This year, the provisional figure is 160 000 hectares. This is a very unfortunate record figure, one that must give us concern when one bears in mind the amount of wood burned and the indirect effect on soil in neighbouring agricultural areas. Europe is witnessing the destruction of its forest patrimony by acid rain and fire. We are not sufficiently exercised by the forest fires, although we do understand the difficulty of those countries where these matters are important. We hope that they understand our problems, conversely, and those of other countries in a similar ecological situation. Thus, it will become possible to study and carry out a plan for protecting the forests throughout Europe, a plan of interest to everyone. For that reason, my country took an active part in the World Forest Congress where forest-related problems were discussed with great expertise and in very great depth.

Similarly, we celebrated World Food Day with its motto of "Trees for Life". We also maintain the regular campaigns that we carry out to encourage people of Portugal to eat sensibly in the light of the most up-to-date nutritional science. We have alerted young people to this problem through schools where nutrition issues have been studied. On the other hand, the Portuguese people in general are very aware of the problem of hunger in the world. That is probably easy to understand if one bears in mind our links with areas where hunger is ravaging most seriously, which go back some 500 years.

Portuguese is a language spoken by more than 200 million people in the world today, covering seven FAO Member Nations, and by an immense number of people in the Portuguese diaspora. We believe that we have the right to express ourselves in our own language in international organizations, a language in which it is easiest for us to convey our points of view, which is not the case when we are forced to use another language. In some UN organizations, Portuguese is already a working language. At some FAO meetings we have already been authorized to use our language. For more than ten years now, we have been drawing the attention of FAO to this. We have asked FAO to study and resolve this problem with the support of all other Portuguese-speaking countries. We are sure we are not asking for the impossible. But we believe that this matter has not been given sufficient attention to date.

Forty-six years ago, a group of men with an open vision of the future and open minds, desirous of working together for the community, created the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. As a Portuguese poet said God wants man to work and dream. As we look back on the years behind, we see reasons to congratulate ourselves on the work that has been done, but we also see tremendous challenges ahead. More and more, we must unite our work and our resources to make into reality that dream which our ancestors had of a more human world.

**Datuk Seri SANUSI JUNID (Malaysia):** Mr Chairman, fellow delegates, on behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf I would like to join other delegates that have spoken before me congratulating you for your unanimous election as Chairman of this august assembly. Let me also convey my greetings and best wishes to all delegates and to others present here.

Mr Chairman, 1991 is a special year for Malaysia. It is the year in which three programmes were announced by the Malaysian Government, namely: the Sixth Malaysia Plan; the National Development Policy; and, Vision 2020.

While the Sixth Malaysia Plan underlines the programmes for Malaysia's development for the next five years, the National Development Policy provides a guideline of development for the next ten years and Vision 2020, which is a perfect vision, is hoped to enlist Malaysia among the list of developed countries in thirty years' time.

Nineteen ninety-one is also a special figure which reads the same, that is - one nine nine one - whether it is read from the front or from the back. It is nineteen and nineteen in reverse. And nineteen is a very special number for it combines two special numbers, one and nine. One, when multiplied by any number, gives the same number as its answer, while nine when multiplied by any number gives a number or numbers which, when added, and added, totals nine. Looking into the Quran, one finds a sentence which reads *Alaiha Tis Ata Ashara* which means above everything is nineteen. A computer scientist has inserted the whole verses of the Quran into a computer, and when he calls the number nineteen, then the sentence "Bismillah His Rahma Nir Rahim" appears on the computer screen. This sentence, which has 19 Arabic letters, means "in the name of God, the Beneficent and the Merciful". that Malaysia has launched a Jihad, not against man but against the enemy of all man, and that enemy is called poverty.

Nineteen ninety-one is also a special year for the world. It is in 1991 that all the ungodly ideologies of the world begin to crumble.

I have dwelt at length on the subject of poverty in this same assembly on 12 November 1987 and on 20 November 1989. I had also discussed the same subject in other international fora.

Being an important subject, poverty was secularized by the politicians in Britain after the industrial revolution. Since then, poverty has become a subject for politicians and academicians. Malaysia has decided to give a religious commitment to poverty in order that the interest in poverty does not end with the election victory or upon completion of an academic thesis.

Eradication of poverty should therefore be a divine mission.



The elimination of poverty is almost synonymous with the elimination of bondage, bondage of men and bondage of nations. There can be no real freedom with poverty, either freedom of men or freedom of nations.

Alexander Fraser Tytler, a Scottish economist wrote in 1876 as follows:

Man moves from bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependency; from dependency back again into bondage.

We would like to congratulate the Director-General and his staff for presenting document C91/23, on poverty, setting out the programme priorities for FAO activities during the period 1992-97.

Malaysia will continue its efforts at eradication of poverty, as it was undertaken, under the earlier, twenty-year New Economic Policy. With the reduction in the incidence of poverty achieved under Malaysia's previous policy, we are now paying attention to relative poverty and the remaining hardcore poverty.

Based on our experience in reducing the incidence of poverty and the experiences of other nations, we are now planning the establishment of WIPER which is the acronym for "World Institute for Poverty Eradication".

I have mentioned WIPER at the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, in Beijing China between 23 and 27 April 1990. In order to accommodate for differences in ideology, culture and democratic practices, WIPER, in each country, should be an independent, private, national training institution, the idea for which can be shared internationally.

We will institutionalize all our experiences, and that of others, in poverty eradication, in the hope that WIPER will eventually Wipe Out Poverty. When WIPER exists in more than one country there can be exchange of experiences, technique, and methodology.

WIPER may seek funding from private, national and international organizations.

WIPER does not need an international bureaucracy; it should each be an independent national organization.

In view of the obvious benefits of sharing experiences, and to highlight the continuing need to address the poverty issue, Malaysia, together with the Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization, will be holding a Regional Workshop on Poverty in January 1992. You are all invited.

Malaysia welcomes "Trees for Life" as a theme for this year's World Food Day. We take note that the developed nations of the world have suffered as a result of not taking note of, and ignoring, Plato's warning as far back as 2 400 years ago on the danger of deforestation and soil erosion.

We noted that the Den Bosch Conference on Agriculture and the Environment held in April 1991 dealt only with Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) in the developing world. Taking heed of Plato, SARD in the developed world should also be addressed, when we are talking of Our Common Future.

Malaysia is committed to the current negotiation on a 'Non-Legally Binding, Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development' of all types of forest, held by the preparatory committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which will be finalized at its next session on 2 March in New York.

Malaysia has also taken note of the report by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change which attributed only 9 percent of the total carbon dioxide emission into the atmosphere to deforestation, as compared to 75 percent emission through other uses and applications in the developed countries.

Malaysia is also looking forward to the successful conclusion of the negotiations by the Inter-Governmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Despite all this, despite Malaysia having 56.8 percent of its total land area under natural forest cover, while this land under agriculture is mainly under rubber and oil palm forests, we are subjected to campaigns by the NGOs to boycott our timber. These people, who are supposed to be concerned on damage caused by logging, were timid, silent, indifferent and didn't even squeak when raging fires were recently destroying tens of thousands of hectares of forests in ASEAN, causing hazy conditions.

The Asian consciousness in the importance of oxygen for life is symbolized by the record of a Chinese farmer who died in 1933 at the age of 254. When he was 200 years old the University Medical Journal recorded an interview with him whereby he narrated that for around 190 years he had been doing three things every day, that is: Walked three miles a day; drank Chinese tea every day, and drank ginseng daily.

While the relationship of walking and health is well known, it appears that Chinese tea will help to drain the fatty elements in food down the stomach, where fat absorption into the system is minimal. It was only after the Second World War that a Japanese expert, in collaboration with a German, discovered the compound which the Japanese named, in honour of his then-deceased German friend, Germanium. Germanium is said to be an oxygen-generating compound and ginseng appears to be the plant with the most germanium, i.e., about 3 000 parts per million.

If this long life is in any way proof of the importance of oxygen, the lack of it is certainly a threat to a long and comfortable life. Such is the importance of Trees for Life. But a long life in poverty is also a long life in bondage. And this is certainly not what the FAO is fighting for.

As it is, I am informed that the FAO, which is a technical organization, whose membership is limited to nations, and has not yet succeeded in recruiting all nations as its members, is intending to consider the inclusion of a regional economic integrated association as its member. While this act might not help to improve the food and agriculture welfare of Member Nations, it might be noted that it might help to consolidate the unsettled unity of the association of nations.

But this is not the function of the FAO.

When even matters of environment and development are brought to the United Nations, we should at least be polite to know the limit of our responsibilities.

Reason and justice do not know the boundaries between developed and developing nations. The future of the FAO depends on its ability to look after the welfare of the people of its Member Nations. Member Nations, whether free or not from economic bondage, should be free to decide on the programmes and welfare of nations and leave politics to each individual nation and to the United Nations. Thank you.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias Excmo. Sr. Ministro de Agricultura de Malasia por su interesante declaración. Tomaremos ging-seng, caminaremos mucho y el 1992 nos traerá larga vida.

The delegation of Burkina Faso has handed in its statement for inclusion in the record of the proceedings of the Conference.

**T. KONATE (Burkina Faso):** La vingt-sixième session de notre Organisation est l'occasion, une fois encore, de faire la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

A cette importante circonstance, je voudrais au nom de la délégation burkinabé apporter notre contribution aux débats à l'ordre du jour et vous témoigner, M. le Président, M. le Directeur général de la FAO, la gratitude du peuple burkinabé pour l'audience toujours grandissante de notre organisation qui vient d'enregistrer avec joie l'adhésion des républiques d'Estonie, de Lettonie et de Lituanie en qualité de Membres à part entière, et de Porto Rico comme Membre Associé.

Qu'il me soit permis de souhaiter la bienvenue à ces nouveaux membres et de leur exprimer la disponibilité du Burkina Faso à collaborer avec eux pour le triomphe des nobles objectifs de la FAO.

L'agriculture au Burkina Faso est le secteur clé, le plus important, le moteur de l'économie nationale. Elle contribue à plus de 40 pour cent au PIB et occupe 80 à 90 pour cent de la population active.

Cependant la forte dégradation des ressources naturelles, aggravée par la persistance de la sécheresse et l'inadaptation des systèmes d'exploitation agricole, caractérise l'environnement dans lequel notre agriculture doit faire face aux besoins alimentaires et nutritionnels toujours croissants.

Concernant la présente campagne, la pluviométrie a été en volume, meilleure à l'année passée, même si on déplore quelques insuffisances dans la répartition spatio-temporelle. La période pluviale a connu un étalement exceptionnel et les abondantes pluies intervenues en phase de maturité totale des cultures vont entraîner des pertes par dégradation de la production.

Les premières estimations de production céréalière confirment des résultats meilleurs à ceux de la campagne dernière. Pour toutes céréales confondues, la production nationale est évaluée à 2 200 000 tonnes.

Cependant, cette production n'étant pas répartie de manière homogène sur le territoire, des actions de régulation sont indispensables pour combler le déficit céréalier constaté dans 12 provinces sur les 30 que compte le pays.

Aussi le niveau de fiabilité de nos statistiques, qui dépendent surtout des moyens dont dispose la structure de collecte, demande que nous voyions à travers ces résultats de sondage des ordres de grandeur.

Dans le domaine des statistiques, beaucoup de choses restent à faire au Burkina qui n'a pas encore réalisé un recensement général de l'agriculture (RGA). C'est pourquoi nous avons soumis à l'appréciation de nos partenaires de la communauté internationale l'Enquête nationale sur les statistiques agricoles que nous espérons conduire et qui nous fournira sans doute des données de base.

A cet effet, les progrès du projet du Centre mondial de l'information agricole (CMIA) qui ont abouti à la matérialisation d'une base de données informatisées, nous permettront de faire un pas dans l'amélioration des statistiques agricoles.

L'ordre du jour de la vingt-sixième session de notre Organisation, judicieusement établi, nous permettra d'aborder des sujets aussi importants que: l'ajustement agricole international; l'aide aux pays les moins avancés en vue de définir une stratégie du développement agricole; le problème de l'intégration des femmes au processus de développement; les activités et programmes de l'Organisation; le programme de coopération technique de la FAO; l'accession des Organisations d'intégration économique régionales à la FAO; les activités de l'Organisation en matière d'environnement et de développement. Somme toute, des sujets d'une grande importance pour le Burkina.

Concernant l'environnement, le Burkina a approfondi son approche sur le déséquilibre de son écosystème. Le Plan d'action national pour l'environnement (PANE) a fait suite au Plan national de lutte contre la désertification en vigueur depuis 1986, afin de prendre en compte tous les aspects environnementaux.

Avec cette approche, notre ambition est d'amener chaque communauté de base à une autogestion efficace de son terroir. Notre pays figure parmi les premiers Etats sahéliens à prendre de grandes options en matière d'environnement. L'adoption, depuis plusieurs années déjà (1985) d'un Plan national de lutte contre la désertification, la promulgation d'un décret portant réorganisation agraire et foncière (RAF), l'engagement des trois luttes (contre les feux de brousses, la coupe anarchique du bois, la divagation des animaux) et la création du Comité National de lutte contre la désertification sont autant de preuves de l'intention arrêtée par le Burkina de s'attaquer résolument et à tous les niveaux aux problèmes qui gênent le développement économique et social du pays.

Pour ce faire, le Burkina a entrepris des réformes de son économie et de son agriculture à travers l'élaboration d'un programme d'ajustement du secteur agricole (PASA).

En effet, dans le cadre de l'engagement de notre pays dans une politique de restructuration de l'économie, les priorités au niveau du secteur agricole ont été placées autour de trois objectifs: la modernisation de la

diversification de la production; le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire; et l'amélioration de la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Dans ce cadre une Lettre de politique de développement agricole (LPDA) et une matrice de mesures en cours de rédaction font déjà l'objet de concertation avec nos partenaires de la communauté internationale.

Les femmes, qui représentent un peu plus de la moitié de la population du Burkina (environ 52 pour cent), sont largement prises en compte dans ces activités de restructuration de notre économie.

Cela est particulièrement vrai dans le secteur agricole car leur proportion dans la population active est plus importante en milieu rural du fait que la population masculine est plus touchée par l'émigration et par l'exode rural.

Les efforts d'intégration de la femme burkinabé au processus de réformes en cours se traduisent par des actions telles que: l'adoption d'un nouveau code des personnes et de la famille; la promotion du mouvement coopératif féminin qui a permis la création de plusieurs centaines de groupements villageois; les programmes nationaux d'alphabétisation de masse; le développement du crédit en faveur des femmes organisées en groupements; l'accès des femmes à plus de postes de responsabilité dans les administrations, les unités de production et les organisations politiques; l'allègement - par le développement des garderies d'enfants, la vulgarisation des moulins à grains, des foyers améliorés et des forages d'eau équipés de pompes - de certaines corvées traditionnellement dévolues aux femmes, de sorte que celles-ci peuvent se consacrer à d'autres activités de développement.

En matière d'information sur la sécurité alimentaire, nous ne pouvons passer sous silence l'effort louable que la FAO réalise toujours dans le fonctionnement du Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture (SMIAR).

Les informations que nous recevons périodiquement, nous permettent d'avoir une vue d'ensemble sur la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle et la physionomie de la Campagne agricole de la grande zone agroclimatique dans laquelle se trouve le Burkina. Le SMIAR nous aide à dégager des perspectives dans nos analyses sur la situation nationale.

Notre souhait est qu'un tel système d'information puisse être mis en oeuvre à l'échelle nationale. Des mesures dans ce sens sont en train d'être envisagées et nous solliciterons le moment venu l'appui de la FAO.

La présente session aura à se pencher sur les modifications des Textes fondamentaux de notre Organisation dans le but de donner la possibilité aux Organisations d'intégration économique régionales (OIER) d'être membre de la FAO.

Avant d'aborder ce sujet, nous voulons préalablement présenter nos félicitations au Groupe de travail et au CQCJ pour leur compétence et pour le travail de qualité qu'ils ont réalisé.

C'est une première dans la vie de notre institution d'ouvrir ses portes aux organisations d'intégration économique régionales. Cela demande un engagement politique certain de la part des Etats Membres, pour donner une autre dimension à la FAO.

Sur ce point, le Burkina réaffirme sa volonté d'oeuvrer de concert avec toutes les organisations dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. C'est pourquoi il est favorable à la prise des dispositions statutaires permettant l'adhésion de toute OIER dont les compétences rendront plus performante la FAO.

Le Burkina Faso souligne cependant que les prérogatives d'une organisation-membre doivent être différentes de celles des Etats Membres.

Le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation est le reflet de la récession économique mondiale actuelle. Il est caractérisé entre autres par: un maintien de la croissance zéro; une compression de certains programmes prioritaires; et une stagnation du budget du Programme de coopération technique (PCT).

Ce budget d'austérité et de rigueur qui est soumis pour adoption à la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence nous interpelle sur la persistance des grands problèmes mondiaux que sont la faim et la pauvreté.

Nous regrettons profondément que certaines activités de terrain de la FAO, essentielles pour nous, aient été supprimées ou réduites à leur plus simple expression.

C'est le cas des programmes engrais et d'aménagements hydro-agricoles qui enregistrent une diminution des ressources au moment même où les pays africains en particulier ont adopté massivement des mesures de protection de leur environnement.

A cet égard, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, placée cette année sous le thème arbre source de vie a été largement célébrée au Burkina Faso, pays sahélien confronté au déséquilibre écologique sol-végétation-climat.

Concernant plus particulièrement le Programme de coopération technique, le Burkina Faso tient à rendre hommage à la FAO pour les efforts consentis dans ce domaine.

Le PCT demeure à nos yeux l'un des moyens les plus efficaces dont dispose notre Organisation pour réaliser les objectifs qui lui sont assignés et mérite par conséquent d'être poursuivi.

Le Burkina Faso regrette cependant que, malgré les efforts déployés par le Directeur général, le budget du PCT ne représente qu'une infime partie (11,9 pour cent) du budget total.

Nous en appelons ici au respect de la Résolution 9/89 de la dernière Conférence qui invitait le Directeur général à tout mettre en oeuvre pour porter le budget de ce programme au niveau de 14 à 17 pour cent du budget de la FAO.

Près d'un demi-siècle après la création de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, le problème de la malnutrition reste toujours d'actualité. Le Burkina Faso est d'avis que seule des actions concertées au plan régional et international permettront de juguler ce fléau.

Aussi le Burkina Faso prépare-t-il activement la prochaine Conférence Internationale sur la Nutrition qui aura lieu en 1992. Un Comité mis en place par le Gouvernement est à pieds d'oeuvre pour préparer un atelier national sur ce thème et finaliser le rapport national avant la fin de l'année 1991.

Je vous remercie.<sup>1</sup>

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Quedan aún tres oradores pendientes para el debate general que vamos a suspender ahora de acuerdo con lo que habíamos convenido. Me excuso con los representantes de esas tres Organizaciones, pero les ruego que permanezcan en esta sala porque después de la adopción del Informe de la Comisión III sobre el tema 24, continuará el debate general que de todos modos deberá concluir hoy.

Quisiera ahora pedirles a todos ustedes que se preparen para participar en el debate del tema siguiente, para lo cual, ruego a mi distinguido colega y amigo, Sr. Samuel Fernández (Chile), Presidente de la Comisión III, que venga al podium. El Consejero Legal está listo también.

Espero que se mantendrá una adecuada permanencia de los delegados en esta sala, porque luego, como todos saben, procederemos a votar, por dos tercios, un importante proyecto de Resolución.

Espero que todos ustedes tengan el documento C 91/REP/I, proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - Parte I.

En primer lugar, voy a conceder la palabra a mi distinguido colega y amigo el Dr Samuel Fernández, Representante de Chile, distinguido y competente Presidente de la Comisión III, quien va a presentar este documento.

## ADOPTION OF REPORT

## ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

## APROBACION DEL INFORME

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

## QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET ADMINISTRATIVES

## ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

### A. Constitutional and Legal Matters

### A. Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques

### A. Asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

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<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

- 24. Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO
- 24. Accession d'organisations d'intégration économique régionale à la qualité de membre de la FAO
- 24. Adhesión como miembros de la FAO de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica
- Amendments to the Basic Texts of the Organization (including Resolution.../91)
- Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation (y compris la Résolution.../91)
- Enmiendas de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización (incluida la Resolución.../91)

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente de la Comisión III):** Muchísimas gracias Sr. Presidente, muy gentil. Tengo el honor de presentar ante la Plenaria de la Conferencia el informe de los trabajos de la Comisión III que me honro en presidir, relativos al tema 24 de nuestra Agenda titulado Adhesión como miembros de la FAO de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica y Enmiendas de los Textos Fundamentales de la Organización.

La Comisión analizó en profundidad este tema en sus sesiones del martes 12 y viernes 15 recién pasados. Su informe, elaborado por los relatores, los distinguidos representantes de Marruecos, Sr. Sinaceur, y Senegal, Sr. Aidara está contenido en el documento C 91/III/REP/1, que la Conferencia tiene a la vista.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, el documento citado contiene el proyecto de Resolución que la Comisión III adoptó en votación, sin votos en contra el cual propone las enmiendas necesarias a la Constitución y al Reglamento General de la FAO. Si la Plenaria de la Conferencia lo aprueba, las Organizaciones Regionales de Integración Económica podrán ingresar como miembros, dentro de las normas y características que dichas enmiendas contemplan.

Culmina así un largo proceso de casi tres años, en el que han participado diversos órganos de la FAO, numerosas delegaciones y personas que es justo reconocer.

El Consejo estudió la materia en su 99º período de sesiones en junio pasado, y propuso proyectos de enmienda. Sus deliberaciones fueron sustanciales como le consta a su Presidente, el Embajador de Bélgica, quien en todo momento siguió muy de cerca estas deliberaciones desde el Consejo como en otras instancias. Correspondió asimismo una destacada labor al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, presidido por el Embajador de Chipre. Ello permitió dar el marco legal adecuado a las distintas posiciones de enmiendas a nuestros Textos Fundamentales. Luego, en su última etapa y tal vez la más decisiva, un Comité de Estados Miembros, nombrado por el Director General, previa consulta con los grupos regionales, tuvo la tarea de conciliar las diversas posturas y de avanzar en un texto de compromiso, de intensas negociaciones que luego ha adoptado la Comisión.

Desempeñó un papel destacado y de capital importancia el Presidente del Comité, precisamente Usted, Sr. Presidente, distinguido Embajador Bula Hoyos (Colombia).



En todo momento, se ha contado además con la eficiente asesoría y colaboración del Consejero Jurídico Dr. Moore y de su equipo, una tarea por momentos abrumadora que me honro en resaltar.

Sr. Presidente, señores delegados, tal como lo expresaba hace pocos días el Director General, le correspondió a la FAO el privilegio, pero al mismo tiempo, la responsabilidad de ser los pioneros en enmendar sus textos para permitir el ingreso de las ORIE. Es una materia sumamente compleja y de vastas proyecciones para el sistema de los organismos internacionales, una labor en suma novedosa por sus alcances jurídicos para el desarrollo progresivo del derecho internacional y de enormes perspectivas para el robustecimiento de la trascendental acción que vienen realizando los organismos, para el progreso de las naciones.

Ustedes, distinguidos delegados, podrán encontrar en las enmiendas propuestas conceptos como la transferencia de competencia, el ejercicio alternativo de los derechos de miembros, la cláusula de asimilación, la declaración de competencia, el ejercicio por competencias del derecho a voto y otros que son particulares y en gran medida nuevos para los organismos del sistema.

Este es un gran logro pero al mismo tiempo un desafío para la FAO y para esta Conferencia en particular. No ha sido una tarea fácil, por el contrario, se debieron sortear grandes dificultades y a veces apasionadas discusiones. Todos, y me permito resaltarlo, todos han contribuido y dado pruebas de un profundo sentido de buena voluntad y de conciliación.

El texto que tenemos ante nosotros así lo demuestra, sin embargo lleva implícito no sólo el gran esfuerzo de unidad, sino también las interrogantes y legítimas preocupaciones de quienes han accedido a posponerlas en aras de un acuerdo general; este es su mérito, y al mismo tiempo, su mensaje.

Sr. Presidente, de adoptarse estas enmiendas a los Textos básicos, como lo esperamos, la FAO podría haber enriquecido y robustecido su acción de sus múltiples competencias.

Las organizaciones internacionales de integración económica que ingresen en el futuro cercano o más adelante podrán contribuir decisivamente a ello y a redoblar nuestra atención en pro de quienes más lo necesiten.

Así, contaremos con su aporte indispensable y sus inmensos avances y capacidades; así, también podremos vanagloriarnos de haber sido los primeros en hacer realidad las esperanzas que, por encima de legítimas divergencias, les abren sudorosamente las puertas de nuestra Organización.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias a usted distinguido Presidente de la Comisión III por su excelente presentación; gracias también a los colegas y amigos, Sinaceur, de Marruecos y Aidara, de Senegal, quienes realizaron un valioso trabajo para la preparación de este documento.

Señores delegados, después de que concluyó la discusión de este tema en la Comisión III, con el resultado que muchos de ustedes conocen, siguieron las consultas entre los distintos representantes de Gobiernos, con el objeto sincero por parte de quienes han participado en todas estas negociaciones

de lograr un consenso en torno a este asunto que es realmente muy importante.

Es así que, antes de someter a ustedes este documento, quiero asumir una responsabilidad más en todo este largo proceso al transmitirles una enmienda o un agregado que ha sido el fruto de las consultas celebradas entre algunos de los que han participado en esos contactos.

Les ruego que tomen el documento C 91/REP/1. En el proyecto de Resolución, al final del segundo párrafo de los considerandos que empiezan por las palabras recordando asimismo... y que termina... Artículo XX de la Constitución de la FAO, - espero que sea claro -, se agregaría lo siguiente:... y teniendo en cuenta en particular el contenido del párrafo 260 del Informe del Consejo, documento C 91/LIM/23. Repito: se agregaría al final del segundo considerando del proyecto de Resolución las siguientes palabras:... y teniendo en cuenta en particular el contenido del párrafo 260 del Informe del Consejo, documento C 91/LIM/23.

El citado párrafo 260 del Informe de la Reunión del Consejo celebrado en junio pasado en su 99º período de sesiones dice lo siguiente: El Consejo reiteró que la forma de admisión como miembro para las Organizaciones Regionales de Integración Económica debe ser sui generis. Repito: El Consejo reiteró que la forma de admisión como miembro para las Organizaciones Regionales de Integración Económica debe ser sui generis.

A fin de que todos seamos conscientes de qué es lo que exactamente vamos a votar, quiero también pedirle al Consejero Legal que lea y explique en inglés algunas diferencias de traducción que parecen afectar sobre todo al texto castellano en relación con el párrafo 2 del Artículo XLI del Reglamento General.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to an error in the Spanish translation in the third line of paragraph 2 of General Rule XLI.2. The words here in the third line should in fact read Organization Member and its Member States has competence in respect of any specific question. Therefore the word in Spanish which is ejercerá should in fact read tiene. If I can now read that paragraph again in its entirety, it is as follows - and I am reading the English text and I hope the interpreters can change the word ejercerá to "tiene" in this paragraph as I read it. "Before any meeting of the Organization the Member Organization or its Member States shall indicate which, as between the Member Organization and its Member States, has competence in respect of any specific question to be considered in the meeting and which, as between the Member Organization and its Member States, shall exercise the right to vote in respect of each particular agenda item".

I would like to stress once more this affects only the Spanish version. It does not affect the English and French versions which are correct. Thank you very much.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sinceramente espero que la adición que me he permitido proponer y la aclaración que nuestro Consejero Legal ha hecho podrán contribuir a crear un ambiente de serenidad y de entendimiento, dentro del cual este importante tema habrá de merecer la mejor atención de esta Conferencia.

Ha sido otra vez un largo ejercicio del cual se han hecho concesiones de una y otra parte, y ahora tengo la impresión fundada de que podríamos avanzar de manera muy satisfactoria.

Podemos entonces ahora considerar en el documento C 91/REP/1, los párrafos 1 a 10.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 10

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 10

PARRAFOS 1 A 10

**EL PRESIDENTE** ¿Ningún comentario sobre los párrafos 1 a 10?

Paragraphs 1 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 11, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 11, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 11, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al párrafo 11 que contiene el proyecto de Resolución sobre cuyo texto total es necesario adelantar una votación nominal, o sea, llamar a los países por sus nombres, y para la cual se requieren dos tercios de los votos.

Voy a pasar la palabra al Secretario para que explique la modalidad de esa votación.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Nous arrivons donc au vote sur l'amendement de l'Acte constitutif et le Règlement général.

L'Article XX-1 de l'Acte constitutif stipule que la Conférence peut à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés amender le présent Acte. Cette majorité doit néanmoins être supérieure à la moitié du nombre total des Etats Membres de l'Organisation.

Selon l'Article XII-7(a) du Règlement général, un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité des deux tiers est requise en vertu d'un Acte constitutif.

L'Article XII-3(c) du Règlement général stipule que lorsque, en vertu de l'Acte constitutif, une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total des suffrages exprimés pour ou contre doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation.

Il faut donc en l'occurrence que le nombre de voix pour et contre qui vont être émises soit d'au moins 81. Le Secrétariat doit maintenant informer le Président du nombre de délégués présents dans la salle.

J'informe le Président que mes collègues me signalent qu'il y a au moins 102 délégations dans la salle.

Selon l'Article XII-7(a) du Règlement général, le vote par appel nominal se fait de la manière suivante: le vote par appel nominal se fait en appelant dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais les noms de tous les pays des Etats Membres ayant le droit de prendre part au vote en commençant par un Etat, tiré au sort par le Président. L'Etat qui a le privilège d'être le premier votant est donc la Turquie. Le vote doit commencer par la Turquie. Je précise que le représentant de chaque Etat Membre, à l'appel de son nom devra répondre par oui, non ou abstention. A l'issue du vote, il sera procédé à un nouvel appel de tous les Etats Membres dont les délégués ou représentants n'auraient pas répondu au premier appel. Le vote de chaque Etat Membre prenant part à un vote par appel nominal est consigné au procès-verbal.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ruego a la Secretaría que proceda a llamar a los países a partir del Estado que ha sido sorteado como primero.

Vote

Vote

Votación

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTATES

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APEEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
1st Vote sur  
Votación para Amendment to the Basic Texts - Membership of Regional Economic  
Integration Organizations in FAO

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	107
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	44

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	107
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	81
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ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

Date: 18 November 1991

Elections Officer B. Linley

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 de 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                      ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
26 Session de la Conférence                      APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia           VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

1st Vote sur                      Amendment to the Basic Texts - Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO

Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan	X				China	X				Germany	X			
Albania				X	Colombia	X				Ghana	X			
Algeria	X				Comoros			X		Greece	X			
Angola	X				Congo	X				Grenada				X
Argentina	X				Cook Islands				X	Guatemala	X			
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guinea	X			
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire	X				Guinea-Bissau				X
Bahamas				X	Cuba	X				Guyana	X			
Bahrain				X	Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Bangladesh	X				Czechoslovakia	X				Honduras	X			
Barbados				X	D.P. Republic of Korea	X				Hungary	X			
Belgium	X				Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin	X				Djibouti	X				India	X			
Bhutan	X				Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia	X				Dominican Republic	X				Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X			
Botswana	X				Ecuador				X	Iraq	X			
Brazil	X				Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea	X				Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Estonia				X	Jamaica				X
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Japan			X	
Canada	X				Fiji				X	Jordan				X
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X				Kenya	X			
Central African Republic				X	France	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X			
Chad				X	Gabon	X				Kuwait	X			
Chile	X				Gambia				X	Laos				X

Session of the Conference ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
 26 Session de la Conférence APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
 Período de sesiones de la Conferencia VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS  
 Vote on  
 1st Vote sur Amendment to the Basic Texts - Membership of Regional Economic Integration Organizations in FAO  
 Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Latvia				X	Nigeria	X				Swaziland	X			
Lebanon	X				Norway	X				Sweden	X			
Lesotho	X				Oman	X				Switzerland	X			
Liberia				X	Pakistan	X				Syria	X			
Libya	X				Panama	X				Tanzania	X			
Lithuania				X	Papua New Guinea				X	Thailand	X			
Luxembourg	X				Paraguay				X	Togo	X			
Madagascar	X				Peru	X				Tonga	X			
Malawi	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Malaysia			X		Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Maldives				X	Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Mali				X	Qatar				X	Uganda	X			
Malta	X				Romania	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
Mauritania	X				Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Mauritius				X	St. Kitts & Nevis				X	USA	X		t	
Mexico	X				Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mongolia				X	St. Vincent & Grenadines				X	Vanuatu				X
Morocco	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela				X
Mozambique				X	Saudi Arabia	X				Viet Nam				X
Myanmar	X				Senegal	X				Yemen				X
Namibia				X	Sierra Leone				X	Yugoslavia	X			
Nepal				X	Solomon Islands				X	Zaire	X			
Netherlands	X				Somalia				X	Zambia	X			
New Zealand				X	Spain	X				Zimbabwe				X
Nicaragua	X				Sri Lanka	X								
Niger	X				Sudan	X								

Paragraph 11, including Draft Resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 11, y compris le projet de Résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 11, incluido el proyecto de Resolución, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En mi lista tengo cuatro oradores que quieren intervenir: Brasil, México, Estados Unidos y Argentina.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brazil):** The Brazilian delegation would like to register the views of its Government concerning this Resolution.

First of all, let me stress once again that the Brazilian Government firmly supports the admission of the EEC in FAO, in the belief that its participation will surely contribute to strengthen FAO activities and initiatives. It was this positive attitude that led the Brazilian government to support this Resolution.

However, the understanding of my Government is that the form of this admission will have political implications for the whole multilateral system. As such, some technical and juridical aspects of the modifications in FAO Basic Texts must be deeply examined and clarified. The Brazilian delegation has participated in the working group led by the Honourable Ambassador Bula Hoyos, from Colombia, and expressed on several opportunities the points of views of the Brazilian Government.

Regarding Article II.3 as it was in the last text adopted by Commission III, the Brazilian Government thinks that the admission of Regional Economic Integration Organizations as a member in the same juridical category as countries is not the appropriate solution. The establishment of a juridical similarity, within FAO membership between REIOs and states, entities that are juridically so distant, may create an important precedent in the United Nations multilateral system that may have serious and unforeseen consequences.

The Brazilian Government fully agrees with the CCLM that, from a juridical point of view it would be more appropriate to admit REIOs in FAO as Member Organizations, as opposed to Member States, in order to reflect more precisely the sui generis kind of membership of REIOs.

With respect to Article II.4, the Brazilian Government believes that the final text and particularly the commentary included by proposal of Colombia after Article II.4 makes it very difficult for REIOs other than the EEC to apply to be admitted in FAO as a member. My Government is of the view that the eligibility criteria should be more flexible. The Brazilian Government also thinks that the text is already too restrictive. Therefore, any REIO that managed to fulfil the necessary requirements should have the right to be admitted in FAO, in the same way I am sure, the EEC will be. We will not accept further discrimination against REIOs.

Concerning paragraph 3 of Rule XLI, the Brazilian Government is of the opinion that its final text is not compatible with the principle of alternative rights of participation of Member Organizations. The most appropriate text would be one that gives the right to speak as a member to only one party, either the REIO or its Member States, but never both. The intervention of the other party, if allowed, could be reflected in the report only in the same quality as interventions of observers. My



Government expects that the present text does not result in the REIO having an additional voice - in the case of the EEC, having 13 interventions of members reflected in the report. If this happens, the Brazilian Government reserves its position to reconsider this issue again the coming Conferences.

The Brazilian delegation requests that this declaration be included in extenso in the report of this Conference and taken into account in future discussions of this issue in FAO or other fora.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias al distinguido representante de Brasil por su explicación de voto que, como todas las demás, constará en la actas de esta Conferencia.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México):** Agradezco el que usted me conceda el uso de la palabra para explicar el voto de mi delegación sobre este tema que, a nuestro juicio, es de enorme importancia.

Es nuestro pensamiento que los Textos Fundamentales fueron elaborados por los miembros fundadores con esmero y cuidado, de manera tal que recogieran con precisión los motivos de la constitución de la FAO, la manera de organizarse conforme a las exigencias de entonces y las reglas de comportamiento de sus miembros.

Sabemos que ahora estamos sujetos a una actividad dinámica en el ámbito de la economía y la política internacional y que ello obliga a la Organización a adecuarse a esos cambios. Mi país, en este contexto, ha propuesto a la Plenaria de la Conferencia, en la intervención que hiciera el jefe de mi delegación la semana pasada, que la Conferencia dé un mandato expreso al Comité del Programa para que elabore un documento propositivo, a la brevedad del caso, en donde precise opciones para definir el perfil que nuestra Organización habrá de tener en el futuro.

La admisión de las ORIE a la FAO mereció nuestro voto favorable, toda vez que sabemos con certeza que estas organizaciones enriquecen las actividades de la FAO.

Sin embargo, nos hubiera gustado ver en el documento de Resolución cuestiones que estimamos jurídicamente indispensables y que hemos planteado ya, lamentablemente sin éxito, en el seno de la Comisión III. La enmienda a que hiciera alusión el Presidente del Grupo ad hoc, Embajador Bula Hoyos, sirvió de texto conciliatorio que de alguna manera contiene lo que mi delegación ha planteado, pero que abre otras dudas que requerirán planteamientos nuevos que en su oportunidad mi delegación sacará a la luz en futuras deliberaciones.

Baste ahora señalar que la naturaleza jurídica de las ORIE y aquella de Estado Miembro y de Miembro Asociado, es distinta y, por ende, requiere de un señalamiento en los Textos Fundamentales. Hubiera sido correcto que en el proyecto de Resolución, se expresara categóricamente el status de Miembro qui generis de las ORIE, y que, por cierto, no marcan ninguna distinción peyorativa, sino una afirmación de naturaleza legal. Nadie nos dio razones jurídicamente válidas para no incluir este concepto en la Resolución. Por otro lado, la segunda parte del inciso 260 del Informe de la Secretaría, contenido en el documento C 91/LIM/23, señala que: El

Consejo reiteró que la forma de admisión como Miembro para las organizaciones regionales de integración económica debe ser sui generis: convino en que esto requeriría precisar más la Constitución de la FAO en toda su extensión.

También era indispensable, a nuestro juicio, expresar con mayor claridad el contenido del inciso 2 del artículo XLI. Si bien el error de traducción señalado por el Consejero Legal trata de mejorar el texto, aún nos sigue preocupando profundamente el que antes de cada sesión, se aclare quién tendrá competencias específicas y quien ejercerá el derecho de voto, con respecto a los temas del orden del día. Es por ello que aprobamos la Resolución con reserva en estos dos puntos.

Es menester aclarar con todo énfasis que el propósito de mi delegación solamente es, en la tradición jurídica de mi país, precisar conceptos que pueden confundir a las generaciones futuras y no reflejar correctamente la voluntad de los países. Lo que hemos planteado lo hemos hecho buscando el mejor beneficio y la mayor claridad de ingreso de las ORIE a la FAO.

**John KNOX (United States of America):** By deciding to amend the Basic Texts to open membership in the FAO to regional economic integration organizations, we have taken an extremely important step in the life of this Organization.

We were asked to take this step because of the unique far-reaching nature of the economic integration taking place within the European Community. That integration has focused on the areas of food and agriculture. It is understandable that as the nations of the EC transfer more and more of their competence over food and agricultural matters to the EC, they would consider it desirable to have the EC take a more active role in the Food and Agriculture Organization.

At the June Council meeting, all delegations made clear that we had no objection to some sort of membership status for the EC, or for other regional economic integration organizations that might in the future demonstrate the same need for an increased role in the FAO. But it was also clear that the precise form of that status could not be easily determined. This point was graphically demonstrated by the Council's decision to pass on to this Conference draft amendments to the Basic Texts that contained as many as five variants for some provisions.

It is not surprising that the Council proposed so many variants. In determining how regional economic integration organizations might participate in the FAO, we were faced with many difficult questions, such as: What should the criteria for admission of REIOs be? How could an REIO and its members both exercise rights of membership in the FAO? How would other FAO Members know which, as between the REIO and its members, had competence on any given issue? And what effect would REIO membership in the FAO have on other organizations and agreements, such as the World Food Programme Committee on Food Aid?

The Council created a working group to resolve these questions. As the group began to address them, it became clear that the problems were even more complex than they first appeared. Indeed, it seemed at times that for every question we could answer, two more appeared, like the mythical hydra that Hercules had to kill as one of his seven labours.

Under these circumstances, my delegation believes that the amendments we have just adopted are remarkably successful. They solve the problems associated with REIO membership in logical and creative ways. My delegation feels that we all owe a debt of gratitude, in particular, to the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, who played a truly Herculean role in the negotiations.

My delegation would like to take a few moments to discuss some of the most important provisions in the amendments.

At the outset, the amendments established the criteria an REIO must meet in order to apply. Article II.4 states that the REIO must be one to which its members had transferred competence over a range of matters within the purview of the [FAO]. The commentary makes clear that transfer of competence means that complete power with respect to that subject is transferred, and that no residual power remains with the Member States. As we have already noted, it is precisely this type of transfer of competence that has led to the EC to initiate their request for increased status. Only when an REIO has been given a part of its members' sovereignty over matters within the FAO's purview, so that its members are no longer able to act with respect to those matters, is there any real need for the REIO to have an increased status in the FAO.

Of course, as we all recognize, the EC is at the moment unique in having such competence. Nevertheless, the amendments wisely are not limited to the EC per se. On the contrary, by their terms they apply to all REIOs that are able to meet the criteria they set. At the moment, the EC is the only REIO that can meet the criteria; but in the future it is possible that other regional organizations will follow the EC down the road toward greater economic integration.

My delegation would also like to note that the amendments clearly state what an REIO's competence has to include: that is, the ability to take decisions binding on its member states, which includes the ability to enter into treaties. Again, this requirement is completely logical; indeed, it is difficult to see what competence might mean if not the ability to take binding decisions, including the ability to enter into treaties.

Perhaps the most fundamental provision in the amendments is Article II.8, which establishes the principle of alternative exercise of membership rights. That principle provides that a member organization shall only exercise the rights of membership within its competence, and only when its members do not exercise their rights. My delegation continues to believe that, as we stated at the June Council, this principle is the only possible basis for REIO membership in the FAO, since it ensures that such membership does not increase the rights possessed by the REIO and its members.

There are many specific applications of the principle throughout the amendments. For example, Article II.9 states that member organizations may participate in any meeting in which their members are entitled to participate, but that they cannot be elected or designated to any FAO body in their own right. Article II.10 makes clear that either the REIO or its members, but never both, shall have the right to vote on a specific issue.

Another crucial group of amendments concerns the distribution of competence between the REIO and its members. The amendments make clear that, with respect to any specific issue, either the REIO or its members will have

competence. My delegation strongly believes that the other members of the FAO should always be able to know where competence lies on a particular issue.

We are therefore pleased to see that Rule XLI.1 allows any member of the FAO to ask at any time a member organization and its members to state which of the two has competence with respect to any specific issue. We are also pleased that Rule XLI.2 requires the member organization or its members to state before any FAO meeting which, as between them, has competence with respect to the specific questions to be discussed at the meeting. Nor are FAO members left at a loss until they receive an answer, since Article II.6 establishes that until it is clear that the member organization has competence over a specific issue, FAO members are entitled to presume that the REIO's Member States continue to have competence over it.

These provisions are subordinate, however, to the most important way in which the FAO membership will know how competence is distributed between the EC and its members. Article II.5 requires the REIO, at the time of application, to submit a declaration specifying the matters in respect of which competence has been transferred to it by its Member States.

This requirement is critical in two ways. First, for the FAO to decide to admit the REIO, it is necessary to establish that it has competence over matters within the FAO's purview. Second, FAO members will rely chiefly on this declaration, rather than on the provisions cited above, to know where responsibility lies on particular issues.

For that reason, we await with great anticipation the declaration of competence to be submitted by the EC. We hope that it will be sufficiently detailed and clear to allow us to take affirmative action on their application at this Conference.

My delegation would like to note briefly that the step we have just taken, while important in the life of the FAO, will have limited effect on other organizations. As the FAO Legal Counsel made clear at the June Council meeting, membership by an REIO in the FAO will not entitle it to join other international organizations or agreements, even those that are open to accession to all Member States of UN specialized agencies.

Membership by an REIO in the FAO will, of course, open the door for it to participate in bodies, such as the World Food Programme Committee on Food Aid, run jointly by the FAO and other international organizations. But its participation will be necessarily limited to acting on behalf of its members. Article II.9 makes clear that it will not be eligible for election or designation to such bodies in its own right. In addition, we understand that the basic texts of those organizations will have to be appropriately amended to provide for participation by member organizations.

And, needless to say, member organizations will be eligible to participate in Article XIV agreements when those agreements provide for such participation.

Finally, my delegation would like to say something about the nature of the membership status of REIOs in the FAO. As many delegations have noted, member organizations will have a sui generis status in the FAO. The unique nature of their membership, clearly different from that of states, is made clear throughout the amendments we have just adopted.

We are sympathetic to the suggestion made by some delegations that the sui generis status should be made even clearer, perhaps by stating that REIOs join as member organizations, rather than members. We note that the CCLM stated that such a formulation would be legally clearer. But we share the view of the distinguished representative of the Philippines that the amendments already establish the unique status of member organizations, and make clear that they will participate on different terms than do Member States.

**Carlos KELLER SARMIENTO (Argentina):** Los países que viven o han vivido intensamente los procesos de modificar su Constitución, saben las enormes dificultades que entrañan cambiar un texto básico en su estructura institucional y democrática y los profundos debates internos que ello ocasiona en los que viven y tienen que vivir con un proyecto de vida en común como se llama a la Constitución, que orientó y protegió en sus derechos durante muchos años y aún muchos siglos.

Es realmente notable, que los países miembros de la FAO hayan logrado en menos de seis meses de conocidas las propuestas, modificar una Constitución que afecta, no solamente al pueblo de un país, sino a 151 Estados Miembros de la FAO. El haber logrado aunar tantas voluntades en tan poco tiempo, tiene un enorme mérito para esta institución y los Estados patrocinantes de estas enmiendas, pero dejan algunas dudas si esta decisión fue debida y exhaustivamente evaluada en todos sus alcances y consecuencias para el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

La República Argentina hubiera deseado que, al producirse una modificación de tanta significación en los Textos Fundamentales de esta Organización, se hubiera podido contar con el consenso de todos los países miembros sobre el modo de enfocar las cuestiones principales involucradas en la reforma, a saber:

- el estatuto de miembros que debía asignarse a las ORIE;
- los criterios para su admisibilidad; y
- la regulación del ejercicio rigurosamente alternativo de los derechos entre las ORIE y sus miembros.

Los textos aprobados, Sr. Presidente, no satisfacen plenamente los criterios que mi Gobierno cree que deberían gobernar la legislación aplicable al ingreso y a la participación de las ORIE en la vida de la FAO.

En primer lugar, no se crea en forma clara y precisa una nueva categoría, específica, de miembro, distinta de las de los Estados Miembros, sino que se asimila las ORIE a los Estados.

La República Argentina estima que ello se aleja de lo acordado por el Consejo de esta Organización en sus 98<sup>o</sup> y 99<sup>o</sup> períodos de sesiones y sienta un precedente de particular inquietud en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En segundo lugar, la República Argentina estima inadecuado que el elemento justificatorio de esta reforma no haya sido incluido en el texto de la Constitución. Me refiero al hecho de que los Estados Miembros de las ORIE no posean más la facultad para actuar en determinadas áreas, como consecuencia de las transferencias de competencias. Irónicamente, dicho elemento, que debería constituir el fiel de la balanza, tanto para hacer

necesario el ingreso de una ORIE en nuestra Organización cuanto para establecer los parámetros y límites de su actuación en ella, ha quedado reducido a un comentario en el texto de una Resolución.

Debido tal vez a modificaciones de última hora de los textos, mi delegación observa que algunos de ellos pueden prestarse a interpretaciones ambiguas. En efecto, no escapará a usted ni a mis distinguidos colegas, que en algunas partes del texto se hable de transferencia de competencias mientras que en otras simplemente se menciona competencia o asuntos de su competencia. Estimamos que estas últimas expresiones quedan supeditadas a la interpretación que se da del Artículo II, párrafo 4, de la Constitución en el comentario incluido en la Resolución que acabamos de adoptar.

Permítame usted para finalizar, Sr. Presidente, augurar que la reforma constitucional que hoy se concreta traiga innumerables beneficios a esta, nuestra Organización, para un mejor y más eficiente cumplimiento de sus tareas en pos de los altos objetivos para los que fuera creada. No dudamos que el ingreso de las ORIE a la FAO contribuirá decisivamente a ello. Tenemos la esperanza que en el caso específico de la CE, ésta responderá a las expectativas de todos los Miembros de la FAO, entre ellos la República Argentina, profundamente ligada a los países integrantes de la misma, no sólo por razones étnicas y culturales, sino también por intereses y proyectos comunes en el campo económico y de la cooperación.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. A very important exercise has just taken place, Mr Chairman, of amending some parts of the Constitution and General Rules of FAO. Right from the beginning of the exercise just concluded I think the delegation made it quite clear that we would support the application of the EEC to the membership of FAO, provided that certain basic requirements were met, namely: one, that such admission would be applicable to any other regional economic integration organization that qualifies for such membership and seeks admission to the FAO; two, that such admission would not give the regional economic integration organization an additional vote to those already enjoyed or exercised by the individual Member States that form that regional organization; and three, that the transfer of competence as described in paragraph 4 of Article II of the FAO Constitution shall be specific and clear and avoid any disagreement in the future.

In talking to my delegations that have been involved in the exercise, Mr Chairman, that we have just concluded I have got the impression, and I hope I am not wrong, that the complexity of this issue would have required that the membership of FAO had more time to discuss and understand the implications of the exercise with a view to giving clear guidelines and instructions and advice to our governments back home.

Finally, Mr Chairman, which is not least, we in this delegation greatly appreciate the assistance that the EEC extends to Kenya, and we look forward Mr Chairman, to benefiting from the experience that the EEC will be bringing to the FAO.

I want to hasten to add my belief, Mr Chairman, that any other qualifying regional economic integration organization will likewise enrich the work of this organization in FAO and when such applications, Mr Chairman, are

received, that they will be treated in a similar manner that has been given to the EEC.

I thank you very much Mr Chairman.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** Mr Chairman, thank you for the floor. I shall be very brief.

On behalf of the Government of the Czech and Slovak Republic I have the honour to announce the satisfaction of my government with the results of the vote. Czechoslovakia took a constructive and active part in the activities of the CCLM and the working group established by the FAO Council and headed by you.

The Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic firmly believes that this change in membership of regional organizations in FAO will have a significant influence on the activities of the organization and will give a positive example to the other UN organizations working in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you for the floor.

**Frederick Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I will be brief because this is a statement on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, and I have not had a chance to coordinate it, so I will be as brief as possible.

I would like to express that the prevailing feeling among us members of the European Community is one of satisfaction with the vote which has just been taken. We do realize now that there is a sound basis for the European Community to consider the application for membership of these organizations, and that will be done these days in Brussels.

For the successful outcome of the whole process to amend the Basic Texts many players are responsible. In the first place, Mr Chairman, yourself and, in the second place, and I limit myself to the players on the podium, the Legal Counsel and his staff, Mr Moore.

We are especially grateful to them for what they have done in the different meetings, the active ones, the official ones, etc. And above all about what they have undertaken outside meetings in order to reach good results. Certainly, Mr Moore, I don't forget your difficulty and long negotiations with the representatives of the Commission of the European Community.

So, Mr Chairman, it was a long story, but it had a happy end. Thank you.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Sr. Presidente, usted indicó que las declaraciones de voto serían reproducidas en las actas de la Conferencia. Mi delegación solicitó que la declaración de voto brasileña fuera incluida en el informe de la Conferencia.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que, de acuerdo con las prácticas vigentes, podemos atender la adecuada solicitud del distinguido delegado de Brasil de la siguiente manera: al pie de la Resolución aparecerá una nota en la cual se indicará que después de adoptarse la Resolución, se harían las explicaciones de voto que aparecen en las actas respectivas y en la parte del informe sobre este tema tratarán de recogerse en la medida de lo posible algunos de los aspectos de las explicaciones de voto que se han hecho esta tarde. Espero que esto le satisfaga.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Me parece que no quedó muy clara esta cuestión. Usted ha dicho que habrá una nota en el informe mencionando qué países hicieron declaraciones de voto. Yo quería que usted me aclarara dónde se localizarían estas declaraciones de voto porque la de Brasil es importante para su Gobierno al igual del hecho de que quede reflejada en el informe.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que todos compartimos con usted, señor representante de Brasil, la importancia de su declaración, pero esperamos que usted igualmente diga que se han hecho otras y numerosas declaraciones de voto. Entonces, lo más indicado es poner una nota al pie de la Resolución señalando que se hagan las declaraciones de voto que aparecen en las actas respectivas. Sin embargo, si los representantes de Brasil y también de otros países que han hecho declaraciones de voto fueren tan gentiles de suministrarnos un resumen - repito, es mejor porque es imposible incluir textos demasiado extensos - podríamos ver la manera de que aparezcan reflejados en el informe sobre esta parte del tema 24.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil intentará hacer un resumen de su declaración de voto de manera que éste esté incluido en el informe de esta Sesión Plenaria. Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente si la posición del Gobierno brasileño no está bien reflejada en el informe de la Conferencia, se reservará el derecho de hablar de nuevo sobre esta cuestión.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que todos reconocemos y respetamos el pleno derecho que tiene el representante de Brasil y todos los Estados Miembros para expresar y reiterar su opinión en este tema tan importante. Agradezco el ofrecimiento constructivo de preparar un resumen, pero tal vez también, como el Consejero Legal me sugiere, para atender la solicitud de Brasil y la posición de otros países que han hecho declaraciones de voto, podrían indicar los números de los párrafos de las actas donde aparezcan esas declaraciones de voto. Espero que esto pueda dar satisfacción a Brasil y a todos los demás.

**Sidaty AIDARA (Sénegal):** L'heure est tardive et il faut que le débat général se poursuive; je ne vais donc pas être long, je n'ai même pas l'intention de procéder ici à une explication de vote. Je voudrais tout simplement et très sincèrement remercier les membres du Bureau de la Conférence, la Commission III, ainsi que la Conférence générale qui ont bien voulu placer en ma personne et à travers ma personne, le Sénégal, en me confiant les responsabilités de Vice-Président de la Commission III et de Rapporteur de cette même Commission.



Je sais que je ne trahis pas ici le sentiment de mon collègue et ami du Maroc qui, pour des raisons indépendantes de sa volonté n'a pas pu se joindre à nous cet après-midi pour participer à la finalisation de l'exercice qu'ensemble nous avons entrepris en tant que rapporteurs. Je voudrais donc, en son nom comme en mon nom, remercier très sincèrement tous ceux qui de près ou de loin, nous ont apporté leur assistance dans l'élaboration du rapport que la Conférence nous a donné l'occasion de vous présenter. Ces remerciements vont spécialement à vous-même, M. le Président qui avez présidé le Comité des Etats Membres chargé d'examiner les amendements aux textes de base. Ces remerciements vont également au Président indépendant du Conseil qui tout au long de cet exercice nous a apporté son soutien moral et ses conseils. Ces remerciements vont également à M. Moore, le Conseiller juridique de notre Organisation qui depuis trois ans n'a ménagé aucun effort pour ce jour. Il a traversé, je le sais, des périodes difficiles mais ensemble nous avons pu mener ce travail à bon port. Je voudrais donc très sincèrement le remercier pour tout l'appui qu'il a constamment apporté aux organes délibérants de la FAO, au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, au Conseil, au Comité que vous-même vous avez présidé à la Conférence elle-même.

S'il y a des louanges à faire aujourd'hui, je crois que M. Moore les mérite fort bien et je voudrais le féliciter très sincèrement pour la compétence dont il a fait preuve tout au long de cet exercice. Je remercie également son équipe qui est restée dynamique, soudée et compétente. Je voudrais aussi féliciter de l'issue heureuse de cet exercice car, vous le savez, le Sénégal a toujours accordé une importance particulière à cette question. Nous l'avons amplement prouvé par notre participation à tous les niveaux du débat et surtout en nous portant auteurs de cette Résolution quand elle n'était encore qu'un projet au niveau de la troisième Commission.

Je sais que je ne lis pas dans votre pensée, M. le Président, mais je suis persuadé que vous direz quelques mots au nom des auteurs au sujet de cette Résolution quand elle n'était qu'un projet au niveau de la troisième Commission. Vous le savez, le mandat du Sénégal au Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques va se terminer avec cette Conférence. Le Sénégal sera remplacé par un autre pays africain au sein de cette instance importante. Il y a quelques années, c'est un comité qui passait pratiquement inaperçu, mais il a acquis au cours des années une importance fondamentale et je crois que l'exercice auquel nous avons procédé aujourd'hui montre encore une fois la vitalité et le dynamisme de cet organe important de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais aussi saisir cette occasion pour remercier tous mes collègues du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques qui m'ont apporté tout leur concours, toute leur compréhension pour nous permettre de bien participer aux travaux de cet organe.

Je voudrais enfin former le vœu que l'admission des OUEP au sein de notre Organisation, admission qui constitue à n'en pas douter une avancée importante dans le développement du droit international puisse donner une nouvelle occasion à la FAO comme à l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies de renforcer et de consolider la coopération et la solidarité internationales.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil quería completar su última intervención con relación a la cuestión de reflejar nuestra posición en el informe.

La delegación de Brasil va a trabajar en colaboración con el Secretariado para ver cómo será incluido un resumen de la posición brasileña y una referencia a pie de página.

Yo quería informar solamente, Sr. Presidente, que mi delegación consultará a su Gobierno para saber si de esta manera considera satisfactoriamente refejada la posición del mismo sobre la materia.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias distinguido Ministro Eduardo Hermann, del Brasil. Todos comprendemos y respetamos la posición de su Gobierno y trataremos de darle la mayor satisfacción posible.

Señores delegados, si no hay ningún otro comentario, creo que todos debemos de reconocer que la nutrida participación de ustedes en la votación del proyecto de Resolución y en el debate de esta tarde confirman el alto sentido de responsabilidad con que los representantes de todos los gobiernos se han abocado al estudio de esta cuestión. Pienso que hoy hemos dado un paso realmente histórico y profundamente innovador. La Conferencia, el máximo organismo de la FAO, ha decidido introducir enmiendas a la Constitución y al Reglamento General, en virtud de las cuales, en adelante, las organizaciones regionales de integración económica que reúnan los criterios de elegibilidad establecidos podrán entrar a ser miembros de la FAO. Estoy seguro de que, como lo han dicho muchos de ustedes, somos conscientes de las importantes repercusiones que la decisión de esta tarde tendrá en el futuro de las actividades y de la vida de la FAO y posiblemente en todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

A través de mi intensa participación en todo este proceso, he sido testigo de la manera constante y eficaz con que se ha trabajado, al igual que el Dr Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO, que se ha preocupado por que las conclusiones de este tema correspondan a la manera ordenada y seria como debe seguirse cumpliendo la función de nuestra Organización dirigida con acierto por el Director General.

Gracias también a mi vecino de la derecha, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, organismo que se ocupó de manera muy seria y profunda de esta materia.

Mi reconocimiento a nuestro Consejero Legal, Dr. Gerald Moore, y no sabría nunca como expresárselo porque él ha sido realmente artífice fundamental de todo este resultado positivo que hoy celebramos complacidos.

Confiemos en que el ingreso de las organizaciones regionales de integración económica de países desarrollados y en desarrollo como miembros de la FAO contribuirá a promover el diálogo y a estimular el intercambio de experiencias y opiniones, cuyo resultado deberá ser el fortalecimiento de la FAO, a fin de que nuestra Organización siga trabajando cada vez mejor y de manera más eficiente a favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquéllos que están en vías de desarrollo.

Con mi agradecimiento reiterado a mi colega y amigo Samuel Fernández, Presidente de la Comisión III, declaro concluida la discusión sobre el tema 24.

Señores les ruego que permanezcan en la sala como habíamos dicho antes. Es necesario concluir esta tarde el debate general que habíamos suspendido.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION (continued)

### DEBAT GENERAL (suite)

### DEBATE GENERAL (continuación)

- STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)
- DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DELEGATION (suite)
- MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

**MFANASEKAYA GQOBOSE (Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)):** Mr Chairman, allow me on behalf of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) of South Africa to congratulate you, the three Vice-Chairmen and other Member Nations here present which have been elected to serve with you at this Twenty-sixth FAO Session. With your renowned efficiency in dealing with occasions of this kind my delegation is certain that the work of this Conference will be a success.

Mr Chairman, I wish also to pay tribute to the Government and people of Italy for their kind hospitality in providing excellent facilities for us as delegates attending this Conference.

I may also, Mr Chairman, heartily mention the appreciation of my delegation for the manner in which His Holiness, the Pope received the FAO Delegations at the Vatican. It was the most gracious and dignified event indeed. We are extremely grateful for the time His Holiness spent with us.

Mr Chairman the two-yearly conferences of FAO are important and useful occasions for us, the National Liberation Movements, because it is at this time that we can express our appreciation of the technical assistance FAO continues to give to us.

Mr Chairman, as far as PAC is concerned we have benefited a great deal from FAO in different directions especially in self-reliance in food production, livestock development and in agricultural training in general.

At the PAC farm in Tanzania where the Government allocated land to us for self-reliance purposes we have converted 500 acres of bush into farm land where we now cultivate rice, maize, sorghum, cowpeas, pineapples, bananas, palm trees and oranges. In the remaining space from the 1 000 acres of land allocated to us we have introduced livestock development in the form of cattle, goats, pigs and poultry. We are utilizing agricultural scholarships to train our members in various fields of agriculture and veterinary science. In all these undertakings we benefit from the advice of FAO

expertise where at present we have at our farm one expert and also one UNV person. We also have the benefit of FAO personnel from time to time visiting our farm from FAO Headquarters in Rome. PAC is guided in its tasks by its policy of self-reliance in which we derive great encouragement from Tanzania because of its own policy of socialism and self-reliance.

At present we are capable of producing every year about 500 tons of food grains, about 15 000 kilogrammes of poultry meat and about 650 000 units of eggs every season. When fully developed the farm will produce the following quantities of foodstuffs per annum: 1 600 kilogrammes of foodgrains; 56 000 kilogrammes of poultry meat; 14 000 kilogrammes of beef; 25 000 litres of milk; and 1 500 000 units of eggs.

FAO assistance is complemented by other on-going external assistance to the PAC. This assistance is as follows: UNDP/FAO project that provides professional agricultural expertise, training, from inputs and equipment; UNIDO project that provides technical assistance in maintenance and repair of agriculture and vehicle equipment; UNHCR project that provides some agricultural equipment and medicines and medical equipment; Nigerian Government project that provided funds for the construction of the health centre; the Netherlands Government project that provided funds for the construction of the agricultural workshops; Norwegian Government project for the construction and repair of the access road to the PAC settlement; Indonesian Government project for the construction of the recreation and dining hall complex within the settlement; Malaysian Government project for medical equipment and medicines; UNICEF project for medical equipment and medicines; French NGO project for rice harvesting equipment; Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service project for the construction of a water supply system inside the PAC farms settlement; Swiss Aid NGO project for the additional water supply inside the PAC farm settlement.

At present, a project has been submitted to the EEC for additional farm equipment, construction of additional poultry sheds, piggery sheds and cow sheds. Thus to a very large extent the PAC has benefited from all these international bodies but most of the credit must go to FAO for the assistance and advice which it gave to PAC at a place which was nothing more than bush land. We are hopeful that this assistance and advice will continue so that when we return to our country we shall have acquired a number of qualifications and skills in various fields such as agronomy, livestock development, veterinary science, irrigation and in general agricultural training.

The political situation in our country is still far from certain in spite of the so-called new dispensation under the white minority racist regime. In fact the institutionalization of racist apartheid is still intact. Only very insignificant so-called changes have taken place and these are designed to deceive the international community while racism still remains intact. The only significant change that can take place in racist South Africa is when a new constitution is in place which has been brought about by means of a constituent assembly elected on the basis of one man one vote in a common voters' role in a unitary state. The white minority racist regime which has the monopoly of political, economic and military power refuses to engage in the constituent assembly exercise. Instead it wants to engage in some form of power-sharing exercise in which it is, itself, the referee, the player, the linesman and the scorekeeper. Consequently, it is obvious that the liberation of the oppressed and exploited people of our country is still very far off.

Under these circumstances of uncertainty and even of danger in our country the PAC pleads for the continuation of FAO assistance and encouragement for a period not less than 3-5 years at least while the racist South African situation is being monitored.

Lastly, the PAC is not forgetting our people as a whole inside our country who are under oppression. They need various forms of assistance to alleviate their plight. Now that the two national liberation movements have been unbanned some members of these movements may wish to return to their country and perform some of the activities for which they have been trained. In this way they will not only be of assistance to themselves but to the people as a whole in our country. Furthermore there may also be an occasion when the FAO itself may be allowed to operate inside our country. When such time arrives the PAC would plead with FAO to continue to assist members of these liberation movements in whatever activities they will be engaged in within the country for the benefit of the disadvantaged people of our country as a whole.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias. Tres oradores han entregado sus textos a la Secretaría: Director del Centro de Desarrollo Rural Integrado para Asia y el Pacífico, Representante de la Federación Sindical Mundial y Representante del Congreso Nacional Africano.

Entiendo que la Conferencia no tiene inconveniente en que esos textos se incluyan en las actas.

**Shamsul A.T.M. HAQUE (Director, Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)):** Honourable Chairman, Mr Director-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my privilege to convey to you on behalf of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, commonly known as CIRDAP, greetings, and good wishes for the success of this Conference. I am thankful to the Director-General of FAO for inviting me to attend this Conference as an observer.

CIRDAP was set up in July 1979 as a regional intergovernmental and autonomous organization, by the countries of the Asia-Pacific region at the initiative of FAO and with support from the concerned UN agencies and donors. Its headquarters are in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At present there are 11 member countries of CIRDAP - five from South Asia, namely, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and six from South-East Asia, namely, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. A number of other countries of the Asia-Pacific region such as Bhutan, People's Republic of China, DPR Korea, Maldives, Myanmar, Republic of Korea and some Pacific Island nations like Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, although not yet members of CIRDAP, participate in the activities of the Centre. It is my pleasure to inform you that CIRDAP and AARRO (Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organization) have started implementing rural development projects in some African countries like Kenya.

CIRDAP, whose creation coincided with the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD), aims at promoting exchange of experience and know-how in agrarian reform and rural development among its

member countries in line with the programme of action developed by WCARRD. The Centre has been actively participating in the WCARRD follow-up actions in Asia-Pacific region. The main objectives of CIRDAP are to assist national action, promote regional cooperation and act as a servicing institution for its member countries with respect to Integrated Rural Development (IRD).

CIRDAP's programme of work is based on four areas of concern determined by the Centre's Governing Council at the level of the Ministers-in-Charge of the Contact Ministries in the member countries. These are: agrarian development, institutional and infrastructural development, resource including human resource development, and employment. The Centre conducts its activities through a network of link institutions in its member countries.

CIRDAP's activities relate to the fields of research, action research, training, and documentation and information dissemination. The research projects of CIRDAP deal with key issues of rural development in general, and of integrated rural development in particular. Some of the research studies carried out in recent years cover areas such as rural women in development, small-scale farming, cooperatives, agrarian reform, landlessness, impact of technology on the rural poor, small-scale irrigation, rural industries and impact of decentralization.

More and more emphasis is now being given on action-oriented programmes. CIRDAP's action research projects are intended to combine theory with practice in the formulation of innovative experimental projects in rural development for improvement of the conditions of the poor and disadvantaged groups. The major action research projects undertaken in the recent past relate to rural women in fishing communities, community participation in IRD through Community Information and Planning System (CIPS), social forestry in IRD, basic needs and ecology, model villages in rural development and comprehensive population and family planning in IRD.

CIRDAP organizes regional, sub-regional and in-country training programmes, seminars and workshops on different aspects of rural development, mainly in collaboration with the national IRD centres. Since 1986, CIRDAP has been offering regular training courses on Training Methodology, Preparation and Analysis of Rural Development Projects, and Monitoring and Evaluation Methods and Techniques in Rural Development. CIRDAP organized an international workshop on Integrated Approach to Disaster Management and Regional Development Planning with People's Participation in collaboration with UNCRD in the year 1990. It is envisaged that this workshop will be followed by a number of seminars and workshops which will continue up to 1993. A policy seminar on Poverty Alleviation through Agricultural Projects was also organized in collaboration with ADB and EDI of the World Bank in 1990. This seminar was attended by representatives of CIRDAP member countries and many non-member countries of the region.

The documentation and information activities of CIRDAP are geared to developing and maintaining a data base of information on IRD activities to facilitate improved planning and management of IRD projects in the CMCs. CIRDAP has recently initiated a project for video documentation of success stories on rural development. The Centre has started publishing a six-monthly journal entitled Asia-Pacific Journal of Rural Development which

aims at addressing topical issues relating to rural development in the Asia-Pacific region. CIRDAP also arranged an expert consultation on Regional Perspective of IRD in the 1990s: State of the Art Scenario through Selected Indicators in October 1991.

It will not be out of place to mention here that since its inception in 1979, CIRDAP has conducted 126 projects for the benefit of its member and non-member countries. These comprise 46 research, 13 action research, 51 training and 16 documentation projects. Quite a few of these projects relate to some of the major agenda items of this Conference, namely, environment and sustainable development, forestry, integration of women in agricultural and rural development, and people's participation. Bilateral and multilateral donors are reposing more and more confidence in CIRDAP and providing greater support to its programmes and projects. Donor contribution to programmes and projects of CIRDAP has almost doubled in the last five years.

FAO and the Government of Japan have been supporting CIRDAP since its inception. The Centre is undertaking collaborative programmes, among others, with the Commonwealth Secretariat, Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), IDRC, UNCRD, UNFPA and Government of the Netherlands.

The next meeting of the CIRDAP Governing Council due to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 9-10 January 1992, is going to be attended by a number of Ministers from the member countries. Some observers from non-member countries intending to become members and international organizations are also likely to attend.

In conclusion, let me quote extracts from a letter written by Mr Edouardo Saouma, Director-General, FAO, on 7 March 1990 in reply to a letter from the Chairman of the Governing Council of CIRDAP. The Director-General wrote: FAO has a long-standing interest in the work of CIRDAP, and we are pleased with the appreciation expressed by the recent CIRDAP Governing Council on the technical assistance and support provided by the Organization. I am confident that... the collaboration between CIRDAP and FAO in the field of rural development in Asia and the Pacific will continue to develop effectively to the benefit of member countries in the region.

Thank you all, Ladies and Gentlemen.<sup>1</sup>

**Mrs. Zdeňka INTRUCHOVA (World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)):** Established in 1945, it has now affiliated organizations (mostly national trade union centres) in 89 countries on all continents.

The WFTU, as an international organization of workers organized in trade unions, maintains its independence from governments, political parties and employers. It focuses its concern and action on the specific and general

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

interests of all categories of wage earners, it intervenes for a solution to the problems facing all humanity with regard to social progress, it acts for the unity of trade unions at all levels.

The main objectives of all WFTU activities are as follows: struggle against all forms of exploitation and for dignified living and working conditions of all workers; for the right to work, adequate social security and education for all; for the establishment of a new, just international economic order; for the defence and development of workers' and trade union rights and freedoms; for the achievement of social, economic and political democracy; for international understanding, disarmament and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

The WFTU makes every effort to organize, inspire and coordinate international workers' solidarity and seeks cooperation with other international democratic organizations. It has a Consultative Status of the highest category with ECOSOC, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNICEF and UNIDO.

The following WFTU Regional Offices have been established: for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo; for Asia and the Pacific in New Delhi, India; for Latin America and the Caribbean in Havana, Cuba, and for Middle East in Damascus, Syria.

The WFTU closely cooperates with 11 Trade Union Internationals (TUIs) which group together the organizations of workers according to their respective industries.

The Trade Union International of Agricultural, Forestry and Plantation Workers, founded in 1949, is the largest trade union organization in terms of membership within the framework of the WFTU.

Since the last FAO Conference in 1989, we have witnessed tremendous changes of far-reaching importance that have had a serious impact both on the world situation in general and the food and agriculture in particular.

A deep analysis of the current changes and problems which are now at the centre of attention of this Conference, has been made in the reports and documents of the Presidential Council of the WFTU, meeting a month ago in Vienna. We hope that the following points highlighted by our analysis might be of interest to FAO.

The World has to congratulate itself on the opening towards democratic advance, creating possibilities to live without a military confrontation and to reduce, at least, the burden of huge arms expenditures and to transfer these resources to human needs.

At the same time, rapid developments in the recent period have dramatically changed the correlation of forces in the world, opening the door to unstable situations and uncertainties. New sources of confrontation have surfaced, bringing unforeseen hostilities and even bloodshed to unsuspecting and peaceful societies.

The disillusion with the old idols turned into media-induced beliefs in new miracles raise unprecedented hopes which are already being betrayed.



None of these developments could leave us indifferent. Nevertheless, it is too early to embark upon a historical analysis of all these upheavals or to draw conclusions from them. However, we feel that the main criterion to judge the results of the changes occurring throughout the world should be as simple as that: Will the lives of billions improve or deteriorate?

For the time being, there are still some 500 million people malnourished worldwide and 15 million dying each year from malnutrition and related diseases. The global recession and the economic decline in various sectors, countries and regions have severe social consequences - in particular, the very high levels of unemployment and serious decline in living standards of working people. According to World Bank predictions, output per head in Eastern Europe may not recover to 1989 level until 1996. Prospects for a major recovery in the other industrialized countries are still quite feeble. The investment climate continues to be affected by the unstable conditions in capital markets. For most developing countries, the 1980s constituted a lost decade and the global economic problems at the beginning of the 1990s further complicate their development crisis.

The world therefore needs a determined effort to find better ways to deal with the current economic challenges and resume growth. We believe that this need should animate the FAO Conference to put forward a bold programme of action to hasten recovery and to accelerate rural development, on the basis of realistic development strategies and international and regional economic cooperation.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, the Agricultural TUI and their affiliates in all continents reiterate their full support to all efforts to promote such a cooperation.

In this context, the United Nations and all its specialized agencies are increasingly recognized as an irreplaceable forum to review situations, to propose solutions and to help with their implementation. In particular, FAO's vital role in averting potential dangers of the present development and assuring that its human dimensions be taken into consideration, has never been so apparent.

The fact that the Plan of Action on People's Participation has been included into the agenda of this very Conference only illustrates FAO's constant efforts to bring about genuine involvement of the people in the formulation and implementation of rural development plans.

In all its efforts, FAO is assisted by the whole community of nongovernmental organizations, among which the trade unions have, or should have, an exclusive place. This has been confirmed once more in July, during the Twelfth Biennial Consultation between FAO and International Trade Union Organizations. We consider the Consultation as a useful mechanism for dialogue and exchange of views and experience which is beneficiary to millions of our affiliates living and working in rural areas all over the world. We therefore fear that it would be a great loss and waste of all already invested efforts if the Consultation were to be discontinued, especially at a time of the launching of the People's Participation Plan of Action, which foresees a special role for rural people's organizations.

As we attach an utmost importance to this Plan, we have submitted to the Conference a Memorandum dealing specifically with our observations and recommendations concerning the Draft.

We have also presented our position towards the planned International Conference on Nutrition, in the hope that it will contribute to finding final solutions to the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

Our organizations also support the proposals for more effective intervention by FAO on questions of environment and sustainable development. The export of pollution to developing countries and the lack of effective legislation to control are now matters of deep concern, demanding concerted international action.

However, the problem of sustainable development arises not only in relation to the environment. Many structural adjustment measures and the social regression they have induced are now seen as unsustainable and harmful to development. Development policies should take into account the specific situations and problems of the different countries. It would be incorrect to impose, as is being done now, uniform adjustment measures, without taking into account the capacity of countries to implement them. Choice of ownership and management of productive resources should be decided entirely on efficiency and productivity and not on ideological considerations. The trade unions do not believe in the infinite capacity of the market forces to regulate themselves. A certain amount of State regulation is now recognized as legitimate and necessary. This is particularly indispensable to safeguard the interests of the small farmers and rural workers, their organizations and demands, as envisaged in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

At any rate, it has to be ensured that new agrarian policies, introduced in Eastern European countries in their transition from a centrally planned to a market economy, should not allow any departure from the principles contained in the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by WCARRD. It is apprehended that the small farmers and rural workers may become particularly vulnerable if they are not fully protected from unfair exploitation by the highly-organized agro-industrial sectors and particularly those run by the agri-business transnational corporations. The need for a Code of Conduct to regulate the activities of the TNCs becomes particularly important in this context.

As Mr Saouma rightly stressed in his statement to the June FAO Council, it is the solidarity and cooperation which have to govern all our activities in these difficult times.

It was precisely under the very heading of solidarity and cooperation that the WFTU organized, in November 1990, the Twelfth World Trade Union Congress, with the following theme of its discussion: Trade Union Strategies for the 1990s - a democratic alternative in the interests of workers and humankind through trade union dialogue and action.

We are, therefore, satisfied to see that our main goals, determined at the Congress by the representatives of more than 400 million trade union members, coincide with those of FAO, as defined in the major programme areas of the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93, to be adopted by this Conference.

As international trade union organizations enjoying the highest Consultative Status with FAO, we are convinced that the driving forces behind future success of all development programmes will be the plurality

of thoughts and ideas, and the implementation of genuine democracy to formulate and organize common, concerted and parallel action where every person counts.

In this sense, FAO, whose Conference is now called upon to take decisions of far reaching importance, should play a decisive role within its areas of competence, in ensuring that the new developments encompass justice and equality, that human rights and peace form the basis of the new consensus among nations.

The WFTU and its affiliated organizations will, therefore, spare no effort in strengthening their cooperation with FAO in order to achieve our common priority aim: a world of economic and social progress fit for all to live in.<sup>1</sup>

**Ms Bonjiwe NJOBE (African National Congress of South Africa):** Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of my organization, the African National Congress of South Africa, I wish to take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to the FAO for its longstanding support to the South African liberation struggle and in particular for our presence at this Twenty-sixth Session.

The relationship between the African National Congress and FAO dates back several years. In the initial years the relationship was founded and formulated primarily on the basis of joint interest in the eradication of apartheid. It is very important that I make this point, on the light of ongoing political events in South Africa, particularly those leading up to and flowing after the well-recorded speech by President de Klerk on the 2 February 1990.

Mr Chairman, whilst the intent of my input is to focus on land and agricultural policy-related issues in South Africa, it goes without saying that in this particular instance it will be important to put that focus into the current political context. It is in the light of this fact Mr Chairman, that I would like to very briefly outline the current political processes in South Africa for the information of this meeting.

The unbanning of the political organizations in February last year and the signing of the two minutes raised expectations of most of our friend abroad that a speedy resolution was on the way. This has not been so. The South African Government has been trying to stall the process of making irreversible changes, in an attempt to secure the interests of its own constituency. The violence which has been perpetuated has resulted in the loss of many lives. The return of exiles has not been smooth. The signing of the Peace Accord was a significant step taken which now necessitates great effort to ensure it is operative.

The Patriotic Front Conference was not just a historic event, but it confirmed the unity of the patriotic forces on the need for the establishment of an interim government which will steer the process of transition to a democratic non-racial non-sexist South Africa.

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Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

At the end of this month, the All Party Conference will be held at the initiative of the Patriotic Front. It is envisaged to last no more than 6 months and will address issues like: the climate for free political participation; general Constitutional principles; the constitution making body/process; interim government/transitional arrangements; the future of the TBVC States; the role of the international community, if any; time frames; and any other items which may be decided upon at the Conference.

The initiative is on the side of the democratic organizations. The state can and should no longer play referee and player. The ANC envisages the interim government lasting no more than two years.

Mr Chairman, in the light of the aforesaid it is clear that this implies a change in the nature of the relationship between the ANC and FAO now and in the future. In reexamining how best to transform the nature of the relationship, it becomes crucial to share with you some of the areas of concern facing the African National Congress pertaining specifically to the field of agriculture, rural development and environmental issues.

The history of the struggle of the majority of the people of South Africa is rooted to a very large extent in the history of the wars of conquest and the systematic dispossession of the South African blacks of their land. The enactment of the 1913 Natives Land Act was, but a confirmation in law of the taking away of land from blacks and a means of ensuring that they would not have a right equal to that of whites in terms of ownership of land. As a result Mr Chairman, more than 87 percent of the land surface area in South Africa was protected in law for the benefit, ownership and use by a small number of whites, purely on the basis of racial divisions, whilst the black majority were not only denied the same rights, but, were in subsequent years, turned tenants, and farm labourers in the land of their birth.

At the beginning of this calendar year, the racial terms of land ownership in South Africa were removed from the South African law. Whilst the ANC welcomed the scrapping of the Land Act and the Group Areas Act, we feel it is not enough. We feel that before one can declare a free market in land in South Africa, it is important to address the far-reaching consequences of the apartheid system. As the situation now stands, in South Africa, only those with enough money and a proven ability to farm productively can buy land for agricultural purposes. This clearly does not benefit the millions of men and women who live in abject poverty in the rural areas of the country. The process does not begin to address the legacy of our history, nor does it lay the ground for the development of a non-racial agricultural sector.

The African National Conference at its National Conference in July 1991, adopted as a guiding document a Land Manifesto, which embodies principles established through popular participation which stress the need for a fundamental land reform. I will not go into detail on this document as it is readily available. The ANC, Mr Chairman, sees the creation of access to land for the millions of landless blacks as a first step towards the reconstruction of South African agriculture.

The majority of the people in South Africa, who are blacks, live in extreme poverty, and starvation without access to the most basic of human needs.

South African Agriculture has a dual character. One sector is largely white, about 580 000 farmers covering over 84 percent of the country's surface area. Of this area about 10 percent is held by companies. There has been in the last 20 years a notable decline in the number of individual white farmers. It has been found that the company held farms are relatively more productive.

The other sector is black and mainly subsistence production is carried out here. The areas are characterized by overcrowding, maladministration and land hunger. Over the years the capacity of black rural producers has been destroyed and instead turned them into labourers and tenants.

South African agriculture policy is and has always been formulated and applied along racial lines as demanded by the grand apartheid policies. This skewed nature of production and development has resulted in inefficient production and environmental degradation of enormous proportions. The ANC believes the development of a productive agricultural sector and dynamic rural sector is necessary for the well being of a future South Africa. There is therefore a need for a comprehensive land reform programme which not only creates access to land for the blacks, but also: affords rural development priority within the context of a national development policy; ensures the growth, sustainability and increased productivity of the agricultural sector of the economy; ensures a comprehensive agricultural support structure, as a basis for the development of a viable farming sector, this should be in particular to enable fuller participation by resource-poor farmers, including collectives and cooperatives; ensures that the women of South Africa shall have access in their own right to land, support services and financing for agriculture; and that the environment, is protected for future generations.

Mr Chairman, this is clearly an enormous task facing the new government. More so, in the light of other equally pressing demands which face the country, like the need for housing, education, economic growth - to mention but a few.

The ANC seeks to transform the dual character of agriculture in South Africa. There is therefore a heavy responsibility on the ANC to formulate amongst others, a very clear policy on land and agriculture which will at best put in place sustainable agricultural production which will be self-sustaining.

FAO, in its years of international work has accumulated information and an experience that we would gladly like to take advantage of. Mr Chairman, the problems the ANC will have to deal with in the near future, are those that will entail much research and planning, technical expertise and experience, clear thought and analysis.

We see a primary focus of agricultural policy being to ensure household food security.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, I wish to once again thank you for the opportunity to make these remarks. Through you I wish to thank FAO for its continuing supportive relationship with us. The challenges before us are

enormous and I hope Mr Chairman our relationship will take them on and soon appropriately transform into one between FAO and a government that is truly representative of all the people of South Africa.<sup>1</sup>

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ahora vamos a cerrar el debate general con una nota agradable, femeninamente delicada, una dama, la Sra. Maria Teresa Guicciardi, representante de la Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones Sindicales Libres.

**Mrs Maria Teresa GUICCIARDI (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions):** This Conference takes place at a turning point in history. The dramatic developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the winds of change in Africa are at the centre of events which raise global expectations for a new social order and for a new era of international cooperation. At the root of these changes are the people who have had enough of being muzzled and made to bear the brunt of the misgovernment of the ruling few. It is important not to be mistaken about the real aim of change: It is a democratic society in which all forces and potentials it consists of are free to contribute to successful and sustainable development. The aim is not a free-market economy which will not guarantee social and economic security. It needs to be given a social dimension and a democratic framework. Centrally planned economies have failed. Structural adjustment measures from the drawing board and dictated from above do not work. In this context it is worth mentioning that even the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund recognized that social progress must be a central component of restructuring policy, and the people who call for change want the principal political and economic decision-makers to be held democratically accountable.

It is generally agreed here that a number of measures for the promotion of agricultural development, however difficult, have to be taken at the international level. We hope that a new political climate will lead negotiations towards fairer trade and solutions for the debt crisis. At the national level independent organizations of rural workers can provide an important means of increasing sustainable agricultural development, at no extra cost to public resources. Cooperatives, housing schemes, workers' banks, community projects and training centres are some of the benefits which can be provided by such organizations, in some countries operating as rural branches of trade unions. Governments must remove obstacles to the creation of rural worker's organizations, and ratify and commit themselves to respect ILO Convention 141 on Rural Workers' Organizations. Further priorities for rural sector development are infrastructural investments, in roads, railways and ports, storage facilities, environmental protection measures, water pumps, etc. Training, research, agricultural extension schemes and in some countries land reform are also essential.

With the processes of democratization the question of people's participation should get a new impetus. The Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development, which is before this Conference for adoption, is therefore certainly timely. People's participation in its largest sense should also be seen as basic to other subjects of the FAO

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

agenda, be it environment and sustainable development, an agricultural development strategy for the least developed countries, the implementation of the code of conduct concerning pesticides, or nutrition to which an international conference will be devoted next year.

The ICFTU is an international organization representing a hundred million working people affiliated to autonomous trade union centres; IFPAAW which is associated with the ICFTU, organizes over six million agricultural and plantation workers world-wide. Both are by their vocation and structure an expression of the will of the working people - the largest part of any society - to participate in shaping socially and environmentally sound development. For us in the free trade union movement democracy and development have always been interdependent issues. But as closely interlinked are human and trade union rights with these objectives. None of the three can be attained without the other. A primary condition for participation is freedom of association which must be guaranteed as a fundamental human right by a framework of legislation guided by the Human Rights Bill and the standards set by ILO conventions and recommendations, which - this cannot be stressed enough - are negotiated on a tri-partite basis. Unfortunately, still too few countries have ratified Convention 141, and the conventions dealing with freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are often subject to violations. This is regrettably also true of other conventions relevant to the agricultural sector.

Some hope for progress was however generated by the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation which does indeed demand freedom of association in general and the ratification of ILO Convention 141 in particular. The Charter was adopted in 1990 by the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa.

The Plan of Action before this Conference should distinguish more neatly between the two aspects of participation which should both be of concern to the FAO. One is the participation of representative people's organizations such as trade unions, in the overall economic and social development policy of a country, including rural development. The other one is the participation in the definition and in the implementation of projects - for instance at the local level by different groups of the rural population such as women or landless workers who form representative accountable organizations of their own voluntary choice from the local to the national level.

We would further wish to see a clear reference in the Plan of Action to the need for establishing ILO standards in the legal framework of a country and a reference to the experience of the ILO in assisting governments in making legal provisions for freedom of association and for tripartite structures. As a minimum the Plan should request governments to ratify Convention 141 together with Recommendation 149.

With regard to the internal capacities - this is the term used in the Plan of Action - of people's organizations, freedom of association means that they cannot be subject to any government or other third party interference - however well intentioned. The membership fees, for instance, fall solely under the authority of the membership itself and its elected decision-making and controlling bodies. Likewise, the acceptance of external funds for specific projects and not for the regular budget, is the

responsibility of the membership and the representative bodies designated by it and accountable to it. This must also come out clearly in the Plan of Action.

Summed up, the Plan's underlying message, spelled out in the appropriate parts of the text, should be: the exercise of freedom of association and expression is to be guaranteed by freely elected legislative and executive powers as the prerequisite for popular consultation and participation mechanisms; these in turn are essential for accelerated and sustainable rural development.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias señora, usted ha concluido así el debate general. Es muy tarde. No se asusten, no voy a hacer uso de todas las notas que había preparado. Sólo quiero decirles que han intervenido en el debate general 131 oradores: 119 representantes de países y 12 representantes de organizaciones. Ese alto número de oradores confirma el interés creciente de los gobiernos por las actividades de la FAO y realmente éste ha sido un buen debate general. Las intervenciones de los señores ministros y jefes de delegaciones han sido la médula de ese debate. Todos han coincidido en expresar su preocupación por la difícil situación que afrontan millones de seres humanos en los países en desarrollo, cuyas condiciones de hambre y malnutrición desgraciadamente se vienen agravando. Han reconocido la función esencial de la FAO y su valiosa contribución a la solución de esos problemas; se ha destacado la vitalidad y fortaleza de nuestra Organización en medio de la grave crisis financiera y la necesidad de que la FAO cuente con recursos suficientes para que pueda seguir cumpliendo sus objetivos en favor del Tercer Mundo.

Creo que ha sido unánime el reconocimiento a la forma pragmática, decidida, consagrada, inteligente y ponderada como el Dr. Saouma, nuestro Director General, ha hecho frente a las circunstancias adversas, especialmente de este bienio que está para concluir y ha logrado paliar los efectos de la crisis y asegurar, en la mayor medida posible, la ejecución del Programa aprobado por la Conferencia, sobre todo aquellas prioridades que como los programas técnicos y económicos, son base fundamental de las actividades de la FAO.

Finalmente, creo que al final del debate general todos podemos sentirnos satisfechos porque a través del ejercicio democrático que ha constituido este debate, los representantes de todos los gobiernos sin distinción, desarrollados y en desarrollo, han reconocido la necesidad imprescindible de seguir colaborando en el seno de la FAO, juntos, unidos, solidarios.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, vamos ahora a levantar esta sesión. La Plenaria volverá a reunirse el próximo miércoles 20 de noviembre a las nueve y treinta para cumplir un acto muy importante como es la aprobación de la parte del informe de la Comisión II sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y el voto sobre ese Presupuesto.

Si la Secretaría no tiene ningún anuncio, les agradezco mucho su asistencia y muchas gracias por todo.

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 91/PV/14

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

### QUATORZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE

### 14ª SESION PLENARIA

(20 November 1991)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.00 hours

Mr Gerard P. Khojane, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 heures

sous la présidence de M. Gérard P. Khojane, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª Sesión plenaria a las 11.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Gerard P. Khojane, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Sixth Report of the General Committee

Sixième rapport du Bureau

Sexto informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** Before we start the adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 16 as indicated in the Order of the Day, the Conference will approve the sixth report of the General Committee. The text is in C 91/LIM/43, which I am told has been distributed to all delegations.

Since we have all had an opportunity to read it we will approve it section by section.

Having said that, with your approval I now invite the Secretary-General to read the Report of the General Committee section by section, as I said. Secretary-General.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. The first section deals with the election of Council members and consists of 9 paragraphs.

May I ask you, Mr Chairman, to put the question to the Conference.

**CHAIRMAN:** I now put the first part of the Report of the General Committee from paragraph 1 to paragraph 9 for your approval. If I see no objection I take it that you approve paragraphs 1 to 9 of the General Committee's Report.

I see no objection. It is so decided and approved.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The second section deals with the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council in two paragraphs and one Draft Resolution. You will notice that in the Draft Resolution there is a blank that should be filled in with the name of the Independent Chairman of the Council after the election of the Independent Chairman of the Council that will take place on the 26 of November.

**CHAIRMAN:** With the explanations of the Secretary-General can we now approve paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Report of the General Committee?

I see no objection. They are approved.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** In the third section on the work of Commission III the Committee recommends that the Rapporteur of the Conference be invited to continue this work for the other items of the Commission agenda and to consult as necessary the two Vice-Chairmen of the Commission for this purpose.

**CHAIRMAN:** The section has been read. Can we approve it as read?

I see no objection. It is approved.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The last section deals with the time-table of the session. The Committee recommends that Plenary should meet on the morning of Friday, 22 November 1991, to consider sections of the Report of Commission II as part of an attempt to shorten the Conference by one day.

**CHAIRMAN:** Paragraph 13 has just been read by the Secretary-General for your approval. I see no objection. It is so approved.

### ADOPTION OF REPORT

### ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

### APROBACION DEL INFORME

### DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 2 (from Commission II)

### PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DEUXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

### PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 2 (de la Comisión II)

**CHAIRMAN:** We now come to the adoption of Commission II Report on Item 16, the Programme of Work Budget for 1992-93. The documents are in C 91/REP/2 and C 91/REP/2-Sup.1. I would like to ask Mr Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, to be kind enough to introduce the Report.

**Hans Jorgen KRISTENSEN (Chairman, Commission II):** Thank you Mr Chairman. Commission II had a very good discussion on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. In all 64 delegates participated in the discussion and it was put, in plain terms, a very quiet and calm discussion.

The Report before you is in two parts. The text of the Report was, with a very minor change, approved by all members of the Commission. Therefore I would propose for your consideration, Mr Chairman, that the Report as such be adopted by Plenary as a whole. Afterwards there is to be voting on the two Draft Resolutions, one contained in document C 91/REP/2 and other in C 91/REP/2-Sup.1.

To underline the situation with regard to the Budget, I can tell Plenary that there was a consensus in the Commission, and therefore to me voting should be a reasonably simple matter here.

The same applies to the amendment to the Basic Text, the change outlined on the Programme of Work and Budget. I think what remains, in my view, is, if you permit it Mr Chairman, for Mr Shah to give a short explanation on the Draft Resolution on the Budget, particularly the consequences of today's lire/dollar situation where it is 1 210 lire to the dollar. The papers which were submitted earlier on had other figures in them. That is all by way of introduction.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Chairman of Commission II for his brief but clear and precise introduction of the subject. I do not know whether Mr Shah would now be ready to make the explanations that have been referred to him. If he is, I give him the floor.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, the Draft Resolution which is before this august plenary in the document C91/REP/2-Sup.1 requires two comments of explanation which I would submit. Firstly, the text, the narrative part of this Draft Resolution and structure of this Draft Resolution, is exactly as was submitted to the Plenary and to Commission II in the Fourth Report of the General Committee, document C 91/LIM/39.

The second explanation, Mr Chairman, is that the figures as given in LIM/39 have been changed to reflect the suggested budget rate of 1 210 lire to the dollar. All the figures have been changed except for the figure under Operative Paragraph 2 of the Resolution, Net Base Budgetary Appropriation which remains at 645 588 000.

Finally, Mr Chairman, with regard to the suggested budget rate of 1 210, it may interest Plenary to know that in view of the variability of the US dollar/lire rate in recent days we have followed the matter very attentively. Yesterday, the rate fluctuated from 1 217 in the morning, falling in concert with the Dow Jones index to 1 205 in the afternoon. The financial markets in Milan closed at 1 213, and New York at 1 210. The rate in London this morning opened at around 1 209 to 1 211. It is taking into account all these factors that the Director-General is therefore presenting the Draft Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget and Budgetary Appropriations 1992-93 at the rate of Lire 1 210 to the US dollar. I thank you Mr Chairman.

### PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 32

### PARAGRAPHS 1 A 32

### PARRAFOS 1 A 32

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Shah for his explanations and clarifications. We now have the proposal of the Chairman of Commission II, but the Report before the Conference has been thrashed thoroughly in Commission II, and as a result he proposes that we adopt the Report en bloc. This is a very useful proposal which the Chairman supports entirely. However, we will put it to the Conference to adopt it, but before proceeding we are also aware that we will have to take separate votes on two Resolutions as required by the Basic Texts, I think.

Now starting with the Report, has the Conference agreed to the proposal by the Chairman of Commission II that we adopt the Report of Commission II on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93?

### Applause

### Applaudissements

### Aplausos

Paragraphs 1 to 32 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 32 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 32 son aprobados

**CHAIRMAN:** The Chair is very grateful for the unanimous adoption of the Report of Commission II on the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. I am sure the Secretariat will also be excited with this unique incident.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

**CHAIRMAN:** We have now completed the adoption of our Report but as agreed we now have to vote on the two Resolutions. The first Resolution relates to the Programme of Work and Budget and Budgetary Appropriations 1992-93 in document C 91/REP/2-Sup.1. This requires a two-thirds majority and consequently a roll-call vote. The Secretary-General has the floor to explain the modalities of this voting.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Nous arrivons au vote de la Résolution portant ouverture des crédits pour l'exercice 1992-93.

L'Article XVIII-5 de l'Acte constitutif stipule que les décisions relatives au montant du budget sont prises à la majorité des deux tiers des suffrages exprimés.

Selon l'Article XII-7(a) du Règlement général, un vote par appel nominal a lieu si une majorité des deux tiers est requise en vertu de l'Acte constitutif.

L'Article XII-3(c) du Règlement général stipule que lorsque, en vertu de l'Acte constitutif, une décision doit être prise par la Conférence à la majorité des deux tiers, le nombre total de suffrages exprimés pour ou contre doit être supérieur à la moitié du nombre des Etats Membres de l'Organisation.

Il faut donc en l'occurrence que le nombre de voix pour ou contre qui vont être émises soit d'au moins 81.

Le Secrétariat doit maintenant informer le Président du nombre de délégués présents dans la salle: il y en a au moins 103. Selon l'Article XXII-7(a) du Règlement général, le vote par appel nominal se fait de la façon suivante: il est appelé dans l'ordre alphabétique anglais le nom de tous les Etats Membres ayant le droit de prendre part au vote en commençant par un Etat dont le nom est tiré au sort par le Président.

L'Etat qui a le privilège d'être le premier votant est le Panama. Le vote va donc commencer par la délégation du Panama.

Je précise que le représentant de chaque Etat Membre à l'appel de son nom doit répondre par oui, non ou abstention.

A l'issue du vote il sera procédé à un nouvel appel de tous les Etats Membres dont les délégués ou représentants n'auraient pas répondu au premier appel. Le vote de chaque Etat Membre prenant part à un vote par appel nominal est consigné au procès-verbal.

**CHAIRMAN:** After this explanation we will now proceed to vote. I now invite the officers responsible to proceed with the voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación

26 Session of the Conference Session de la Conférence Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

Vote on  
1st Vote sur  
Votación para

Resolution on PWB and Budget Appropriation for 1992-93

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan	X				China	X				Germany	X			
Albania				X	Colombia	X				Ghana	X			
Algeria	X				Comoros				X	Greece	X			
Angola	X				Congo	X				Grenada				X
Argentina	X				Cook Islands				X	Guatemala	X			
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guinea	X			
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire	X				Guinea-Bissau	X			
Bahamas				X	Cuba	X				Guyana	X			
Bahrain	X				Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Bangladesh	X				Czechoslovakia	X				Honduras	X			
Barbados				X	D.P. Republic of Korea	X				Hungary	X			
Belgium	X				Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin	X				Djibouti	X				India	X			
Bhutan	X				Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia	X				Dominican Republic				X	Iran (Islamic	X			
Botswana	X				Ecuador				X	Iraq	X			
Brazil			X		Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea	X				Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Estonia				X	Jamaica				X
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Japan	X			
Canada	X				Fiji				X	Jordan				X
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X				Kenya	X			
Central African Republic				X	France	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X			
Chad				X	Gabon	X				Kuwait	X			
Chile	X				Gambia				X	Laos	X			

26 Session of the Conference Session de la Conférence Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on  
1st Vote sur Resolution on PWB and Budget Appropriation for 1992-93  
Votación para

MAMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MAMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MAMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Latvia				X	Nigeria	X				Swaziland	X			
Lebanon	X				Norway	X				Sweden	X			
Lesotho	X				Oman				X	Switzerland	X			
Liberia				X	Pakistan	X				Syria	X			
Libya	X				Panama	X				Tanzania	X			
Lithuania				X	Papua New Guinea				X	Thailand	X			
Luxembourg	X				Paraguay				X	Togo	X			
Madagascar	X				Peru	X				Tonga				X
Malawi	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Malaysia	X				Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Maldives				X	Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Mali	X				Qatar				X	Uganda	X			
Malta				X	Romania				X	United Arab Emirates	X			
Mauritania	X				Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Mauritius	X				St Kitts & Nevis				X	USA	X			
Mexico	X				Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mongolia				X	St Vincent & Grenadines	X				Vanuatu				X
Morocco	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mozambique				X	Saudi Arabia	X				Viet Nam				X
Myanmar	X				Senegal	X				Yemen				X
Namibia				X	Sierra Leone				X	Yugoslavia	X			
Nepal	X				Solomon Islands				X	Zaire				X
Netherlands	X				Somalia				X	Zambia	X			
New Zealand	X				Spain	X				Zimbabwe				X
Nicaragua	X				Sri Lanka	X								
Niger	X				Sudan	X								



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
1<sup>st</sup> Vote sur Resolution on PWB and Budget Appropriation for  
1992-93

Votación para

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	111
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	42

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	111
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	74
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ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

Date: 20 November 1991

Elections Officer B. Linley

Date: 20 november 1991

Fonctionnaire électoral

Fecha: 20 noviembre 1991

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.

**CHAIRMAN:** According to these results, I have the pleasure to announce that the first Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget and the dollar appropriations for 1992-93, document C/91/REP/2-Sup.1, is adopted.

Draft Resolution approved

Le projet de Résolution est approuvé

El proyecto de Resolución es aprobado

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brazil):** The Brazilian delegation wishes to reiterate its clear agreement with the Programme of Work. Concerning the level of the budget, we highly appreciate the reduction of costs of US\$27 million which strengthens our firm confidence in the FAO Secretariat and its ability to manage the affairs of the Organization in the best manner. In view of this Brazil has not opposed the consensus on the level of the budget.

We regret, nevertheless, that for reasons of principle we were not in a position to endorse the proposed increase in the budget as it will still affect substantially the amount of the Brazilian contribution. An amount that we will find extremely difficult to absorb, due to the burden of our external debt and the deterioration of the export prices of our commodities, in a word, the economic and financial crisis faced by the developing countries.

The position of the Brazilian delegation is consistent with the attitude taken by the Brazilian Government regarding this issue in other multilateral fora.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie):** Tout en étant heureux de vous voir présider cette séance, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole.

En effet, je voudrais soumettre une explication de vote au nom du Groupe des 77 car en une occasion aussi importante on ne saurait passer sous silence l'avenir et l'existence même de notre Organisation, la FAO. Voilà que le budget de la FAO pour le biennium 1992-93 vient d'être voté à l'unanimité. Tout le Groupe des 77 se joint à moi pour se réjouir de ce consensus final. Cependant, je ne pourrais omettre le fait que l'ensemble du Groupe des 77 ne peut que constater avec un grand regret que le budget adopté ne présente pas seulement une croissance zéro mais présente au contraire une croissance négative de 4,6 pour cent. Cet événement est tout à fait exceptionnel dans les annales de l'Organisation. Ce budget négatif est exceptionnel à plus d'un titre car il se présente au moment où le nouvel ordre mondial se consolide grâce au système des Nations Unies. Il est exceptionnel parce qu'il touche de plein fouet une organisation qui s'occupe, avec acharnement et compétence, de lutter contre la pauvreté, la famine, la malnutrition et les situations d'urgence et j'en passe. Il est également exceptionnel puisqu'il approuve un programme de travail nécessitant la somme de 677 millions de dollars environ avec seulement un crédit budgétaire de 645,5 millions de dollars. Oui, nous sommes inquiets maintenant car nous partons en sachant que le programme de travail sera amputé de 32 millions de dollars, mais nous partons surtout sans savoir quelle activité sera touchée par le Directeur général appelé à gérer une situation ambiguë entre le programme défini et le budget accordé. Tous les délégués ici présents ne pourront jamais rendre compte à leur gouvernement de l'affectation réelle des crédits approuvés. C'est pour toutes ces

raisons que le Groupe des 77 souhaite fermement que l'on ne procède plus de cette manière pour adopter le budget. Ce souhait est d'autant plus ferme que nous souhaitons voir notre plus gros contributeur répondre à ses engagements financiers tout en respectant un calendrier précis de paiement de ses arriérés. Il est évident que la gestion des arriérés doit être utilisée conformément au règlement en vigueur car la distorsion entre les départements et les programmes serait encore plus grande si l'utilisation des arriérés était conditionnée. A cet effet, l'ensemble des Etats Membres du Groupe des 77 serait heureux d'entendre notre honorable collègue des Etats-Unis nous présenter un calendrier aussi précis que possible des versements des contributions et d'arriérés permettant à notre Organisation de continuer son action de développement et de soutien à nos pays en développement. Le Groupe des 77 est certes réticent face à cette situation. Et c'est à contrecoeur que les pays en développement ont répondu à l'appel du Directeur général et ont accepté exceptionnellement de se joindre au consensus afin de sauvegarder notre Organisation. A cet égard, je n'oublierai jamais, au nom de tous mes collègues, de mentionner les efforts inlassables et louables du Directeur général, Edouard Saouma, qui a su, par son intelligence, sa compétence, sa volonté et surtout sa patience, maintenir l'Organisation à son niveau de pionnier, qui joue un rôle unique en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation. C'est pourquoi M. Edouard Saouma mérite toute notre estime et notre gratitude. Par ailleurs, et comme le bureau de la Conférence l'a recommandé, nous souhaitons procéder à un vote au sujet de l'augmentation du Fonds de roulement et la réalimentation des caisses du Compte de réserve spéciale permettant à l'Organisation de disposer de réserves financières susceptibles d'être utilisées en temps opportun, étant donné que le budget adopté est en dessous de la réalité des programmes et que les imprévus ont toujours dépassé les prévisions du Directeur général. Cette action serait d'autant plus louable si les pays développés y contribuaient d'une façon plus substantielle et plus massive.

Quant à l'avenir, le Groupe des 77 voudrait souligner qu'il rejette dès à présent un éventuel budget négatif pour l'exercice 1994-95. Car une répétition de cette politique de croissance négative conduirait notre Organisation à une mort lente et certaine. C'est pour cela que nous recommandons au Directeur général d'envisager un budget de rattrapage conforme aux besoins réels des Etats Membres. En définitive, dans l'espoir de voir notre plus gros bailleur de fonds présenter un accord en bonne et due forme lui permettant de se joindre au sacrifice des Etats Membres du Groupe des 77, en dépit de notre réticence et en signe de solidarité devant l'intérêt majeur de notre Organisation, le Groupe des 77 accepte le consensus pour le Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1992-93.

**Thomas YANGA (Cameroun):** Les pays du Groupe africain sont particulièrement heureux de vous voir présider les travaux de notre séance et, comme l'a souligné le président du Groupe des 77, vous le faites à un moment exceptionnel pour nous, au moment où nous adoptons par consensus et par acclamation le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation 1992-93.

Au nom du Groupe africain, après l'adoption par consensus du Programme de travail 1992-93, qui vient d'avoir lieu, je tiens à exprimer notre satisfaction face à cette heureuse conclusion à la suite d'une longue procédure et des efforts louables et soutenus déployés tant par les pays membres de l'Organisation que par le Secrétariat. A cet égard, le Groupe africain tient à exprimer clairement et vivement son appréciation au Directeur général de la FAO, Edouard Saouma, pour les efforts inlassables

qu'il a déployés tout au long de cette procédure et en particulier pour son sens élevé de réalisme, d'ouverture, de compromis, et du maintien de l'harmonie entre les pays membres provenant de toutes les régions.

Toutefois le Groupe africain regrette une fois de plus qu'après une concession exceptionnelle et majeure qu'il a faite sur la croissance zéro nous nous trouvions à ce jour face à une croissance négative de moins de 4 pour cent par rapport au budget précédent. Le Groupe africain considère que cet accord auquel nous sommes parvenus ne devrait en aucune manière constituer un précédent pour l'avenir. Il considère aussi qu'une telle réduction affecte dangereusement les programmes de la FAO en faveur de nos pays, notamment à un moment où leurs besoins sont de plus en plus croissants et la situation de la FAO de plus en plus forte. Nous sommes parvenus à cet accord de compromis dans un esprit qui puisse favoriser le consensus sur l'adoption du budget. Notre appui à cet accord est soumis à la réalisation effective et entière des programmes économiques et techniques approuvés par cette haute instance. A cette fin, et sans perdre de vue la situation propre à nos pays, notre groupe estime que tous les Etats Membres doivent s'acquitter promptement et entièrement de leur contribution ordinaire. Pour ceux d'entre eux qui détiennent des arriérés, ceux-ci doivent être payés sans conditions en vertu des documents financiers de l'Organisation. Par conséquent, notre Groupe appuie fermement les conclusions du rapport que nous avons adopté par acclamation et tel qu'il est énoncé dans le paragraphe 23.

Toujours dans le même souci de voir le Programme de travail se réaliser pleinement, notre groupe estime que celui-ci doit être protégé à la fois contre les fluctuations des taux de change et contre les retards dans le paiement des contributions. Je crois que les événements de ces derniers jours sur le marché financier et le calendrier des paiements des contributions pour l'année en cours sont là pour nous conforter.

C'est pourquoi notre groupe considère que le fonds de roulement doit être augmenté et que le fonds de réserves spécial, seul mécanisme statutaire existant pour faire face aux situations des taux de change et qui est actuellement épuisé, doit être reconstitué en attendant qu'une meilleure solution, si jamais elle existe, puisse être trouvée. C'est le lieu et le moment pour notre groupe de réitérer solennellement notre appui au Programme de coopération technique. Nos pays apprécient tout particulièrement la manière avec laquelle ces ressources répondent aux besoins exprimés par nos Etats. Nous regrettons vivement que l'accroissement proposé ne puisse permettre de répondre aux dispositions de la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence.

S'agissant de sa gestion, nous saluons la volonté manifestée par le Directeur général d'obtenir une plus grande transparence et une plus large participation des Etats Membres à celle-ci. Toutefois, notre groupe reste convaincu que les mécanismes actuels de sa gestion doivent être maintenus afin de respecter la nature et l'esprit du PCT. Enfin, le Groupe africain apprécie à sa juste valeur la priorité accordée à la région Afrique dans ce Programme de travail et budget en réponse aux difficultés majeures auxquelles notre continent est confronté et aussi en réponse aux Résolutions pertinentes des Nations Unies.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** La délégation congolaise fait siennes les déclarations du Président du Groupe des 77 et du représentant du Président du Groupe africain. Elle se félicite bien entendu de l'approbation à l'unanimité du budget 1992-93. Nous vivons à présent un tournant dans l'histoire de notre Organisation. En effet, cette Organisation, dont chacun connaît le rôle et l'importance dans le développement économique et social des pays pauvres, a toujours rejeté le principe de croissance zéro que l'on voulait lui imposer, estimant que le niveau de développement et les besoins de nos pays ne méritaient pas encore un tel traitement. La délégation de mon pays avait néanmoins, dans un but de compromis, accepté, après de multiples discussions d'approuver un budget sans croissance pour tenir compte de nos propres capacités contributives. Tout devait être fait pour réaliser un équilibre entre cette capacité contributive des pays en proie aux difficultés financières que l'on sait et nos besoins réels de développement. Mais voici qu'en dehors de toute logique nous venons de nous prononcer sur un budget qui, de toute évidence, intègre non pas la notion de croissance zéro mais celle de croissance négative. N'est-ce pas un non-sens à un moment où la FAO doit faire face à de nouveaux défis: développement durable et mise en oeuvre des résultats de l'examen de la FAO. La délégation congolaise tient à rappeler sa totale désapprobation à l'égard de l'institution d'un principe si funeste pour nos économies. Si nous avons accepté ce budget au cours de cette vingt-sixième session, il est impérieux d'insister sur le caractère exceptionnel de cette croissance négative et surtout sur le fait que ceci n'a été possible qu'en échange d'un engagement ferme d'un Etat Membre, auteur de cette amputation budgétaire, de payer à moyen terme tous les arriérés dûs au titre des contributions à la FAO, et ce, sur la base d'un calendrier précis que nous souhaitons connaître. Ma délégation doit avouer qu'elle a été prise de court sur cette affaire car tout le monde sait que les procédures budgétaires ont été prolongées dans le but d'obtenir le consensus dans l'approbation du budget. Ma délégation se pose la question de savoir si cet exercice prolongé et coûteux vaut la peine d'être poursuivi, dès lors que l'objectif recherché n'est visiblement pas atteint. Nous l'avons constaté en 1989 et nous le déplorons encore aujourd'hui. Nous rappelons que, dès le départ, nous n'étions pas particulièrement favorables à ce nouveau processus d'adoption budgétaire mais nous avons donné notre accord sur la base d'un essai que nous n'estimions pas concluant. Vous pouvez deviner notre embarras quant à la poursuite éventuelle de cet exercice, à moins que l'on nous donne l'assurance que le résultat de cet exercice n'aboutira pas à imposer à la Conférence un point de vue minoritaire qui mette en péril la réalisation du Programme de travail de l'Organisation.

Voilà comment le Congo perçoit sa réponse positive à la Résolution relative aux ouvertures de crédit pour 1992-93. Nous comptons beaucoup sur le savoir-faire et l'expérience de M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, pour éviter les amputations éventuelles des programmes techniques et économiques prioritaires, et notamment le PCT.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Ambassador of Congo for his explanation of the vote. I now invite the representative of Trinidad and Tobago to take the floor.

**Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** The fifteen Members and Associate Members of CARICOM constitute just about ten percent of the membership of this august body. Permit me, on their behalf, to make some comments on this particular issue.

First of all, we fully endorse the position taken by the Chairman of the Group of 77. We are happy indeed that we have come to the point where we can adopt the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget by consensus. The decisions we have taken today affect the vital interests of all developing countries, not least so small developing states like ourselves. For us, these are not merely matters of bread and butter, but life and death, for the Programme of Work and Budget is the very life's blood of this Organization, and FAO in turn provides a lifeline for so many of us in the developing world.

We have followed the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget in its preparatory and formulation process with diligence and interest, participating as a sub-region within the Programme Committee, Council and Conference thus far. A few things have struck us. Firstly, the unprecedented degree of transparency attending the process as exemplified by the fund of information made available to the membership to facilitate the understanding of the issues, the contexts and the circumstances in forming the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget. Secondly, a new and frightening interpretation has been given to the meaning of the concepts of compromise and consensus. Compromise for some means the subjugation of the will of the majority to the dictates of the few. Consensus in the minds of the few is achieved when we all submit to the ultimatum given by them.

And, Mr Chairman, we are much wiser in our understanding of what is meant by the saying those who pay the piper, call the tune.

And so, Mr Chairman, sadder and wiser we have arrived at this, our decision, fully cognizant of the impact of the last decade and ever concerned and hopeful that our first budget of the decade of the 90s would have compensated for such losses and would have given promise of a better tomorrow and brighter prospects for the third millennium.

But, Mr Chairman, I suppose half a loaf is better than no bread. And therefore it is with much regret and great sadness that in a spirit of compromise we have supported the Resolution and the proposals before the Conference on the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget.

Mr Chairman, we have given our support based on full knowledge and understanding of the tremendous and inexhaustible efforts of the Director-General, Dr Saouma, and his hard working staff to negotiate a set of arrangements, a deal if you will, in accordance with which the major contributor will give its word to live up to its legal obligations to pay promptly its contributions and its arrears without conditions. We in the developing world expect no less.

And so we have acceded to a principle which is at variance with and seriously threatens global agricultural development.

If a zero budget was ill-conceived and fundamentally flawed, a negative budget and the 1992-93 is indeed negative in real terms, is nothing less than a retrograde step. For FAO, for global agriculture and for millions of poor and suffering and dying in the developing world.

I urge in the name of humanity that this backward step of a negative growth budget level is never repeated in these hallowed halls. And may history absolve us. Thank you very much.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. The Philippine delegation wishes to register its full support for the statement of the Chairman of Group 77. We attach great importance to the approval of the programme for budget by consensus. In as much as it can help solve the problem of arrears and the problems consequent thereto, first of all the inability of the Organization to deliver approved programmes and services to the countries, we however have to say that we believe most forcefully that we do not consider this budget as the conditions attached to this as a precedent to the future budget programme, working budget. We do not consider that the negative growth could be a healthy precedent for future programmes of work and budget of the Organization. We therefore join the consensus with the resolution that we consider this only not a precedent for future programmes of work and budget.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (Mexico):** Seré muy breve. México ha emitido ya su voto favorable al Presupuesto 1992-93 y a la Resolución que se contiene en el documento C 91/REP/2-Sup.1. Lo hemos hecho entendiendo que la FAO no puede detener sus actividades y lamentamos profundamente que no las pueda incrementar como sería deseable.

Aprobados los documentos, adquirimos el compromiso que, por supuesto, cumpliremos como siempre lo hemos hecho, de apoyar a la Administración de la FAO con los recursos que debamos cubrir y con el trabajo que nos sea requerido.

Queremos puntualizar, sin embargo, nuestra inconformidad y reserva con el incremento de las aportaciones para cubrir gastos financieros a los que la Organización ha tenido que recurrir ante necesidades inmediatas. En el fondo de las dificultades financieras de la Organización no encontramos otra causa que una recurrente falta de pago de cuotas en que, por diversas razones, han incurrido algunos miembros; unas son entendibles y justificables, otras no las podemos entender.

Sería deseable que los gastos financieros fueran cubiertos en la proporción exacta de cada mora por los miembros deudores.

Con esta observación, que rogamos se incluya en el instrumento resolutivo y en las actas, concluimos nuestra intervención.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the representative of Mexico for his explanation of the vote. I am sure the request has been noted.

I now recognize the representative of the United States of America.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. The United States warmly welcomes the strong consensus that has been achieved among Member States at this Conference on FAO's 1992-93 budget. We believe that by developing a realistic budget Member States have taken into account fully the concerns expressed on many occasions by a number of delegates over the payment of significantly higher assessments.

At a time of acute economic hardships facing over half the membership of this Organization, the adoption of a budget which reflects a nominal increase of 13.5 percent over the previous level is both prudent and fiscally responsible. Such restraint in nominal growth provides the solid base for the 1994-95 biennium. This achievement is a product of hard work and strong leadership on the part of the Director-General, supported by his able Secretariat, and equally importantly, that of the Member States.

Mr Chairman, we officially believe that the cooperative spirit and constructive approach toward this process of adopting a 1992-93 budget by consensus will go far to restore FAO's financial viability.

We are equally encouraged by the strong support evidenced in the Commission II discussion of the budget outline process for adopting the budget outline procedure as a permanent feature of FAO's budget formulation process.

An early dialogue among Member States on FAO's programme priorities and budget level allows for greater forward planning. For its part the United States, as President Bush has stressed, intends to regularize its payments to the Organization in the coming years.

My statement to Commission II went into as much detail as possible on these payments, given our legislative process.

Briefly, Mr Chairman, I would note the United States made an exceptional effort to pay nearly US\$50 million in October. We plan to pay the remaining portion of our current year 1991 assessment of US\$34.9 million before the end of the year.

Another arrears payment of roughly US\$20 million should be paid in the first six months of 1992.

These payments are substantially in excess of what would have been possible to pay in the absence of a consensus budget.

Pending fiscal year 1993 appropriation, the United States will move as quickly as possible to pay its regular assessment under this new budget in another arrears payment.

Forecasting beyond fiscal year 1993 is not feasible, but the administration's stated goal is to eliminate the arrears over a five-year period.

Through this biennium we will have made a good start toward meeting that goal. As the Chairman of Commission II so eloquently remarked yesterday, in a constantly changing world the process of organizational reform is a dynamic and continuing one.

We will also maintain our resolve to continue to work closely with FAO and other Member States to find sustainable approaches that strengthen FAO's operations where its comparative advantage is clear and unequivocal.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.



**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the representative of the United States of America for her explanation of vote and for advising on the status in the coming months and years. I now recognize the representative of Belgium.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** La délégation du Royaume de Belgique s'est ralliée au consensus sur le budget 1992-93 dans la perspective du règlement de la crise financière de la FAO.

Pour permettre à cette Organisation d'exécuter pleinement son programme de travail pour la prochaine période biennale, mon Gouvernement tient à souligner ici l'importance qu'il attache au contenu du paragraphe 23 du rapport de la Commission II sur le point 16 de l'ordre du jour, en particulier à la partie de ce paragraphe concernant l'engagement sur le montant et le calendrier des versements autitre des arriérés et des contributions courantes.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** Thank you very much Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, the delegation of Pakistan assumes the floor in its honoured capacity as Chairman of the Asia group and this Committee wishes to start by expressing its great pleasure on seeing you presiding over this very important session of the Twenty-sixth Conference.

Mr Chairman, earlier in our debate the Chairman of Group of 77, our good friend Badr Ben Ammar of Tunisia spoke on behalf of all members of the Group of 77 which includes 19 of the 20 members of the Asian Region as well. We have also heard eloquent and detailed statements from the Chairman of the Africa Group and the distinguished delegates of the Congo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Mexico and, more recently, Belgium.

One distinguished delegate from the Asian region, the distinguished representative from the Philippines, also made a statement on behalf of his delegation.

The views expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the other distinguished delegates just mentioned by me fully represent the views of the Member Nations of the Asia region belonging to the Group of 77.

In view thereof and being conscious of your own concern about the time constraints, it is not my intention to go into details and lengthy support statements, but merely to state that we, the Asian Member States, wish to note our full support and association with all the statements that have been noted.

The Asian members also welcome the recent statement by the delegate of the United States indicating positive measures that the United States government is going to take as a result of this consensus, in making payments on its assessed contributions for the current and next calendar years as well as on the payment of the liquidation of its arrears. We would have liked to have more confirmed figures on the payment of arrears as we did understand that the United States delegation was in a position to give us some more figures for the balance of the arrears.

We also heard a reference to the review and reform process. My delegation the other day in Commission II noted that we feel that review and reform is an intrinsic part of the general administration and oversight over the

functions of any organization which does not exclude the FAO, but we also noted that a comprehensive and lengthy exercise had been carried out which concluded with a consensus agreement in the last Conference in 1989.

We should not open at this moment further review and reform processes, but rather work towards consolidating on what we agreed upon during the last Conference. If the need arises at a subsequent stage we can look at other areas as well.

**Sra. Hilda G. GABARDINI (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, mi delegación ha señalado ya durante los debates sobre este punto mantenidos en la Comisión II, y no creo ocioso reiterarlo aquí, que la Argentina, como es sabido, está atravesando un período de graves dificultades financieras, derivado principalmente del estancamiento de su economía y de su elevada deuda externa que, sumados al serio ajuste del sector público, imponen la máxima austeridad en sus compromisos monetarios. Sin embargo, la delegación de Argentina aprecia altamente el esfuerzo realizado por el Director General y la Secretaría para presentar este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que incluye como único factor de crecimiento real los aumentos en los costos y la inflación.

En homenaje a ello, y aunque finalmente, pese a lo antes señalado, este presupuesto implica un fuerte aumento en la cuota que debe aportar mi país, haciendo un gran esfuerzo, hemos votado favorablemente esta Resolución.

**Waleed A. EIKHERELJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** I wish to speak on behalf of the Near East Group, and at the outset let me say how pleased we are to see you in the Chair during this sitting of the Plenary. The countries of the Near East Group wish to convey their gratitude to the Director-General for the most valuable contribution that he has made in consultation with the Member Nations, this turn has enabled us to reach this consensus.

The countries of my Group fully endorse what was said by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and also by the Chairmen of the other regional groups. Undoubtedly, the Budget level does not meet the expectations or hopes of many of the regional groups, in particular ours, but this decision does take into account the fact that both developed and developing nations are facing financial difficulties, and hence our group feels that this is a waiting budget, if you will, but is necessary at the present time under the present circumstances, while awaiting better days when we will be able to adopt a much higher budget.

**Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie):** Permettez-moi d'ajouter quelques mots aux interventions des différents orateurs qui m'ont précédée à ce niveau avancé du débat.

Je souhaiterais tout d'abord associer ma délégation aux déclarations des présidents du Groupe des 77, du Groupe africain et du Groupe du Proche-Orient dont elle partage la satisfaction relative à l'obtention d'un consensus sur le budget mais aussi les principales préoccupations pour ce qui est des réductions de programmes.

Je voudrais tout de même à cet instant rappeler que mon pays connaît les mêmes soucis que ceux évoqués par les délégués du Brésil et de l'Argentine, notamment quant à l'importance de la quote-part de nos pays.

Je voudrais en conséquence souligner que notre vote positif doit être interprété comme un effort particulièrement important vis-à-vis d'une Organisation dont nous soutenons les idéaux, les engagements et le Secrétariat.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** I thank you, Mr Chairman. Like other delegations who spoke before us, the Ethiopian delegation is extremely pleased to see you chairing this important session of the Conference.

The process under which this Programme of Work and Budget had to go to reach this culmination point of our programme has been exhaustive and a long one. When we reached this stage of our programme one could only think of the effort that the world is going through. This gratification being as it is, one may not stop from suggesting that a better environment of fulfilling the financial needs, and the availabilities of resources, could improve the programme implementation of our Organization.

One other area which has already been raised by a number of delegations during the Commission's discussion, and also here in the Plenary, is the question of zero growth. This might not affect the present decision of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. We do, however, sense that our failing on making or agreeing to this decision will somehow leave some doubt on the effective implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget because of the negative growth effect that we have to go through. We hope that some mechanism of obtaining additional resources from Member Countries who are in a position to do so, could be explored and supplemented. In this regard the Ethiopian delegation would like to echo its agreement with the views expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Chairman of the African Group, including the payment of arrears.

We would also like to voice that this exceptional consensus that we have to go through for the approval of the Programme of Work for 1992-93 is an extreme exception and the last one, and that the question of zero growth could come to an end, and we hope that this will no longer prevail in our future sessions of this nature.

Finally, but not least, our delegation would like to thank the Director-General for his practical skills and pragmatism on approaching the Programme of Work and Budget for approval that we just went through.

**Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti):** Notre délégation appuie fermement la déclaration du représentant des 15 pays du CARICOM et nous voudrions associer nos commentaires aux leurs.

De fait, le niveau de budget pour le biennium 1992-93, tel que la Conférence vient de le voter, est en dessous des besoins du Programme. Le budget adopté est moindre que la croissance zéro, une option déjà difficile mais consentie par les pays en voie de développement, en vue de ne pas charger l'avenir de l'Organisation et de répondre ainsi à l'appel du Directeur général pour un consensus.

Notre délégation appuie et apprécie les efforts du Directeur général. Le programme de gestion pour le prochain biennium sera difficile et le programme de travail sera réduit, aux dépens de tous les pays qui attendaient le soutien indispensable de la FAO.

Nous avons appuyé le budget tout en espérant que cette situation exceptionnelle ne constituera en aucun cas un précédent pour l'Organisation.

Nous pensons également fermement que certaines garanties seront données face à une situation équivoque quant au paiement des arriérés, en vue de ne pas handicaper plus encore les activités de la FAO, ce qui la mettrait toute proche d'un point de non retour.

**Mohamed Sidya OULD-BAH (Mauritanie):** Je vous remercie de me donner la parole et je vous félicite pour la présidence que vous êtes en train d'assurer. J'aurais pu m'abstenir de parler parce que la déclaration du Président du Groupe des 77 et du Groupe africain reflète exactement la position de mon pays.

Cependant j'aimerais renforcer un peu ce que ces orateurs ont dit à propos de ce budget.

Je me félicite bien sûr de ce consensus autour de ce budget de croissance négative. Je ne sais pas si l'expression est tout à fait utilisable, en effet quand il y a plusieurs dizaines de millions en moins je ne sais pas si l'on peut parler de croissance, on peut peut-être parler de dégradation ou de désintégration de la perspective de notre Organisation.

Je dirai pour renforcer ce qu'ont dit le Président du Groupe des 77 et le Président du Groupe africain qu'il est dommage quand même qu'après plusieurs séances, aussi bien au sein des commissions qu'à la séance plénière, tout le monde, riches et pauvres, soit unanime pour dire que plusieurs centaines de millions d'êtres humains sont menacés par la famine et la malnutrition. Tout le monde, riches et pauvres, est unanime pour dire qu'un milliard d'êtres humains sont au niveau du seuil de la pauvreté. Tout le monde est unanime pour dire que des dizaines et des dizaines de pays sont écrasés par la dette extérieure.

Tout ce monde a les yeux braqués sur notre Organisation et notre assemblée aujourd'hui, dans ses rapports de commissions, va annoncer une diminution du budget de l'Organisation.

Je me félicite à mon tour, bien sûr, de la déclaration des Etats-Unis d'Amérique sur le calendrier de règlement des arriérés. Il y aurait beaucoup de choses à dire, mais j'aimerais déclarer devant cette assemblée que je ne sais pas si nous allons être très fiers, en sortant de cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence, de déclarer à nos populations qu'il y a moins de moyens pour financer les programmes de terrain dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Mais tout n'est pas perdu. Il vaut mieux avoir un budget amputé que de n'avoir pas de budget du tout et je souhaite, comme cela a été suggéré par une délégation, que ce consensus aujourd'hui puisse être compensé par un engagement, sinon une promesse formelle, que les choses vont être corrigées pour le budget 1994-95.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Muy brevemente, Sr. Presidente. Creemos que en los últimos días y hoy, hemos llegado a acontecimientos muy importantes para nuestros destinos, tanto de la FAO, como de sus países miembros. Estamos actuando de acuerdo a los nuevos rumbos que se producen en el mundo, pero es necesario, Sr. Presidente, entender que mientras esto ocurre, las necesidades de los pueblos se agudizan. Nuestro voto conlleva no sólo nuestro respaldo a este Proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos, sino a la gestión de la FAO y de su Director General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, en su correcta dirección y gestión que tanto apreciamos como país en vía de desarrollo. Pero no por esto, Sr. Presidente, podemos ocultar nuestra preocupación por la situación que se presenta ya definida muy correctamente por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77, se agrandan y surgen nuevas necesidades en el mundo, y se precisan de nuevas, tanto en el presente como en el futuro.

Los datos están recogidos en los propios documentos de la FAO; la situación en Africa, Asia, América Latina y el Caribe, a la cual pertenecemos, son cada vez más caóticas y a éstas se unen otras nuevas y en este aspecto, se hace inevitable volver al eterno tema del pago, no se puede confundir a los pueblos que no pagan sus contribuciones por no tener ni un centavo en sus arcas, y, esto se conoce, los cuales pueden hasta perder su derecho en la FAO, aquellos que no pagan por otros factores muy lejos de la realidad de sus economías y, no es precisamente por falta de exhortaciones. Creo que se han hecho demasiadas.

Ante esta realidad, sólo nos referiremos a lo expresado por el Director General de la FAO en su primera intervención en este 26<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones, en la que decía: Si debe crearse un nuevo orden internacional, éste solamente podrá nacer en el seno de la familia de las Naciones Unidas y gracias a ella, pero pregunto, Sr. Presidente, ¿Esto puede ser posible debilitando las gestiones de la FAO, empobreciendo sus arcas y limitando su ayuda? No podemos, señor Presidente, en este importante momento dejar de alertar sobre esta preocupación en nombre de mi delegación.

**Gian Luigi VALENZA (Italia):** La délégation italienne a été heureuse de se joindre à un consensus sur le Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1992-93 qu'elle avait à maintes reprises souhaité de tous ses vœux. Nous considérons en effet que ce résultat est très important pour assurer un travail fructueux à la FAO dans les années prochaines, tout à l'avantage du reste des pays en voie de développement.

Le futur financier de la FAO semble donc maintenant susceptible de s'améliorer, notamment grâce aux efforts continus et soutenus du Directeur général et de ses plus proches collaborateurs.

D'autre part, nous sommes très heureux de l'engagement officiel qui vient d'être pris ici même par la délégation des Etats-Unis de payer, dans un avenir très prochain, le montant intégral de ses contributions courantes et de tous ses arriérés. Nous les félicitons.

**Sra. Rita MISHAAN ROSSELL (Guatemala):** Sr. Presidente, los miembros del Grupo latinoamericano queremos unirnos a lo antes dicho por los Presidentes Regionales del Grupo de los 77, como miembros del Grupo de los 77.

Sr. Presidente, hemos aprobado por aclamación el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1992-93, reconociendo las dificultades financieras por las que atraviesa la Organización.

El GRULAC apoya la propuesta del Director General en relación al crecimiento cero, sin embargo, señor Presidente, nuestra región desea dejar constancia de la preocupación que este crecimiento cero significa en el ámbito de los programas en este bienio y el recorte de una serie de actividades técnicas y económicas de los programas, y en las oficinas regionales. En momentos en que los acelerados cambios del mundo han resaltado la contribución del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Es en estos momentos, Sr. Presidente, en que la comunidad internacional tiene una gran responsabilidad con el sistema multilateral para cumplir con las necesidades de los pueblos en vías de una democracia que no será jamás posible sin el desarrollo integral de los mismos. Es por eso que hacemos un llamado a los países donantes para que cumplan con el pago de sus cuotas para que así, esta Organización pueda cumplir con sus obligaciones.

**Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España):** Nuestra delegación va a hablar en nombre del Grupo que actualmente presidimos, el Grupo de países de la OCDE. Nuestro Grupo, Sr. Presidente, desea también unirse a los demás grupos, regiones y países incluyendo algunos que pertenecen a nuestro Grupo también, y, primero le felicitamos a usted porque ha presidido una reunión que ha resuelto un capítulo muy importante para esta Organización.

También nos ha congratulado el consenso a que hemos llegado durante estas negociaciones. Expresamos nuestro agradecimiento a todos los que han intervenido para llegar a este consenso, a sabiendas de lo que cada participante ha tenido que ceder durante este proceso.

El Grupo de la OCDE espera que esta vía de consenso siga siendo la manera habitual de resolver los asuntos que se refieren al funcionamiento de la Organización y que ello sirva para que el futuro de la FAO sea más claro y la Organización se afirme cada vez más en su presencia en el mundo.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is now my pleasure and privilege to invite the Director-General of FAO, Edouard Saouma, to make the concluding statement.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** M. le Président, M. le Président du Conseil, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, le vote du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation est un des actes majeurs de la Conférence, car il conditionne la vie de la FAO durant le biennium, lui assigne ses tâches et lui alloue ses moyens.

J'ai évidemment suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt et la plus grande attention vos délibérations. Je me réjouis de l'esprit d'harmonie qui a régné et du climat de concorde dans lequel vos travaux s'achèvent sur ce sujet majeur.

A la suite de l'examen de la FAO, il y a deux ans, nous avons soumis à nouveau un Plan à moyen terme. J'ai constaté avec satisfaction la convergence des points de vue entre l'ensemble des Etats Membres autour des principaux axes d'action proposés par le Secrétariat pour le moyen terme. Si nous avons pu détecter avec un certain bonheur les priorités qui

recueilleraient votre adhésion, c'est que nous nous étions nourris des discussions que vous aviez menées au sein des différents comités techniques et des organes directeurs. Ce fut aussi, en toute modestie, le résultat d'un travail rigoureux d'analyse et de réflexion entrepris par mes collègues du Secrétariat.

De même, le Programme de travail et budget qui vient d'être approuvé à l'unanimité témoigne, là encore, d'un consensus général sur la teneur de nos activités futures et représente un compromis équilibré entre les exigences parfois contradictoires de nos Etats Membres. Cette unanimité d'intentions ne peut que renforcer notre volonté opiniâtre de mettre en oeuvre un programme avec toute l'efficacité et la célérité voulues, et d'être à la hauteur de votre confiance.

M. le Président, un tel consensus n'a pas toujours été réalisé dans le passé, et je salue donc avec gratitude tous ceux qui, par leurs efforts, leur compréhension et leur sens du compromis, l'ont rendu possible. Cela n'était pas acquis d'avance, car il nous faut bien admettre que des concessions non négligeables ont dû être faites. Ces concessions étaient le prix à payer pour le consensus désiré par tous; elles ne seront cependant pas indolores. Le budget que vous venez d'approuver est en effet en décroissance nette de 4,63 pour cent. Une telle flexion est sans précédent à la FAO, on l'a dit, mais aussi à ma connaissance dans les autres agences du système des Nations Unies, en tout cas pour les budgets déjà approuvés cette année pour la période 1992-93. Cela a été d'ailleurs dit et confirmé par le Bureau de la Conférence dans le rapport établi à ce sujet.

Evidemment, en tant que gestionnaire, je regrette que les circonstances économiques et financières présentes, qui vous sont bien connues, empêchent de mettre à notre disposition des ressources suffisantes pour assurer la mise en oeuvre intégrale du programme de travail que vous venez d'approuver. Pour cela il eût fallu un niveau budgétaire de quelque 677 millions de dollars, alors que les ouvertures de crédit que vous venez d'approuver se limitent à quelque 645 588 000 dollars.

Encore faudrait-il tenir compte des impondérables. Comment absorberons-nous, durant le biennium, les augmentations éventuelles obligatoires de salaires des cadres organiques, des services généraux? Quelle sera, durant le biennium, l'augmentation réelle des coûts que, dans le passé, nous avons toujours sous-évalués? Ceci a aussi été dit ce matin. Il nous faudra donc nous accommoder de ce trou budgétaire de quelque 32 millions de dollars. L'accepter était sans doute la condition requise pour rétablir progressivement, l'équilibre financier de l'Organisation. Les ajustements de programmes auxquels il me faudra procéder devront sans doute respecter, comme on l'a suggéré, les activités que nous fournissons à nos pays membres dans le domaine technique et économique. Le Bureau de la Conférence a débattu de la solution que vous venez d'approuver avant de la recommander à l'approbation de la Commission II et de la Plénière. Son expectation, qui est aussi la nôtre, est que ce compromis permette, en particulier, à notre principal bailleur de fonds de procéder au règlement de ses contributions courantes et aux versements échelonnés de ses arriérés de créances. A cet égard, j'ai pris bonne note de l'assurance donnée par la délégation américaine à propos des futurs paiements à effectuer. Elle a indiqué qu'elle confirmait la déclaration qu'elle avait faite à ce sujet à la Commission II. Je voudrais toutefois me permettre de souhaiter que la part de la FAO dans les arriérés prévus dans le budget des Etats-Unis de 1992 puisse nous être payée avant la fin de l'année, comme nous avons pu le

croire à un certain moment, et non pas durant les six premiers mois de 1992, comme nous venons de l'entendre tout à l'heure. Car si tel était le cas, si ces quelque 20 millions nous étaient payés en 1992 et non en 1991, le risque serait très grand pour nous de devoir emprunter encore une fois avant la fin de l'année. Cela signifierait que tous les efforts et sacrifices qui ont été consentis n'auraient pas eu les résultats escomptés, en tous les cas cette année. Le Chef du Département des finances a vérifié avec moi le risque qui existe de devoir emprunter de l'argent à la fin de l'année si ces arriérés de 1992 ne pouvaient pas être payés dans les prochaines semaines. Je sais que cela ne dépend pas de l'administration, mais je me devais de vous donner ces renseignements concrets. En tout état de cause, nous terminerons l'année avec des dettes encourues et non payées. En tout cas, je voudrais vous assurer de la détermination de la FAO et de la mienne à travailler à la mise en oeuvre de ce programme dans le cadre du consensus budgétaire que vous venez d'approuver; J'ai été partie prenante, il est vrai, à cet effort et je tiens à exprimer ma satisfaction d'avoir pu participer personnellement à la formulation de ce consensus que de nombreux Etats Membres, le Comité des programmes, le Comité financier et le Conseil appelaient de leurs vœux et m'avaient chargé d'ailleurs de déployer des efforts dans ce sens. Je prends donc une grande part de responsabilité à ce sujet et je remercie le Groupe des 77 de m'avoir fait confiance à cet égard.

M. le Président, cette décision augure bien du déroulement final de notre Conférence. Il est même, selon moi, à notre portée de terminer les assises avec un jour d'avance et grâce à un accord consensuel sur presque tous les points. Ce serait une performance pour laquelle mon plein appui vous est acquis.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION

## PROJET DE RESOLUTION

## PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Director-General for his statement. We are especially grateful to learn that it is possible to shorten the Conference by one day due to extremely good progress made on almost all of the issues which were before the Conference. Now we proceed to vote on the Resolution on amendments to the Basic Texts on the Outline Programme of Work and Budget. Because amendments to the General Rules of the Organization are involved, a two-thirds majority is also needed and, consequently, a roll call vote. For the vote, I shall now draw by lot the country to be called first. It is China. We will now proceed to vote and I invite the Election Officer to call the names, starting with China, for voting.

Vote

Vote

Votación



Session of the Conference                      ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
 26      Session de la Conférence                      APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
             Período de sesiones de la Conferencia                      VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS  
 Vote on  
 1st      Vote sur                      Resolution on Amendments to the Basic Texts on the Outline Programme of Work and Budget  
 Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan	X				China	X				Germany	X			
Albania				X	Colombia			X		Ghana	X			
Algeria	X				Comoros				X	Greece	X			
Angola	X				Congo	X				Grenada				X
Argentina				X	Cook Islands				X	Guatemala	X			
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guinea	X			
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire	X				Guinea-Bissau	X			
Bahamas				X	Cuba	X				Guyana	X			
Bahrain				X	Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Bangladesh	X				Czechoslovakia	X				Honduras	X			
Barbados				X	D.P. Republic of Korea				X	Hungary	X			
Belgium	X				Denmark	X				Iceland				x
Benin	X				Djibouti				X	India	X			
Bhutan	X				Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia	X				Dominican Republic				X	Iran (Islamic)	X			
Botswana				X	Ecuador				X	Iraq	X			
Brazil			X		Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Equatorial Guinea	X				Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Estonia				X	Jamaica				x
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Japan	X			
Canada	X				Fiji				X	Jordan				x
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X				Kenya	X			
Central African				X	France	X				Korea (Rep. of)	X			
Chad				X	Gabon	X				Kuwait	X			
Chile	X				Gambia				X	Laos	X			

Session of the Conference                      ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
26      Session de la Conférence                      APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
Período de sesiones de la Conferencia      VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS  
Vote on  
1st      Vote sur                      Resolution on Amendments to the Basic Texts on the Outline Programme of Work and Budget  
Votación para

MEMBERS	Yes	No	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	Yes	No	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	Yes	No	ABS	NR
Latvia				X	Nigeria	X				Swaziland	X			
Lebanon	X				Norway	X				Sweden	X			
Lesotho	X				Oman				X	Switzerland	X			
Liberia				X	Pakistan	X				Syria	X			
Libya	X				Panama	X				Tanzania	X			
Lithuania				X	Papua New Guinea				X	Thailand	X			
Luxembourg	X				Paraguay				X	Togo	X			
Madagascar	X				Peru	X				Tonga				X
Malawi	X				Philippines	X	-			Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Malaysia	X				Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Maldives				X	Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Mali	X				Qatar				X	Uganda				X
Malta				X	Romania				X	United Arab Emirates	X			
Mauritania	X				Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Mauritius	X				St Kitts & Nevis				X	USA	X			
Mexico	X				Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay				X
Mongolia				X	St Vincent & Grenadines	X				Vanuatu				X
Morocco	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mozambique				X	Saudi Arabia	X				Viet Nam				X
Myanmar	X				Senegal	X				Yemen				X
Namibia				X	Sierra Leone				X	Yugoslavia	X			
Nepal	X				Solomon Islands				X	Zaire				X
Netherlands	X				Somalia	X				Zambia	X			
New Zealand	X				Spain	X				Zimbabwe				X
Nicaragua	X				Sri Lanka	X								
Niger	X				Sudan	X								

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
1st Vote sur Resolution on Amendments to the Basic Texts on the Outline  
Programme of Work and Budget  
Votación para

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	104
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	48

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	104
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	70
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ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

Date: 20 November 1991

Elections Officer B. Linley

Date: 20 november 1991

Fonctionnaire électoral

Fecha: 20 noviembre 1991

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.

**CHAIRMAN:** You have heard the results of the vote. According to this result, the Conference has adopted the Resolution on Amendments to the Basic Texts and the Outline Programme of Work and Budget.

Draft Resolution approved

Le projet de Résolution, est approuvé

El proyecto de Resolución, es aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** I feel duty bound to express the gratitude of the Chair for the smooth and unanimous passing of the Programme of Work and Budget for the year 1992-93. Despite the explanation of votes, this has been an historic occasion indeed.

**Sidaty AIDARA (Sénégal):** Je prie le Directeur général de m'excuser si j'insiste pour prendre la parole. C'est moins une explication de vote que l'expression d'une préoccupation. En effet, c'est avec beaucoup d'inquiétude que nous avons appris tout à l'heure, de la bouche du Directeur général lui-même, que si le plus gros bailleur de fonds de notre Organisation ne s'acquittait pas d'une partie de ses arriérés dès que possible cela risquait de mettre l'Organisation dans une situation difficile qui devrait forcément l'amener à procéder à des emprunts.

Or, vous le savez, qu'il s'agisse de la première Résolution que nous avons déjà adoptée, qu'il s'agisse de cette deuxième Résolution que nous venons d'adopter, les négociations et les discussions qui ont eu lieu ont tourné, certes, dans un esprit de consensus, mais sur beaucoup de questions de procédures budgétaires, de niveau de budget.

Beaucoup de choses ont été dites sur le consensus qui a amené la Conférence à adopter le projet de budget qui était soumis. Beaucoup de délégations se sont inquiétées. Beaucoup de délégations se sont préoccupées d'une situation qui a amené le Directeur général à présenter un tel budget.

Il est important que les engagements pris puissent être respectés et c'est la raison pour laquelle je voudrais ici, au nom de ma délégation, demander que la Conférence, dans sa sagesse, lance un nouvel appel à tous ceux qui ont des arriérés à payer, singulièrement au plus gros bailleur de fonds, pour qu'il puisse s'acquitter dès que possible, dans les prochaines semaines, d'une partie de ses arriérés afin de ne pas obliger l'Organisation à se trouver dans une situation qui puisse l'amener à procéder à de nouveaux emprunts.

Voilà la proposition que je souhaitais soumettre à la Conférence en espérant que celle-ci lancera un appel pressant en direction de l'un de nos plus grands bailleurs de fonds, qui joue un rôle fondamental dans le présent comme dans l'avenir de cette Organisation.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the representative of Senegal for his statement. I have two other speakers on my list, and I would appeal to you that as much as possible we try to keep the list of speakers to the minimum. I have the representatives of Cameroon and the United States in that order, and I hope that after that I will be able to invite the Director-General to make the conclusory remarks.

**Thomas YANGA (Cameroun):** Je voudrais joindre la voix de mon pays et celle de la grande majorité des pays africains à la proposition que vient de faire notre collègue du Sénégal, à savoir que la Conférence puisse lancer un appel à tous les pays qui ont des arriérés, et en particulier au plus gros bailleur de fonds afin qu'il puisse prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour verser ses arriérés de contributions avant la fin de l'année et éviter à l'Organisation de recourir à un nouvel emprunt.

Nous avons entendu dans les comités et les sessions du Conseil la position de certain pays et les implications que ce recours à l'emprunt engendre pour l'Organisation. C'est le lieu ici pour nous de lancer un appel pour que l'Organisation évite de recourir à cet emprunt qui pose, nous le savons, des problèmes à pas mal de pays.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the representative of Cameroon. I am sure the Conference would agree to the proposal of Senegal joined by Cameroon that this Conference makes a special call for all countries to pay their contribution and to settle their arrears. I now invite the delegate of the United States of America.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, thank you. In an effort to clarify delegates' thinking on our intentions I would like to briefly outline again the comments I made in my earlier statement. The United States Government will move as quickly as possible to pay FAO US\$34.9 million, the remainder of our calendar year 1991 assessment before the end of the year.

As I explained at some length in Commission II and before the General Committee, our appropriations programming level for arrears payments to FAO was US\$22.6 million in fiscal year 1992.

Because of the weakening dollar and because assessments will be paid before arrears payments are made, I cannot at this juncture say precisely what the level of the arrears payment will be to FAO in 1992.

I doubt, and, in my effort to be as frank and honest as possible and not to mislead anyone as to the United States ability to move money quickly, I have forecast that we would be able to pay as close to this US\$22.6 million as is available in the first half of 1992.

Having listened carefully to the Director-General's comments I can say that we will make every effort to move this money expeditiously, but I cannot absolutely guarantee that it will be possible before the end of the year, because our Law requires that we pay all assessed contributions some details are not complete, many details need to be wrapped up, but we will try to move this money quickly.

I also pointed out in my statement that this was substantially more than the Organization could have received or we could have released had a consensus budget not been achieved.

We will look very carefully at the presentation of the Secretariat on the financial situation of the Organization in Commission III, which has not yet been discussed. We will do everything possible to help avoid external

borrowings. As you know, we strongly oppose external borrowing. But our initial understanding of the financial situation of the Organization suggested that our US\$34.9 million payment would go a long way to mitigate this problem.

We will do the best we can.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the delegate of the United States of America for her explanation. I think I now can invite the Director-General to make two concluding remarks.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** Thank you, Mr Chairman, though these are not my concluding remarks, but just to express my satisfaction with this Resolution which I have prepared and which I have submitted as indicated in paragraph 29 and which has now been approved unanimously. It is not something peculiar to FAO, I should indicate that all UN organizations have already adopted similar procedures for budget preparation and processing. Although we are implementing this procedure right now it has become mandatory.

I want to thank all the delegates who have voted in favour of this Resolution. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Director-General for his remarks.

This concludes our meeting for this morning.

Draft Report of Plenary. Part 1. was adopted

Le Projet de rapport de la Plénière, première partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 1, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/PV/15

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

### QUINZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE

### 15ª SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1991)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours

Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La quinzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 10.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

Seventh Report of the General Committee

Septième rapport du Bureau

Séptimo informe del Comité General

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días colegas y amigos.

En primer lugar, voy a dar la palabra al Secretario General, para que como es costumbre, lea a ustedes la primera parte del informe de la reunión del Comité General que tuvo lugar esta mañana.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le Bureau a examiné ce matin l'état d'avancement des travaux des Commissions et soumet à la Conférence ce rapport que je vais lire.

1. Les travaux des Commissions progressent de façon satisfaisante et la Commission II ainsi que la Commission III sont en avance sur leur calendrier.

2. Commission I: Les travaux se déroulent suivant le calendrier prévu et on peut escompter que le rapport de la Commission sera prêt et pourra être approuvé par la Conférence le mardi 26 novembre.

3. Commission II: Les rapports concernant le point 14, Examen du programme ordinaire 1990-91 - Le point 15, Plan à moyen terme 1992-97 - Le point 17, Examen des programmes de terrain 1990-91 - Le point 18, Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches, rapport intérimaire - enfin le point 19, Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, sont prêts et pourront être approuvés par la Conférence ce matin.

Les rapports sur les points restants: point 20, Préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition de 1992 - point 21, Objectifs des contributions, Programme alimentaire mondial, ONU/FAO, pour 1993-94 et point 22, Relation et consultation avec les organisations internationales, devraient être prêts et soumis pour approbation à la Conférence le lundi 25 novembre dans la matinée.

4. Commission III: Son rapport qui sera approuvé aujourd'hui devrait être prêt et soumis pour adoption à la Conférence le lundi 25 novembre.

5. Le Bureau recommande donc que la Plénière adopte les rapports de la Commission II et de la Commission III le lundi 25 novembre, pendant le dépouillement du scrutin pour l'élection des membres du Conseil.

6. Le Bureau recommande en outre que le rapport de la Commission I soit adopté par la Plénière, comme prévu initialement, le mardi 26 novembre. La Conférence adopterait le mercredi les parties restantes du rapport couvrant les points qui ont été traités en Plénière. La Conférence conclurait donc



ses travaux le mercredi 27 novembre avec un jour d'avance. Dans ce cas-là la centunième session du Conseil se réunirait le jeudi 28 novembre 1991.

7. Bien entendu ce calendrier sera ajusté en fonction du temps qui sera effectivement nécessaire en Plénière pour adopter chacune des parties du rapport.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que todos ustedes hayan tomado nota de la recomendación que hace el Comité General, que, en esencia, consiste en que el próximo lunes cuando se llevarán a cabo las elecciones para miembros del Consejo, entre una y otra votación en espera de los resultados, la Plenaria discuta los informes de las Comisiones II y III que así concluirán en sus labores.

La Comisión I terminaría el martes 26, toda la Conferencia el 27 y el 101º periodo de sesiones del Consejo se celebraría el 28.

Naturalmente como lo dice el último párrafo de esta parte del informe del Comité General, todo esto estará sometido a la manera como se lleven a cabo los debates sobre las discusiones de esos proyectos de informe, cuya calidad no deberá sacrificarse y por ello, si fuera necesario, el Comité General podría adoptar medidas de revisión más adelante.

Si no hay ningún comentario, creo que la Conferencia aprueba esta primera parte del informe del Comité General.

Para la segunda parte del informe del Comité General de la reunión de esta mañana, doy la palabra al Sr. Shah.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I would like to read the submission of the General Committee as follows:

The General Committee recommends that the Conference adopt the following Resolution:

Emoluments of the Director-General. The Conference, recalling that it last determined the salary and allowances of the Director-General at its Twenty-fourth Session in November 1987 by Resolution 22/87 at the time of his reelection to office, noting that the salary and allowances for the Director-General as determined in 1987 did not include any allowance for accommodation, while such allowances have been included in contracts for the Executive Heads of a number of comparable agencies in the UN system over the same period; further noting that the representation allowance of the Director-General was last increased in 1987 in order to take account of inflation and has not been revised since, despite the increasing erosion in the real value of that representation allowance due to inflation, decides that:

(1) The allowances of the Director-General shall include a housing allowance corresponding to the actual rent and related expenses for his accommodation, and that this allowance shall be paid from the date of entry into force of his present contract; i.e., 1 January 1988.

(2) The representation allowance of the Director-General shall be increased to US\$50 000 per annum, with effect from 1 January 1991.

End of proposed Resolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, espero que todos habrán oído el texto del proyecto de Resolución que ha leído el Sr. Shah, se trata de un asunto del cual regularmente se ocupa el Comité General, cuyos miembros todos, han decidido transmitir ese proyecto de Resolución para la aprobación por la Conferencia.

Si no hay ningún comentario, creo que también esta segunda parte del informe del Comité General queda aprobada por la Conferencia, incluyendo el proyecto de Resolución que se ha leído.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** We have not really had an opportunity to discuss this within our delegation. I was wondering if it might be possible, (a) to delay this until the next Plenary, and (b) I would like to get some idea of exactly how much this is going to cost the Organization. I have no idea of what this contract implies for the Organization, but I suspect that it is a substantial amount of money, and in an Organization that is faced with zero real growth in its budget, I am just sort of curious how we are all going to pay for it.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor delegado de Estados Unidos. Naturalmente yo respeto mucho la intercomunicación entre las delegaciones, pero como dije antes, todos los miembros del Comité General, todos, y creo que esta palabra, todos, alcanza a transmitir un mensaje al colega Frank Buchholz de Estados Unidos, estuvieron unánimemente de acuerdo en transmitir este proyecto de Resolución a la Conferencia.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I did understand what you meant, but it is up to this Conference to make the decision, not the General Committee. And I would again appeal to the Chair for a little time for us to consider the implications of this.

I also repeat my request to know how much this is going to cost the Organization. Thank you.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que la situación del debate es perfectamente clara, el Comité General presenta un informe, lo somete a la Conferencia y por eso se les ha leído ese proyecto de Resolución sobre el cual obviamente todos ustedes tienen derecho al uso de la palabra.

**Sidaty AIDARA (Sénégal):** J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt le rapport qui nous a été soumis par notre Bureau, y compris le projet de Résolution dont nous venons de recevoir lecture.

Il est inutile ici d'entrer dans les mérites de cette partie du rapport ni de ceux des termes du projet de Résolution tel qu'il nous est soumis. Le Bureau est l'instance qui, jusqu'à présent, nous a présenté des

recommandations pertinentes, équilibrées, et c'est dans cet esprit que nous percevons cette recommandation. C'est dans cet esprit également que nous percevons ce projet de Résolution qui ne fait que tenir compte d'un certain nombre de réalités, qui sont les réalités du pays hôte malheureusement.

Hier, au niveau de la Commission III, nous avons eu à débattre de cette question. Il est tout à fait normal et logique que nous puissions aligner un certain nombre d'éléments en ce qui concerne les émoluments du Directeur général de l'Organisation de manière à le mettre dans la position de bien mener son travail.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la délégation sénégalaise n'éprouve aucune difficulté à appuyer ce projet de Résolution et je voudrais en appeler à la Conférence pour que l'on puisse l'adopter sans tarder dans la mesure où le Bureau lui-même, dans l'intégralité de ses membres, a proposé et recommandé l'adoption de cette partie du rapport ainsi que le projet de Résolution qui l'accompagne.

Voilà ce que je tenais à dire à ce stade de la discussion, en espérant que la Conférence dans sa sagesse suivra la recommandation pertinente de notre Bureau.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention M. Shah qui nous a donné le compte rendu de ce que nous propose le Bureau de la Conférence. Il s'agit là d'éléments objectifs sur lesquels notre Conférence est appelée à se prononcer. Pour notre part, nous ne voyons pas d'inconvénients à appuyer de telles recommandations et à approuver le projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis.

Je pense que nous ne devons pas nous attarder sur ce sujet parce qu'il s'agit là de problèmes que nous avons presque abordés hier en écoutant la représentante des associations du personnel de la FAO et je crois que ceci s'inscrit dans ce droit fil.

C'est pour cette raison que je souhaite que nous puissions ne pas ajourner ce débat mais nous prononcer en ce moment.

**Ray ALLEN (united Kingdom):** Like my American colleague I am a little surprised at being asked to pass a Resolution now without knowing the full cost implications involved. I would like to support what the American delegation said and just postpone the discussion until we do actually know how much we are being asked to approve. Thank you.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** Pakistan normally does participate in the General Committee, but the Chairman of Pakistan has not had the opportunity of doing so this time in the proceedings of the General Committee.

However, my delegation fully shares the views expressed by the delegation of Congo. I think the implications are quite clear to us, the justification and the need is quite clear to us, and I think we should adopt this Resolution without postponing.

We all want to continue and complete our work in the very spirit of cordiality in which we have been proceeding so far, and my recommendation is that we complete this by adopting the Resolution. Thank you very much.

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** En primer lugar, queremos agradecer al Sr. Shah la exposición que nos ha hecho de este tema tan importante para nuestras delegaciones.

Colombia aprueba el proyecto de Resolución y sus dos partes fundamentales, en el sentido de que los subsidios del Director General contengan el subsidio de vivienda con efecto retroactivo desde el 1º de enero de 1988 hasta 1993, y en segundo lugar, aprobar el aumento de los gastos de representación por 50 000 dólares al año.

**Gamal Mohd. AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to thank Mr Shah for his comprehensive introduction of the Draft Resolution.

My country would like to endorse what was said by the delegates both of Pakistan and Colombia. We feel this also is enough justification for this request and we hope that we can endorse and adopt the Draft Resolution without any postponement.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tengo otros oradores en mi lista. Creo que todos debemos apoyar el llamado que ha hecho con su autoridad el Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, para resolver esta cuestión cuanto antes.

Sin embargo, le daré la palabra solamente a dos oradores, después tomaremos la decisión.

**Mansur SEGHAYER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** My delegation should like to endorse what was said by our colleague from Congo. We believe that this requirement is a necessary one and should be adopted. My delegation therefore endorses the adoption of this Draft Resolution as soon as possible.

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Tal como lo expresó el Embajador Tchicaya, no creemos necesario demorar más este debate.

Tal como una amplia representación de países: Senegal, Congo, Pakistán, Colombia y Sudán, todos se han pronunciado por respaldar este proyecto que ha traído el Sr. Shah.

Creemos, Sr. Presidente, no demorar más el debate, e inmediatamente, aprobarlo.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Sólo para información de la Conferencia, quiero manifestar que en el Comité General al tratar este asunto esta mañana, se ofrecieron todos los detalles y todo el mundo, todos los miembros del Comité General, quedaron plenamente satisfechos.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario, la Conferencia decide aprobar esta segunda parte del informe del Comité General, incluido el proyecto de Resolución, y naturalmente, las observaciones de aquellos que han intervenido constarán en las actas.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, I am very surprised that people are willing to go ahead with this without some knowledge of the costs.

I have asked for a point of information. I am not calling for a vote, I am not trying to delay our proceedings, but I have learned in the few months that I have been here in Italy that you don't sign-off on something without knowing what the costs are.

Could someone please tell me what the cost of the contract is that we are approving payment of?

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Afortunadamente veo que acaba de tomar sitio en su delegación el Sr. Witcher, de los Estados Unidos, quien participó esta mañana en el Comité General con nosotros en el debate, y conoce exactamente cifras y detalles, todo lo que usted ha pedido, distinguido representante de Estados Unidos.

En cuanto a mi actitud como Presidente, creo que es clara, hay un veredicto democrático, y la gran mayoría de los países están en favor de que se apruebe este proyecto de Resolución y para mí todos los países tienen el mismo valor.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario, aprobamos este proyecto de Resolución, naturalmente las observaciones constarán en las actas. Entiendo que la Conferencia decide así apoyar este proyecto de Resolución y adoptarlo.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** Yes, Mr Chairman. My delegation is not represented on the General Committee. We would certainly like to know the cost.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como todos sabemos, se trata de un asunto delicado, por eso ha sido tratado en el Comité General en la forma en que se les presenta, y el proyecto de Resolución corresponde a la naturaleza de esta materia.

Creo que todos los miembros de la Conferencia entienden esta situación y la aceptan.

Hay otros oradores que han pedido intervenir, pero quisiera rogarles que no prolonguemos el debate sobre este asunto.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Nous notons qu'il existe une soif d'informations de la part de nos collègues du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis. Bien entendu, le projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis est adopté. Il appartient à ces

deux délégations, comme à toute autre délégation, de se rapprocher du Secrétariat pour connaître toutes les informations sur ce projet de Résolution.

Je crois que c'est ce que vous devriez faire et inviter les délégations qui le souhaitent à se rapprocher du Secrétariat pour connaître toutes les informations sur le projet de Résolution.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Creo que el Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, ha hecho una propuesta muy adecuada.

**Frank BUCCHOLZ (United States of America):** I think my point here is we need to know what the costs involved are before we approve the Resolution. We have been asked to approve it now with retrospective information. What I would like to have is the information before we approve it.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que la gran mayoría de los miembros de la Conferencia reconocen el alto sentido de discrecionalidad y de respeto con que hay que tratar un asunto como éste. Además, cuando el colega del Reino Unido pueda acercarse a la Secretaría y obtener la información que requiere, estoy seguro de que se quedará sorprendido por el sentido opuesto al que él piensa. De manera que yo de nuevo renuevo mi llamamiento a la Conferencia para que atienda y apruebe la propuesta adecuada del Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo. Ojalá no prolonguemos este debate porque tengo muchos oradores a los que no puedo denegarles la palabra.

**Sidaty AIDARA (Sénegal):** Le Bureau fait confiance à ce dernier. Je crois que ceci est extrêmement important. Je sais qu'un certain nombre de délégations n'ont pas du tout l'intention d'exprimer par un vote leur défiance à ce Bureau. Je respecte les positions des uns et des autres et notamment celles des délégations des Etats-Unis, du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne mais encore une fois, compte tenu de la délicatesse du problème que vous avez bien mis en évidence, je pense qu'il est important que ces délégations qui souhaitent le faire puissent directement prendre contact avec le Secrétariat de manière à obtenir de plus amples informations. Je crois que le rôle de la Conférence est de remplir son engagement vis-à-vis du Bureau. Le Bureau lui a présenté une recommandation après l'avoir étudiée de façon tout à fait pertinente et de façon transparente. C'est pourquoi il me semble que le fait de renvoyer ou de ne pas adopter le texte du projet de Résolution constituerait une espèce de vote de défiance de la part de la Conférence à l'égard du Bureau. Nous avons élu un Bureau auquel nous avons fait confiance, le Bureau nous fait une recommandation après avoir étudié tous les tenants et les aboutissants de ces recommandations, par conséquent je crois que la Conférence ne devrait pas faire de difficultés. Je voudrais en appeler à la sagesse de notre Conférence qui est l'instance suprême de notre Organisation afin qu'on ne s'éternise pas sur cette question qui me semble une question de nature alimentaire.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Yo creo que el colega Aidara, de Senegal, ha planteado en su sitio justo la discusión que estamos celebrando.

En el Comité General la posición de la Secretaría a este respecto fue completamente diáfana, perfectamente transparente. Si el Comité General decidió enviar a la Plenaria este proyecto de Resolución en la forma actual, se debe a la naturaleza del asunto que ya he explicado reiteradamente.

Creo que no conviene prolongar un debate sobre este tema y propongo una forma flexible que pueda dar satisfacción a todos. En primer lugar, las declaraciones que se han hecho constarán en las actas, en segundo lugar, podríamos decir: teniendo en cuenta las opiniones expresadas, la Conferencia aprobó el siguiente proyecto de Resolución. Esto da satisfacción a todos, hay una gran mayoría. Pienso que todos estamos de acuerdo con el Embajador Tchicaya en que no conviene prolongar este debate y así podemos solucionar favorablemente esta cuestión.

Si no hay ningún comentario, agradezco la comprensión de todos ustedes. Con el apoyo que ha recibido mi interpretación, creo que podemos así concluir esta segunda parte del Informe del Comité General.

Seventh Report of General Committee, including Resolution, was adopted

Le septième rapport du Bureau, y compris la Résolution, est adopté

El séptimo informe del Comité General, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 3 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TROISIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 3 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasamos ahora al tema siguiente. Consideraremos tres REP: REP/3, REP/5 y REP/6, que son parte del informe de la Comisión II.

Estaba igualmente previsto el REP/4 para aprobación del informe de la Plenaria, pero esto lo aplazaremos porque hay algunas cosas que aún no están definidas.

Tenemos aquí a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo, el Sr. Kristensen, quien ha venido presidiendo la Comisión II de manera muy eficaz y dinámica y nos va a presentar los tres REP que provienen de esa Comisión y que contienen parte del informe de la misma. Son los REP/3, 5 y 6.

**Hans Jorgen KRISTENSEN (Chairman, Commission II):** Thank you Mr Chairman. I have the honour of presenting the three draft reports covering items 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19.

In the view of the Commission and in my view, these are all very important items. We have had good discussions on them and, I should underline very much, forward-looking discussions. I think this is very valuable because it is for the Conference to indicate clearly what the future should be.

The draft reports have been elaborated by the Drafting Committee. Obviously we have had a very good Drafting Committee because the draft reports were passed in Commission II without changes. Therefore Mr Chairman I might, and I underline I might, just venture to launch the idea of approval en bloc, but of course Mr Chairman if that is being done, it should be done item-by-item.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, Sr. Kristensen, y también al Comité de Redacción de la Comisión II que ha facilitado el trabajo de esa Comisión y las labores de esta Plenaria.

Creo que podríamos aceptar la propuesta del Sr. Kristensen, Presidente de la Comisión II, y en el REP/3 considerar en primer lugar el tema 14: Examen del Programa Ordinario para 1990-91, párrafos 1 a 7.

Si no hay ningún comentario sobre el tema 14, párrafos 1 a 7, del REP/3, pasamos ahora al tema 15: Plan a plazo medio para 1992-97: Generalidades, párrafos 8 a 27.

Si no hay ningún comentario sobre el tema 15, párrafos 8 to 27 del REP/3, terminamos la consideración de este REP/3.

Paragraphs 1 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7 son aprobados

Paragraphs 8 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11 es aprobado

Paragraphs 12 to 14 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 14 son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 17 son aprobados

Paragraphs 18 to 21 approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 21 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 21 son aprobados

Paragraph 22 approved

Le paragraphe 22 est approuvé

El párrafo 22 es aprobado



Paragraphs 23 and 24 approved

Les paragraphes 23 et 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 y 24 son aprobados

Paragraphs 25 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 25 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 25 a 27 son aprobante

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 3, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, troisième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY – PART 5 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – CINQUIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTS 5 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Pasaremos entonces al REP/5. Si voy muy rápido, les ruego que lo indiquen. Sobre el REP/5, siempre de acuerdo con las sabias orientaciones del Presidente de la Comisión II, podríamos tomar en conjunto el tema 19: Aplicación del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO, párrafos 1 a 18.

Si no hay ningún comentario, concluimos así la adopción del REP/5 y podemos pasar al REP/6.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

Paragraphs 6 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 13 son aprobados

Paragraph 14 to 18 approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 18 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 18 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 5, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, troisième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 5, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY – PART 6 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE – SIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA – PARTS 6 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En el REP/6, en primer lugar, tenemos el tema 17: Examen de los Programa de Campo, párrafos 1 a 21.

Si no hay ningún comentario, pasamos al tema 18: Estrategia para la ordenación y el desarrollo de la pesca: informe parcial, párrafos 22 a 38.

Si no hay ningún comentario, concluimos así la aprobación del REP/6.

Paragraphs 1 to 21 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 21 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 21 son aprobados

Paragraphs 22 to 38 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 38 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 38 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary. Part 6, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, sixième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 6, es aprobado

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Como les había dicho esta mañana al abrir la sesión, el REP/4, que contiene una parte de la aprobación del informe de la Plenaria, se aplazará porque todavía hay algunos asuntos por definir.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, creo que así hemos terminado nuestro trabajo de esta mañana.

El Sr. Kristensen, Presidente de la Comisión II, deberá ausentarse de esta ciudad en el fin de semana, pero, además de eso, va a retirarse de las actividades oficiales.

Creo que todos reconocemos la manera inteligente, competente y eficaz con que el Sr. Kristensen ha presidido la Comisión II. Quienes hemos asistido a varias o muchas Conferencias, como en mi caso, hemos podido constatar que en esta Conferencia la Comisión II, que generalmente se ocupa de temas muy controvertidos, ha logrado adelantar los debates de esos temas de una manera muy equilibrada, adecuada y eficaz. Naturalmente, los contactos entre la delegaciones, las consultas y el Comité de Redacción, que trabajó de manera muy adecuada, han contribuido a ese buen éxito de la Comisión II que se basa esencialmente en la manera pragmática y muy competente con que el Sr. Kristensen la ha presidido.

Permítanme que en contra de mi costumbre haga una brevísima evocación personal de una larga amistad que me une al Sr. Kristensen. Durante más de 30 años, durante los cuales el Sr. Kristensen ha estado vinculado a las actividades de la FAO y del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. A principios de los años 60 yo tuve el privilegio de ser Vicepresidente del entonces Comité Intergubernamental del PMA y CG que presidía el Sr. Kristensen y él me orientó mucho al inicio de mis actividades. Luego, a partir del año 1969, se invirtió un poco el orden. El Sr. Kristensen fue miembro del Comité del Programa que yo presidí durante cuatro años.

He hecho esta evocación solamente para transmitirles a ustedes de manera amistosa y cordial cómo ha sido de estrecha y de amistosa esta relación que me ha unido al señor Kristensen durante muchos años. Creo que ahora, cuando sabemos que ésta será la última Conferencia a la cual el Sr. Kristensen va a asistir, todos podemos interpretar el sentimiento de los representantes de nuestros Gobiernos al decir: noto que en el sitio de Dinamarca está el Sr. Glistrup - al Gobierno danés, ese importante y altruista país Nórdico, cómo hemos apreciado el ofrecimiento de uno de sus hijos más capaces y competentes para ver cumplida esta valiosa tarea durante tan largo periodo en favor de toda la comunidad internacional. Afortunadamente, el Sr. Kristensen se retira en plena vitalidad y con gran lucidez mental. Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos ustedes al desear al Sr. Kristensen que en su merecido retiro goce de salud, de alegría, de paz y de prosperidad.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for the eloquent manner in which you have expressed the sentiments of this group about Mr Kristensen. That is definitely shared by all the delegations here, including Pakistan. I think there is little more we can add to it except to say that we fully endorse and support it.

The manner in which the report in Commission II was adopted, and adopted here again, clearly reflects the able manner in which Mr Kristensen conducted the proceedings in that most important and often difficult Commission.

The consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget itself is a reflection in this regard.

We wish Mr Kristensen all the best for the future. I hope Mr Glistrup will convey the sentiments of this House to his capital with regard to Mr Kristensen.

I took the floor to announce that there will be an Asian Group meeting at 12.45 hours in the Ethiopia Room. I request all our distinguished colleagues from Asia to attend and participate in that brief meeting.

**John GLISTRUP (Denmark):** Very briefly, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the kind words which you have expressed in respect of Mr Kristensen on his imminent retirement. I will certainly convey this to my Government. We are most grateful for the honour which you have bestowed on Mr Kristensen and on my Government in this respect.

**Hans Jorgen KRISTENSEN (Chairman, Commission II):** I can only say a few words - thank you very much everybody.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El Sr. Kristensen ha concluido esta merecida referencia a su labor con el mismo espíritu pragmático, con la misma honestidad, convicción y discreción con que ha trabajado durante toda su vida al servicio de la comunidad internacional.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario por parte de ustedes, vamos a declarar ahora cerrada esta Sesión Plenaria.

La Sesión Plenaria próxima de la Conferencia tendrá lugar el próximo lunes 25 a las 9.30 de la mañana para ocuparse de un asunto que nos interesa a todos: Elección de los miembros del Consejo.

Deseo que sigan trabajando a partir de ahora en las Comisiones, que luego tengan un buen fin de semana y que nos veamos de nuevo aquí el lunes a las 9.30 horas.

The meeting rose at 11.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/PV/16

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### **SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**

### **SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**

### **16ª SESION PLENARIA**

(25 November 1991)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vice-Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Gonzalo Bula Hovos, Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

34. Election of Council Members

34. Election des membres du Conseil

34. Elección de miembros del Consejo

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Buenos días colegas y amigos. Empezamos nuestra reunión de esta mañana. El primer tema del programa que examinaremos es el tema 34: Elección de miembros del Consejo. Los documentos de referencia son: C 91/LIM/43 y C 91/LIM/43-Corr. 1. Estos documentos se refieren al informe del Comité General que aprobamos el 20 de noviembre. En relación con el documento C 91/LIM/43-Corr. 1 les ruego tomen nota de que Rumania ha retirado su candidatura en relación con las elecciones para Europa, noviembre 1991 a diciembre 1994. Espero quede clara esta información.

A continuación voy a dar la palabra al Sr. Alessi, Secretario General, para que explique el procedimiento para estas elecciones. Les ruego sigan con atención las explicaciones del Secretario General, Sr. Alessi.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Le Journal de la Conférence d'aujourd'hui comprend en première page un modèle de Bulletin de vote pour l'élection des membres du Conseil. En utilisant des noms fictifs de pays, nous avons indiqué la façon correcte de remplir les bulletins qui vont vous être distribués.

Ainsi que décidé par la Conférence, nous allons procéder en deux étapes. Tout d'abord, la Conférence va élire pour la région Afrique un membre pour le siège vacant pour la période novembre 1991 - 31 décembre 1992; ensuite, pour la période novembre 1991 - 31 décembre 1994 pour les cinq régions: Afrique, Asie et Pacifique, Europe, Amérique et Caraïbes, et Proche-Orient. Nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire.

Une fois cette première phase achevée, nous passerons à la deuxième, c'est-à-dire l'élection pour chacune des cinq régions intéressées: Afrique, Europe, Amérique latine et Caraïbes, Proche-Orient et Amérique du Nord. Les membres siégeront au Conseil pendant la période du 1er janvier 1993 à novembre 1995. Là encore, nous procéderons à autant de tours de scrutin qu'il sera nécessaire. Conformément au paragraphe 9 alinéa a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, ces élections se feront au scrutin secret, même lorsqu'il n'y a pas plus de candidats que de sièges à pourvoir. Il sera remis à chaque électeur un bulletin de vote distinct pour chacune des régions intéressées. Chaque bulletin doit être rempli conformément aux instructions qui s'y trouvent portées. La majorité requise est spécifiée au paragraphe 3 alinéas a) et d) de l'Article XII du Règlement général.

J'attire votre attention sur le fait que le nombre de sièges à pourvoir varie d'une région à l'autre. Lorsque le nombre de candidats dépasse celui des sièges à pourvoir, il y a lieu de marquer d'une croix la case correspondant à chacun des pays que l'on souhaite voir élire, ainsi qu'il est indiqué sur le bulletin témoin. Conformément au paragraphe 11 alinéa a) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, chaque électeur, à moins qu'il ne s'abstienne, doit voter pour chacun des sièges à pourvoir en désignant un

candidat différent pour chaque siège. Tout bulletin qui ne se conformerait pas à ces indications serait déclaré nul. Le paragraphe 4 alinéa c) de l'Article XII du Règlement général prévoit que tout bulletin blanc sera considéré comme une abstention. Le paragraphe 4 alinéa d) du même article précise que les bulletins ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage. Un bulletin désignant plus de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera considéré comme nul; de même, un bulletin désignant moins de pays qu'il n'y a de sièges à pourvoir sera considéré nul. Cela signifie que pour être valable, un bulletin doit porter exactement autant de croix qu'il y a de sièges à pourvoir.

Je me permets de rappeler qu'en vertu du paragraphe 9 alinéa f) de l'Article XII du Règlement général, tout délégué qui aurait accidentellement rempli un bulletin de manière erronée peut demander un autre bulletin vierge qui lui sera délivré par un fonctionnaire électoral en échange du bulletin défectueux. Le premier tour de scrutin sera suivi d'autant de tours qu'il sera nécessaire pour conclure les élections portant sur la première période. Ensuite, nous procéderons de la même façon pour la seconde période.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias, señor Secretario General. Espero que todos ustedes habrán tomado nota de las indicaciones muy claras, precisas y detalladas a las que se ha referido el Sr. Alessi, nuestro Secretario General.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, procederemos ahora a la votación para el puesto vacante, correspondiente a la Región de África. Un país africano ha tenido que renunciar al puesto. De conformidad con el Artículo XXII.7 del Reglamento General de la Organización este puesto para la Región de África deberá ser cubierto para el período noviembre 1991 a 31 diciembre de 1992, es decir, el período restante del mandato comprendido entre noviembre de 1991 y 31 de diciembre de 1992. Este caso en particular en cuanto a la Región Africana y votaremos también para el período de noviembre de 1991 a 31 de diciembre de 1994 para las cinco regiones, sobre las cuales deben hacerse votaciones correspondientes a este período.

Desearía señalar a la atención de los señores delegados el párrafo 14 del Artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización que estipula que una vez comenzada la votación, ningún delegado o representante podrá interrumpirla, salvo para plantear una cuestión de orden relacionada con la misma.

Desearía recordarles igualmente que el Artículo XII del Reglamento General establece que el quorum para estas elecciones estará constituido por la mayoría de los Estados Miembros, concretamente 81.

Se me ha informado ahora que se hallan presentes en este momento en la Sala 90 delegaciones. De acuerdo con la práctica vigente desearía nombrar también cuatro escrutadores que ayuden a la Secretaría en el procedimiento de elecciones. Quiero extender mi agradecimiento a cuatro delegaciones que han aceptado ser escrutadores para las elecciones de esta mañana y de manera muy cordial pido a las delegaciones de Australia, Países Bajos, Dinamarca y Suecia que actúen de escrutadores.

Si no hay ninguna observación por parte de ustedes vamos a pasar a la votación.

Quiero recordarles que de acuerdo con lo que decidimos en la última sesión plenaria del viernes pasado en la mañana, entre una votación y otra aprobaremos la parte restante del informe de la Comisión II, C 91/II/REP/8, para lo cual estará con nosotros el distinguido Embajador Don Nanjira, de Kenya, Vicepresidente de esa Comisión II. Les recuerdo esto porque quiero pedirles que después de la primera votación se mantengan en esta Sala para poder seguir cumpliendo el programa previsto.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, voy a pedir al Secretario General que proceda a seguir explicando la manera cómo vamos a actuar esta mañana.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** A l'appel par le Secrétaire général adjoint, chaque délégué voudra bien se rendre dans la partie de cette salle réservée aux opérations de vote où on lui remettra le bulletin de vote. Il passera ensuite à l'isoloir pour remplir ce bulletin qu'il déposera ensuite dans l'urne avant de regagner sa place.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** El señor Secretario Auxiliar, Sr. Giovanni Tedesco, procederá a llamar a los países.

Vote

Vote

Votación

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Les ruego tomen asiento. Se ha concluido ya la primera votación. Los escrutadores se están retirando de la sala y con el Oficial de elecciones van a contar los votos. Como habíamos previsto, pasaremos ahora a discutir el documento REP/8 que es el proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, parte 8 procedente de la Comisión II, a cuyo distinguido Vicepresidente, Embajador Don Nanjira de Kenya, le ruego venir al podium.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 8 (from Commission II)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - HUITIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission II)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 8 (de la Comisión II)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** En cuanto al tema que abordamos ahora, estoy seguro que con la eficiente presentación del Embajador Don Nanjira, tomaremos poco tiempo.

Distinguido señor Vicepresidente, Presidente en ejercicio de la Comisión II, Embajador Don Nanjira, usted tiene la palabra.



**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Vice-Chairman, Commission II):** This report of Commission II entitled Activities and Programmes of the Organization, contained in document C 91/REP/8 consists of three items which are enumerated on page 1. The contents of the report have been thoroughly discussed at all levels of the relevant Commissions, and I therefore very strongly recommend that the report before the Plenary meeting be adopted as a whole.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Gracias. Han oído ustedes la breve y adecuada presentación que de este documento REP/8 ha hecho el distinguido Embajador Don Nanjira, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II.

Someto a la consideración de la Conferencia la propuesta del Embajador Don Nanjira, en el sentido de que se adopte en bloque este REP/8.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, entiendo que la Conferencia está de acuerdo con la propuesta del Embajador Don Nanjira a quien expresamos nuestros agradecimientos, al igual que al otro Vicepresidente, al Presidente y a los Miembros del Comité de Redacción, cuyas labores facilitaron los trabajos de esa importante Comisión II.

Este REP/8 como habrán notado, incluye un proyecto de Resolución sobre el cual se me ha dicho que no hay necesidad de una votación especial.

Si no hay ningún comentario, hemos adoptado así el REP/8.

Gracias de nuevo Excmo. Sr. Embajador Don Nanjira.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 16, including Resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 16, y compris la Résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 16, incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

Paragraphs 17 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 24 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 8, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, huitième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 8, es aprobado

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

34. Election of Council Members (continued)

34. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

34. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tenemos ahora los resultados de la primera fase de la votación de esta mañana.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA	11.91-31.12.92
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	121
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	121

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	61
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CONGO	121				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (DENMARK)  
Firma:

Signature: Ms A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA	11.91-31.12.92
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	5
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	117
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	351

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	351 4	+ 1 = 88
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
ANGOLA	117				
RWANDA	117				
TANZANIA	117				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Mr P.G. FRANKLIN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

25.11.91 B. Linley, GICO  
Date: Elections Officer  
Fecha: Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ASIA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION ASIE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION ASIA	11.91-31.12.94
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	10
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	113
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	6
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	678

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	$\frac{678}{7} + 1 = 97$
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
JAPAN	103	BANGLADESH	95		
KOREA (REPUBLIC OF)	102	MALAYSIA	81		
CHINA	100				
THAILAND	99				
INDONESIA	98				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Ms A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)

Firma:

Signature: Ms G. HIEMANN (DENMARK)

Firma:

Date: 25.11.91

Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION EUROPA	11.91-31.12.94
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	119
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	357

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	357 ----- + 1 = 90 4
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CYPRUS	119				
GERMANY	119				
HUNGARY	119				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Mr D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr P.G. FRANKLIN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NEAR EAST REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION CERCAHO ORIENTE	11.01-31.12.96
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidos	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	118
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	118

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	60
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
IRAN (ISLAMIC REP. OF)	118				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Esctrutadores

Signature: Mr P.G. FRANKLIN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

E. Linley GIRD  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



**EL PRESIDENTE:** De acuerdo con la Secretaría proponemos que se pase inmediatamente a la votación, limitada a las regiones de Asia y América Latina y el Caribe. Esperamos que esa votación pueda ser escrutada rápidamente y que nos permita la posibilidad de pasar a la votación restante al final de esta mañana. De todos modos, lo que vayamos a hacer dependerá de la manera cómo se escrute la votación limitada a Asia y Pacífico y América Latina y el Caribe.

Convendrá recordar cuál es la situación que se presenta ahora, a raíz del resultado que leí hace poco.

Por la Región de Asia los dos candidatos serán: Bangladesh y Malasia: por la Región de América Latina y el Caribe los dos candidatos serán: Chile y Nicaragua.

Espero que esté clara la situación y que podamos ahora pasar a esta votación limitada a esas dos regiones. Señor Secretario, lea los países, por favor.

Vote

Vote

Votación

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Espero que en pocos minutos pueda comunicarles los resultados de la segunda votación de esta mañana.

Les propongo que aprovechemos este intervalo para escuchar un anuncio que hará nuestro Consejero Legal el Dr. Gerald Moore a quien concedo la palabra.

33. Application for Membership in the Organization (continued)

33. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (suite)

33. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. The Director-General has asked me to inform the Conference that he has, this morning, received an application for admission to the Organization from the European Economic Community.

In the same letter, which is dated 25 November and was received this morning, the President of the Council of the European Community requested the suspension of Rule 19 of the General Rules of the Organization in order to allow for the European Economic Community's application for membership in the FAO to be considered at the present Session of the FAO Conference.

Mr Chairman, I should inform you that a document is now being circulated, and it is C 91/LIM/47, which reproduces the application for membership by the European Economic Community, and gives the application plus the instrument of acceptance plus the Declaration of Competence by the European Economic Community.

I should also draw your attention to a slight technical error in the letter as reproduced. It should read European Economic Community and not European Community throughout. There will be a corrigendum issued during the course of this lunchtime.

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Han oído ustedes el anuncio del Consejero Legal. A estas alturas la Conferencia no tiene ninguna decisión que tomar. Se aplicarán las disposiciones reglamentarias y entiendo que dentro de las 24 horas siguientes, la Conferencia deberá pronunciarse sobre la solicitud de suspensión del Reglamento.

Si el Consejero Legal está de acuerdo, creo que por ahora no hay nada más que hacer en relación con este anuncio.

34. Election of Council Members (continued)

34. Ejection des membres du Conseil (suite)

34. Eiección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Tengo ahora los resultados de la votación segunda celebrada esta mañana.



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATINE ET LES CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE	11.91-31.12.94
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	123
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	119
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	1
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	119

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	60
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CHILE	66	NICARAGUA	53		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (DENMARK)  
Firma:

Signature: Ms A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**EL PRESIDENTE:** La Secretaría me informa que está en condiciones de proceder ahora a la votación para el segundo período de los miembros del Consejo. Después de que cada uno de ustedes haya votado, ya habrá cumplido sus deberes de esta mañana. Los resultados se anunciarán al comenzar la sesión de la tarde durante la cual se discutirá también como está previsto el informe de la Comisión I.

Si no hay ningún comentario, pido ahora al Secretario que llame a los países para proceder a la votación del segundo turno de miembros del Consejo.

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Pour la période du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1992 à novembre 1995, la Conférence est appelée à élire cinq pays pour l'Afrique, trois pour l'Europe, cinq pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, deux pour le Proche-Orient, et deux pour l'Amérique du Nord.

Vote

Vote

Votación

**EL PRESIDENTE:** Ha terminado así la votación como habíamos convenido esta mañana. Ahora, vamos a levantar la sesión y el resultado de esta votación se conocerá al principio de la reunión de esta tarde y luego, tomaremos la adopción del informe de la Comisión I.

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/PV/17

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-SEPTIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE 17ª SESION PLENARIA

(25 November 1991)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours  
Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15  
sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 15.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

34. Election of Council Members (continued)

34. Election des membres du Conseil (suite)

34. Elección de miembros del Consejo (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, let me say to begin with how happy I am to be back in the family, to be with you. It is a sincere pleasure, and once again an honour.

During the week that I have been away and on my return yesterday I have read various reports of the proceedings of various Commissions and Committees of this august House. It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to express that the past week has been an excellent week as I read from documents, and all thanks go to you, the honourable Delegates and the Chairmen of the various Committees and Commissions. Therefore you have my gratitude. Also my thanks are due to the three Vice-Chairmen who acted in my absence and who, I believe, presided very smoothly over this august House, with very satisfactory results so far, and full of content.

With this, I declare the Seventeenth Plenary meeting open. Now, I give the floor to the honourable distinguished delegate from the Netherlands.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** May I start by saying, perhaps on behalf of the whole family, that we are very happy to see you back in the Chair. But I want to come back to what has been said by the Legal Counsel before lunch about a letter that was received from the President of the Council of the European Communities. I believe that letter is now distributed.

The Legal Counsel read out a request of the presidency of the FAO Conference to consider the suspension of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization. I would like to confirm to the Conference that the Netherlands, as a member country of this Organization, which has now the presidency of the European Economic Community, has requested and is requesting for this suspension, namely in order to allow the EEC application for membership in the FAO to be considered at the present session of the FAO Conference.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just heard the honourable delegate from the Netherlands on the suspension of the rule for the application by the EEC for membership of FAO. Normally, such applications, once presented to the FAO Secretariat, are voted upon 24 hours after the submission of the application. This is at the moment just for information, so may I proceed further with the proceedings of the Conference.

We now have the results of the vote on the election of Council members, which took place just before lunch. It concerns the regions of Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Near East and North America.

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AFRICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AFRIQUE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AFRICA	1.1.93 - 11.95
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	121
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	118
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	590

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	590 ----- + 1 = 98 6
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas élus - No Elegidos			
CONGO	118				
MADAGASCAR	118				
NIGERIA	118				
TUNISIA	118				
ZAIRE	118				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (DENMARK)  
Firma:

Signature: Ms A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS EUROPE REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION EUROPE ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION EUROPA	1.1.93 - 11.95
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	121
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	119
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	3
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	357

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	357 ----- + 1 = 90 4
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
BELGIUM	119				
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	119				
SPAIN	119				

Tellers/Scruteurs/Escuradores

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (GERMANY)  
Firma:

Signature: Ms A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, EDO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATIN ET LES CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE	1.1.93 - 11.95
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	121
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	7
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	113
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	5
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	565

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	565 ----- + 1 = 95 6
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Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
BRAZIL	109	CUBA	93		
MEXICO	106	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	80		
COLOMBIA	105	NICARAGUA	72		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Mr P.G. FRANKLIN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NEAR EAST REGION	1.1.93 - 11.95
RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN	1	ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION PROCHE-ORIENT	
RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION CERCANO ORIENTE	

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	121
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	3
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	4

4.Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	114
5.Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6.Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	228

7. Majority	228
Majorité	----- + 1 = 77
Mayoría	3

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
LEBANON	114				
LIBYA	114				

**Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escuradores**

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (DENMARK)  
Firma:

Signature: Ms. A. BERGQUIST (SWEDEN)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS NORTH AMERICA REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE DU NORD ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA DEL NORTE	1.1.93 - 11.95
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	121
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	5

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	114
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	228

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	228 ----- + 1 = 77 3
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CANADA	114				
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	114				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Mr P.G. FRANKLIN (AUSTRALIA)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, as you have heard, with regard to Latin America and the Caribbean we have to proceed to a second ballot. Three countries out of six have obtained the required majority. We will therefore have to vote again in order to fill the remaining seats. Candidates for these two posts are Cuba, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago. Since you are all quite familiar with the procedure, we will now proceed to the vote.

For your information we have the required quorum in the august House. May I ask the representatives of Denmark and the Netherlands to serve as tellers and to proceed to the voting area.

If you agree, when the tellers leave to count the votes we will proceed to adopt the Report of Commission I.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL REGION AMERIQUE LATIN ET LES CARAIBES ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO REGION AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE	1.1.93 - 11.95
---	----------	--	----------------

1. Ballot papers issued Bulletin distribués Papeletas distribuidas	117
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	8
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1

4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	108
5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	216

7. Majority	216
Majorité	----- + 1 = 74
Mayoría	3

Elected - Elus - Elegidos		Not Elected - Pas Elus - No Elegidos			
CUBA	78	NICARAGUA	63		
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	75				

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Ms G. RIEMANN (DENMARK)  
Firma:

Signature: D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (NETHERLANDS)  
Firma:

Date: 25.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 9 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - NEUVIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 9 (de la Comisión I)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 10 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIXIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 10 (de la Comisión I)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - ONZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 11 (de la Comisión I)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 12 (from Commission I)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DOUZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission I)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 12 (de la Comisión I)

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now ask the Chairman of Commission I to come to the podium to present the report of Commission I, but before he does so, I would like to express the appreciation of myself and all my colleagues to the Bureau of Commission I under the able leadership of Said Waleed for the excellent work that went into presenting to us what appears to be a very comprehensive report.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREIJI (Chairman, Commission I) (Original language Arabic):** I would like first of all to thank all member countries for having elected my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by myself, to the Chair of Commission I. All our meetings were conducted in very constructive atmosphere, which was very edifying and forward-looking in terms of development, with a pragmatic and realistic approach. All of this had a remarkable impact on our deliberations; we were able to complete our work early. Although the total number of statements by member countries during the Commission's meetings was in the region of 360 statements, covering 11 items of the Agenda, that is, more than 30 statements for each item on the Commission's agenda, last Friday we completed the approval of the Report in respect of Commission I's business.

The Report contains three Resolutions. The first relates to the Paris Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

The second concerns FAO's work in regard to sustainable development and the environment. The third relates to the second supplement containing the international undertaking with regard to plant genetic resources.

The Report stresses concerns relating to the agricultural and food sectors in developing countries. The Report approved inter alia the means for providing technical assistance to the Palestinian people. From this podium I would invite donor countries to take part in this humanitarian action.

We also approved the Work Plan concerning peoples' participation.

As regards the Plan of Action on Women in Development, we paid tribute to the activities of FAO concerning the Plan of Action. We invited the Member Governments to pursue their efforts to support this Plan of Action taking into account cultural and social diversities at the time of implementation.

In conclusion I would like to thank you all. I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the commendable efforts deployed. I would like also to thank the Commission Secretary, Mr Mulherin and his colleagues for their tireless efforts. I feel also duty bound to express my thanks to the interpreters for their great efforts, my particular thanks go to Mr Ahmed Ben Ameer, Chief Interpreter.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** As the distinguished Chairman of Commission I indicated, this Commission performed its duties in a most cordial and professional manner. It was rich in substantive debate and there was a magnificent spirit of cooperation which prevailed throughout our discussion. There was virtually no discord. We even had the pleasure of working on a Saturday to complete our work.

Thus, it seems only appropriate that the same spirit of cooperation should continue to prevail in Plenary. We would, therefore, propose that the Report submitted to Plenary be adopted en bloc.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Pour les mêmes raisons qui viennent d'être évoquées par le Représentant des Etats-Unis, j'aimerais soutenir son idée d'une adoption du Rapport en bloc, et à l'occasion remercier M. Waleed A. Elkhereji pour sa présidence effective.

**Mahmoud ZAREZADEH MEHRIZI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I have no objection to this proposal but there is something missing. It concerns C 91/I/REP/3. It was approved at the Commission but has been missed. May I read it? At the end of paragraph 9 on page 4, it says Some delegations emphasized the need for FAO to develop guidelines enabling countries to undertake this process. This statement which is missing was agreed, in this regard.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREJI (Chairman, Commission I) (Original language Arabic):** I believe that the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has before him another Report, because the report we have in front of us, C 91/REP/10, Revision of C 91/I/REP/3, contains the following reference, In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran invited FAO to carry out a case study on sustainable agriculture and environment in the province of Bakhtaran in that country.

I am quoting from the document I have before me. I believe that was the addition that was made to the report and which I find in the text before me.



**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Los representantes de Colombia queremos expresar nuestra gratitud y reconocimiento a nuestro colega y amigo Waleed A. Elkhareiji, distinguido Representante de Arabia Saudita por la forma excelente como presidió la Comisión I. Gracias igualmente a los Vicepresidentes y al Comité de Redacción.

Compartimos plenamente las observaciones hechas por el colega y amigo Sr. E. Wayne, de Estados Unidos y apoyamos su propuesta de que estos cuatro REP sean adoptados en bloque.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** I hope I am the last person to speak before we adopt the report en bloc. It was also the Kenya delegation's view that we should adopt this report en bloc following its introduction by the Chairman. I was waiting for the Chairman to ask us to adopt it en bloc. The matters have been discussed at length and they come here as a package.

The temptation to start looking at the paragraphs and improving on them is going to re-open discussion. I hope that the many appeals which have been made to adopt it en bloc will be heeded. I hope, that you, Mr Chairman, can tell us to adopt it en bloc.

**CHAIRMAN:** I have it ready but I think the honourable delegates have a right to speak. I am sure they will be as positive as you are yourself in helping us to adopt this report.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Muy breve. Sólo para apoyar la adopción en bloque. Que se haga pronto.

**Virgilio MONALDI (Italy):** Of course, we have nothing against approving this report en bloc; however, we feel that, as far as document C 91/REP/10 on the Least Developed Countries is concerned, we should like to introduce two small changes, in order to conform to the spirit and letter of the Paris Programme of Action.

The first change concerns paragraph 27, toward the end, after “finding ways”. We would suggest the following addition: to delete “to privatize parastatals”, and to say “to reform parastatals to improve their efficiency or privatize them whenever appropriate”.

This is exactly in the spirit of the Paris Programme of Action, paragraphs 68 and 69, in which there is an explicit reference to the need for pragmatic approaches to balance public and private sector involvement in the development of LDCs.

The second addition refers to paragraph 31 on page 13: after Programme of Action, we would like to insert the following sentence, “It was also suggested that, in its approach to a structural adjustment programme, FAO should go beyond Project or Programme Approach to Country-level approach, taking into account constraints and potential of a regional and a sub-regional character”.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** M. le Président, j'aimerais obtenir une explication de votre part. Comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, tous les délégués ont droit à la parole et nous devons tous respecter leur droit à la parole, mais je crois qu'une proposition a été introduite par le délégué des Etats-Unis, appuyée par quatre délégations; j'aimerais que nous statuions avec vous: est-ce que le rapport est adopté en bloc ou non? Je pense que c'est assez simple.

**CHAIRMAN:** As you have heard, there are many people in favour of the reports, although there are some minor amendments suggested, but I take the sense of the House and put it that we adopt these reports en bloc, that is REPs 9, 10, 11 and 12. Are there any objections?

In addition, we are also adopting the three Resolutions that have been suggested by the Chairman of Commission I. I take it that the Resolutions are adopted, along with the en bloc adoption of the reports.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 9 (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, neuvième partie (émanant de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria, Parte 9 (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

Forestry (Tenth World Forestry Congress) (Resolution ../91) was adopted

Forêts (Dixième Congrès forestier mondial) (Résolution ../91) est adoptée

Silvicultura (Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial) (Resolución ../91) es aprobada

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 10 (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, dixième partie (émanant de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 10 (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development (Resolution ../91) was adopted

Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable (Résolution ../91) est adoptée

Actividades de la FAO en relación con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible (Resolución ../91) es aprobada

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 11 (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, onzième partie (émanant de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 11 (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and International Undertaking: Progress Report (Resolution .../91) was adopted

Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et Engagement international: Rapport intérimaire (Résolution .../91) est adoptée

La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional: Informe parcial (Resolución .../91) es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 12 (from Commission I), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, douzième partie (émanant de la Commission I), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 12 (de la Comisión I), es aprobado

The meeting rose at 16.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.00 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/PV/18

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

### DIX-HUITIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE

### 18ª SESION PLENARIA

(26 November 1991)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

## Eighth Report of the General Committee

### Huitième rapport du Bureau

### Octavo informe del Comité General

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. The first item on the Agenda today is the presentation of the Eighth Report of the General Committee to the Conference. We had the meeting of the General Committee this morning. There was only one item on the Agenda.

The Agenda Item was Application for Membership by Regional Economic Organizations, document C 91/LIM/48. I request the Secretary-General to present to the Conference the Report of the Committee.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** In accordance with the provision of Article II.3 of the Constitution an application for membership has been received on 25 November 1991 from the European Economic Community. The application includes a request for the suspension of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization in order to allow for an application for membership in the FAO by the European Economic Community to be considered at the present session of the FAO Conference. Rule XIX.2 of the General Rules of the Organization provides, inter alia, that application for membership shall be “transmitted immediately by the Director-General to Member Nations and shall be placed on the Agenda of the next Conference session which opens not less than 30 days from the receipt of the application”.

Rule XIX.1 of the General Rules of the Organization also specifies that “this application shall be accompanied or followed by the formal instrument of acceptance of the Constitution”, and that this formal instrument “shall reach the Director-General not later than the opening day of the Conference session at which the admission of the applicant is to be considered”.

Rule XLII.1, Suspension and Amendment of Rules, provides that “Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, any of the foregoing Rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any Plenary meeting of the Conference, provided that notice of the intention to propose the suspension has been communicated to the delegates not less than 24 hours before the meeting at which the proposal is to be made”.

Under Article II.3 of the Constitution, the Conference decides on the admission of Member Organizations by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that the majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present. Votes cast means votes for and against and does not include abstentions or defective ballots. Membership becomes effective on the date upon which the Conference approves the application.

The Committee recommends that the Conference call a vote on the suspension of Rule XIX, to be followed, in the event that Rule XIX is suspended, by a vote for the admission of the European Economic Community at the Plenary meeting on the afternoon of 26 November 1991. The results of the vote will be announced at the same meeting and the ceremony for installing the new Member Organization will take place immediately afterwards. As is customary, the Chairman will welcome the new Member Organization and the

new Member Organization will be invited to make a brief statement. In order to gain time the Committee recommends that only one country respond on behalf of each region.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any comments on this Report of the General Committee? No comments. The Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** Now we go on to Section 2 of the General Committee Report.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL:** This second section deals with the payments by new Member Organizations/Nations. In accordance with Article XVIII.6 of the FAO Constitution a Member Organization is required to pay to the Organization the sum to be determined by the Conference to cover administrative and other expenses arising out of its membership of the Organization. By extrapolation from the provisions of Article XVIII.3 of the Constitution the first payment to be made by a Member Organization should cover a proportion of the budget for the current financial period, a sum which is set for Member Nations under Financial Regulation 5.8 as one-quarter of the contribution payable for the year in which the application is approved. It is not possible to use an established scale of assessment in order to determine the sum to be paid by a Member Organization. The Committee recommends that the calculation of the sum to be paid be based upon the administrative expenses incurred in the issuing of invitations, translation of documents, etc., and on the other expenses arising out of membership of the Organization.

In the case of the European Economic Community the Committee recommends first that the sum total for administrative expenses is set at the level of US\$500 000 for the 1992-93 biennium and secondly, the sum payable in respect of the last quarter of the current year be set at US\$62 500. The Committee realizes, however, that other expenses are likely to arise out of the membership of the European Economic Community in the Organization which cannot as yet be quantified. The Committee therefore recommends that the Conference request the Director-General to quantify such other expenses in consultation with the Member Organization concerned and that he be invited to report on this matter to the next session of the Finance Committee. The Committee further recommends that the Conference decide in principle that, first, the money payable by Member Organizations to cover administrative expenses should be paid into the General Fund of the Organization; second, the moneys payable by the Member Organizations to cover other expenses, following the consultations referred to, should be paid into a special Trust Fund to be established by the Director-General for that purpose under Regulation 6.7 of the Financial Regulations of the Organization, in view of the fact that additional expenditure will be required that is outside the scope of the present Programme of Work and Budget.

**CHAIRMAN:** This is the second last part of the General Committee Report drafted this morning. Any comments on this? No comments. The second part of the General Committee Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** The second item for discussion this morning. I am going to invite His Excellency Ambassador F. Poulides to come and report to the Conference on the newly presented Report of the Credentials Committee.

### Adoption of Third Report of the Credentials Committee

### Adoption du troisième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

### Aprobación del tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Chairman, Credentials Committee):** The Report of the Credentials Committee in accordance with Rule III.2 of the General Rules of the Organization, on 25 November 1991 the members of the Credentials Committee examined the credentials of three Member Nations and found them to be valid; they are Comoros, Jamaica and Seychelles, thus bringing the total to 148 credentials. Six Member Nations have not registered to date. It is recalled six countries have advised the Organization that they will not attend this Session of the FAO Conference, reference the First Report of the Credentials Committee C 91/LIM/7. These six countries are the following: Bahamas, Belize, Cambodia, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe.

**CHAIRMAN:** Any comments of the Conference on this? No comments, therefore the Report of the Credentials Committee is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

## IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

## IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

## IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

### 35. Appointments

### 35. Nominations

### 35. Nombramientos

#### 35.1 Appointment of Independent Chairman of the Council

#### 35.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil

#### 35.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: We come now to the next item, Item 35.1 on the Agenda and that is the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council. Under Article 5 paragraph 2 of the Constitution the Conference appoints the Independent Chairman of the Council. There is only one candidate for the post, as indicated in document C 91/15. Appointment will be by secret ballot as specified in paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization. Under this rule the quorum for election is the majority of Member Nations, that is 81 at present; there are at least 90 Member Nations or delegates present so I shall ask the Secretary-General to read the relevant instructions regarding this election.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les délégués vont être appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote. Ce bulletin porte trois cases marquées "Oui", "Non" et "Abstention". Pour voter, les délégués devront indiquer leur choix en marquant une croix dans la case correspondant à leur choix. Les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autres que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN: I will now invite the Chairman of Commission III.

Mr Fernández Illanes, to come to the podium and to present the Report of Commission III to the Conference.

Before he does so, may I invite Mr Shah to take a few minutes to say a few words on the subject.

V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As the Conference is about to consider and adopt the Report submitted to you by Commission III, the Director-General has asked me to share with you some information which he has just received on matters related to the Reports before you. The information received by the Director-General is that the Secretary-General is presenting a report to the General Assembly on Monday which includes three measures which he is going to ask the General Assembly to approve.

Firstly, the General Assembly will be requested to authorize the Secretary-General to start charging governments interest on unpaid contributions which are owed to the United Nations.

Secondly, the General Assembly will be requested to approve an increase in the Capital Reserve Fund of the United Nations, an increase from its current level of US\$100 million to a proposed US\$250 million.

Thirdly, the General Assembly will be requested to authorize the Secretary-General to borrow money commercially.



The Director-General feels that this information is very pertinent and be drawn to the attention of the Conference so that the Conference may keep in mind the perspective of the problems that you have considered and the action that you propose to take in your business.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 7 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEPTIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 7 (de la Comisión III)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 13 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - TREIZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

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DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 14 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATORZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 14 (de la Comisión III)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 15 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUINZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 15 (de la Comisión III)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 16 (from Commission III)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - SEIZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 16 (de la Comisión III)

**Samuel FERNANDEZ ILLANES (Presidente, Comisión III):** Muchísimas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Distinguidos delegados, tengo el honor de presentar al Plenario de la Conferencia el Informe de la Comisión III relativo a los puntos del temario y documentos que lo contienen, que son los documentos REP/7, REP/13, REP/14, REP/15 y REP/16.

Sr. Presidente, en relación al documento REP/7, tenemos el tema 27 relativo a las enmiendas de las Normas Generales del PMA, en el cual la Comisión discutió y analizó y tomó nota de que tanto el Consejo como el ECOSOC, y posteriormente la segunda Comisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas habían aprobado el proyecto de Resolución que se les había presentado. Asimismo, la Conferencia aprobó la Resolución respectiva titulada Revisión de las Normas Generales del PMA y composición del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del PMA. El documento además contiene la administración del fondo del PMA y la Resolución relativa al

Reglamento Financiero para el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y el apéndice respectivo a dicha Resolución.

Sr. Presidente, en cuanto al documento REP/13 y al tema 23 de Tratados multilaterales depositados en poder del Director General, también la Comisión dio su aprobación.

Por lo que se refiere al tema 25, Acuerdo de cooperación entre el Banco Africano de Desarrollo y el Fondo Africano de Desarrollo y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, también la Comisión le dio su apoyo.

En cuanto al tema 26 Revisión de la Resolución 46/57 de la Conferencia y del apéndice a la misma, sección R del Volumen 2 de los Textos Fundamentales, la Conferencia tomó nota de que se habían producido acontecimientos en la Organización y en la esfera mundial que requerían un examen de dichas disposiciones con una mayor flexibilidad. Por lo tanto, la Conferencia aprobó la Resolución respectiva que figure en el documento que hemos mencionado.

En cuanto al tema 28, también dentro del documento REP/13, en Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos y observaciones sobre el mandato del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (CACJ), la Comisión discutió al respecto, lo analizó y algunos Estados Miembros declararon que en la composición del CACJ se debería tener debidamente en cuenta la representación de las diversas regiones de la manera como ha quedado expresado en las actas respectivas de la Comisión.

En cuanto al REP/14 y al tema 29 Cuentas comprobadas, se tomó nota en el informe correspondiente a cada uno de los tres programas y en las auditorías externa e interna, con los agradecimientos de la Comisión. Asimismo aprobó la Resolución que figura en dicho documento Cuentas comprobadas.

Respecto al tema 31 y 31.1 Situación financiera de la Organización, se informó a la Conferencia de que la situación financiera había empeorado debido al aumento de la cuantía en los atrasos en las cuotas de contribución y a la demora en el pago de dichas cuotas por determinados Estados Miembros. El documento, como se indica, además cuenta con la Resolución adoptada sobre pago de cuotas relativo a Guinea Ecuatorial, y otros asuntos administrativos y financieros del tema 32 y del tema 32.1, en cuanto a los locales de oficina de la Sede. Asimismo, el documento también contiene el estado del flujo de fondos e información sobre la situación financiera al 31 de octubre de 1991, en el tema 32.3.

En cuanto al documento REP/15 y al tema 32 y 32.2, Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros, asuntos del personal, se escuchó, por parte de la Comisión, la declaración de los representantes del personal, lo que fue especialmente acogido con satisfacción por los miembros de la Comisión, declarándose su conformidad y aprecio por lo que ellos tuvieron a bien comunicar a la Comisión. Instó asimismo la Conferencia, y la Comisión a los Estados Miembros, a que tomaran medidas para asegurar la adopción de una posición firme en desarrollo de las cuestiones relativas a las remuneraciones y las prestaciones del régimen de pensiones del personal de los organismos especializados en los foros apropiados de las Naciones Unidas.

En cuanto a las novedades en las actividades de la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional y Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal de las Naciones Unidas, la Comisión analizó dichos temas, al mismo tiempo que lo relativo a las actividades del Comité Mixto de Pensiones del Personal y al incremento de la cuantía de los fondos de operaciones, donde figura - y adoptó en el documento 15 - la cuantía del fondo de operaciones y la Resolución respectiva, así como la reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva y su Resolución relativa a dicho tema. Asimismo, otra Resolución que también figura en el documento, Sr. Presidente, la relativa a las transferencias autorizadas a las reservas.

En cuanto al documento REP/15, relativo al tema 30, Escala de cuotas, se tomó nota que el Comité de Finanzas y el Consejo habían convenido que la Escala de Cuotas de la FAO propuesta para 1992 y 1993 se derivase de nuevo directamente a la Escala de cuotas de las Naciones Unidas, vigente para el período trienal 1989-91. En el documento que he mencionado figura la Escala de Cuotas, en la Resolución respectiva. También en dicho documento, en el tema 31 y 31.2, se analizó por la Comisión la situación financiera de la Organización, estudio en profundidad sobre la cuestión de las cuotas pendientes y atrasadas, medidas que han de examinarse para estimular el pago puntual de las cuotas, y que la Comisión tomó nota de la propuesta presentada por el Director General al Comité de Finanzas en relación con el establecimiento de un plan de descuentos para estimular el pago puntual de las cuotas, y se tomó nota con satisfacción de que el Comité de Finanzas y los Miembros del Consejo, en general, habían convenido que la Organización debería ensayar el plan de descuentos con carácter experimental.

Este ha sido, Sr. Presidente, el trabajo importante realizado por la Comisión que me he honrado en presidir. Debo destacar el trabajo extraordinario realizado por sus Vicepresidentes, los distinguidos representantes del Senegal y de Hungría y, de manera muy particular, el trabajo que le ha correspondido al distinguido relator de la Comisión, el Sr. Sinaceur, de Marruecos, a quien la Comisión, la Mesa, y yo en particular, deseamos dejar testimonio de nuestro agradecimiento por su trabajo.

Igualmente es mi deber destacar la labor realizada por el personal de la Secretaría, por el distinguido Consejero Legal, y todos aquellos miembros del staff de la FAO que contribuyeron a una labor importante y difícil, pero sumamente grata, que nos ha correspondido presidir con honra en esta Comisión III.

Es así como concluye, señor Presidente, señores delegados, mi presentación de este informe de la Comisión ante esta Plenaria.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to thank Mr Samuel Fernández Illanes, Chairman of Commission III.

The House has before it five documents: C 91/REP/7; C 91/REP/13; C 91/REP/14; C 91/REP/15; C 91/REP/16. Are there any comments on any of these documents?

Can all five be considered adopted?

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** You have moved a little too fast for my delegation to keep track, Mr Chairman. I have in hand C 91/REP/15, which includes a Resolution, as yet unnumbered, on the increase in level of the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. As you know, there is a divergence of opinion in the membership with respect to those two items.

My delegation, and I suspect other delegations as well, are not in a position to approve this report en bloc. I am not sure what the implications of that are, but I suspect that it might be necessary to consider a vote on this Resolution.

**CHAIRMAN:** Would you kindly specify whether you are speaking only of REP/15, with regard to your point of dissent?

**Gerald J. MONROE: (United States of America):** The question I am posing concerns only this one document.

**Rudolph DE POURTALES (Suisse):** J'ai le même problème que le délégué des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. Il me semble qu'en ce qui concerne les Résolutions impliquant des conséquences financières pour les Etats Membres il conviendrait de passer à un vote. Je suis d'accord pour adopter le reste du rapport mais je pense que les Résolutions concernant les affaires financières devraient être soumises au vote.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Like the United States and Switzerland, we feel that this matter should be put to a vote. We certainly have different views to those contained in the Resolution.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** My delegation feels a little disappointed to hear these statements. We believed that the excellent spirit of consensus with which we proceeded and worked out the various issues in the various Commissions and in Plenary would extend to all areas, and - as was mentioned by a large number of Members while adopting the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium - that we could look at the whole thing as a package. Many delegates do have different positions but, as so many delegates during the discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget eschewed their own differences and agreed to go for a consensus, we would like to see the same consensus achieved on adopting the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund.

We would therefore like to plead with those delegates who have spoken: Let us maintain the consensus which has continued during this Conference, and adopt these reports en bloc without resorting to a vote.

**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Nous aussi sommes surpris d'entendre ce qui vient d'être dit, et en cela nous rejoignons parfaitement et strictement ce que vient de déclarer l'honorable délégué du Pakistan. Nous pensions, pour notre cas, que ce que nous avons toujours fait pour le Programme de travail et budget était valable pour les autres Résolutions qui ont des connotations financières. En tout cas, pour notre part, nous nous étions

ralliés à la Résolution sur le budget car nous espérions que les autres aspects, à savoir le Fonds de roulement et la Réserve, étaient liés. Nous sommes donc surpris qu'après avoir adopté le budget dans l'état que nous connaissons tous, nous puissions remettre en cause les deux projets de Résolutions qui nous sont soumis ici. Alors, nous voudrions, nous aussi, nous associer à l'appel qui vient d'être lancé par notre collègue du Pakistan afin que nous puissions adopter ceci également par consensus.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** As far as my delegation is concerned, it was our sense of the discussion that it would not in fact be possible to reach consensus on this item. My delegation therefore supports the statements made by the United States and Australia.

**Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** I wish to associate the comments of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed the entire sub-region which I represent, the Caribbean, with the views expressed thus far in this intervention by Pakistan and the Congo. Our understanding of the sense in which the meeting has gone so far was that we were in a position where we were arriving at consensus with respect to the Programme of Work and Budget and the financial arrangements that would enable the Organization to fulfil the aspirations of developing countries over the next biennium, having regard to the difficulties which we have all undergone in the past biennium. We had therefore seen these proposals in respect to the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account as being intimately linked with the decisions which we took earlier this month in respect to the Programme of Work and Budget.

In fact, we saw that as part of a negotiated package. Indeed, we recognized in the course of the discussion held in the Commissions thus far that there had been difficulties and several delegations who have spoken to the contrary had so indicated, but we had hoped that the spirit of consensus would seem to have prevailed thus far in most of our discussions and would have led to what seemed to be a very early conclusion to the Conference in a total consensus in respect of the Programme of Work and Budget and, indeed, the financial arrangements and provisions to allow for the fulfilment of same. Therefore, we are indeed surprised - I would say indeed a little saddened - that we cannot at this stage make an effort to move forward more positively into the last decade of this century on the basis of consensus. I urge that my colleagues from Pakistan and Congo, together with delegations who have spoken thus far, can see a way to go forward with us in consensus on this matter.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany) (Original language German):** My delegation clearly stated in the Conference that in certain areas there did exist some difficulties. Therefore, on behalf of my delegation I also request that regarding the Resolutions included in REP/15 we should proceed to a vote.

**Gamal Mohd. AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic):** I would like briefly to join the delegates of Pakistan, Congo and Trinidad and Tobago in emphasizing that the spirit of consensus which has prevailed so far in this Conference, which has enabled us to adopt several Resolutions and proceed rapidly in our work, has been the result of prior consent on several Resolutions on the Programme of Work and Budget which were adopted by

consensus. We thought the two draft Resolutions referred to in this Report would also be adopted in the same spirit since the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget and these Resolutions represents a package. Therefore, I join the delegates of Pakistan, Congo and Trinidad and Tobago in requesting those who have opposed these two Resolutions to withdraw their opposition so that we can adopt them by consensus.

**CHAIRMAN:** As I see it there is divergence of opinion. There are a few more delegations who have asked to speak on REP/15 and the Resolutions contained therein; some of them are against and some are for. I would like to suggest two things. There is divergence of opinion on REP/15, so I would like to go ahead and request the House to adopt unanimously the remaining documents and if they are not accepted then it is the right of delegates to ask for a vote, on which I will proceed. If you agree to that, the other two delegates who have asked to speak - Tunisia and the Netherlands - can speak. I can see there is some support for and against so if you agree to save the time of the House we can do away with that but if delegates insist that they wish to speak before the vote, then I will give them the floor.

**S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand):** My delegation represents one of the countries pleased to go along with the consensus on the budget issue, but while doing so we had in previous Commissions clearly stated our position in respect of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. We feel that these two issues are quite important and stand alone. I can agree with the comments made by the delegate of the United Kingdom regarding the difficulties in going along with a consensus on this issue. Therefore, I request we put these two Resolutions to a vote.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie):** J'aimerais bien dire quelque chose au nom du Groupe des 77. La question est déjà claire au niveau du Groupe des 77 et notre position a déjà été déterminée lors de l'adoption du budget par consensus et j'estime que, comme l'ont dit nos collègues et surtout notre collègue du Pakistan, la question du budget et tout ce qui concerne les questions financières pour nous, doit être considéré comme un tout, et en vue d'éviter, justement, cette rupture du consensus et devant le fait que certaines délégations (et bien sûr c'est leur droit) présentent certaines difficultés devant cette question, j'aimerais au nom de notre Groupe des 77, demander instamment à nos collègues, qui ont justement des difficultés à accepter cette question, de s'abstenir peut-être au niveau du vote de cette question afin de ne pas rompre le consensus qu'on a déjà acquis au cours de cette Conférence et ceci afin que nos travaux se terminent, avec, justement, cette prise de consensus auquel on a tous milité.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVTZ (Netherlands):** At the beginning of this debate Mr Shah gave us new information about what is happening in the General-Assembly. I have a question on the increase of the Capital Reserve Fund - will that be done by special assessment? I have a proposal. I would like to contact my Government about these proposals in the General Assembly. Perhaps we can postpone the decision vote on the two Resolutions until the afternoon.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** I do not have information to give a precise reply to the delegate of the Netherlands about the manner in which the increase of the Capital Reserve Fund is to be funded in the General Assembly of the United Nations. But this information was brought to the attention of the Conference just in order to be aware that the financial problems you have been considering are not unique to FAO; they are prevalent elsewhere in the United Nations system and particularly in the United Nations itself, and to indicate that the measures under consideration by the Conference are very modest in comparison to those which will be considered by the General Assembly.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Como lo dijeron ya nuestros colegas, sobre todo de Pakistán y Trinidad y Tabago, todas estas cuestiones relacionadas con la ejecución adecuada del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto constituyen un paquete. Hemos aceptado la revisión del 4 por ciento, de 27 000 000 de dólares, en las propuestas originales. Nuestro apoyo a este proyecto de Resolución se basa en el hecho de que consideramos inadecuado que, después de que esta Conferencia apruebe el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, éste siga sometido a la incertidumbre de que el retardo en el pago de las contribuciones pueda impedir la debida ejecución de ese Programa.

Es evidente también, Sr. Presidente - la experiencia reciente así lo ha confirmado -, que la Cuenta Especial de Reserva no tiene la finalidad exclusiva de proteger las fluctuaciones cambiarias, sino que también la Cuenta Especial de Reserva, como en el caso reciente, debe bombear recursos al Fondo de Operaciones cuando éste se agota.

El Gobierno de Colombia tiene algunas reservas preliminares sobre la necesidad de reconstituir la Cuenta Especial de Reserva y pensamos que se pueden obtener en el futuro otros métodos para lograr los mismos objetivos. Pero vamos a votar afirmativamente este proyecto de Resolución, porque el párrafo 24 del REP/15 justamente ya dice que la Conferencia pidió al Comité de Finanzas que siguiera estudiando otros mecanismos posibles para proteger al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de las fluctuaciones de los tipos de cambio.

Con base a esos razonamientos, Sr. Presidente, por ahora, en estos momentos, ésta es la sola alternativa que ofrece cierto margen de seguridad; alternativa que representa esfuerzos adicionales a nuestros países, a los países en desarrollo, que hacemos esfuerzos para pagar nuestras contribuciones, pero que al menos en este bienio debe adoptarse. Estamos en las últimas horas de esta Conferencia, que todos reconocemos se ha cumplido en un ambiente de serenidad y de eficiencia. Por eso quisiéramos apoyar las palabras de nuestro colega Prillewitz, de Países Bajos, en el sentido de que ojalá usted, señor Presidente, con su autoridad, antes de que pasemos a un voto sobre estas Resoluciones, que podría dejarnos un sabor amargo, proceda a buscar algunos posibles caminos de entendimiento que permitan que esta Conferencia termine con un consenso total y que corresponda al espíritu de colaboración y de entendimiento en que todos hemos trabajado.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** From the beginning this Conference has been characterized by the spirit of consensus. We have tried, I think successfully, to avoid any issues of a confrontational nature.

One of the areas in which we have wanted to cooperate is to avoid voting. You, Sir, yourself have said that it would perhaps be more appropriate that we deal with the other reports on which there is not much difficulty and that this issue of REP/15, which is still causing problems to some of the delegates representing the developed countries, be delayed in order that appropriate consultation can take place. I believe that we have not exhausted the consultation process on this. We have been informed that contacts are still to be made to find out what is happening in New York. Our friend, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, has said that some delegates may wish to consult their capitals on this matter.

Therefore, I support those who have called for a consensus, and suggest that there be consultation to try to reach a consensus. Let us, Mr Chairman, defer action on this and not vote on this issue because anybody who votes against it in the future will say that they did not support it. I think the idea is to avoid that and to reach a consensus.

May I suggest that you ask us to continue consultations on this matter and come back to it at a later stage after we have taken action on the other reports. I appeal to the Conference not to vote on these Resolutions.

**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I have been asked to clarify the question of the vote, and I should draw your attention to the General Rules of the Organization and indicate that, in view of the fact that only a simple majority is required for both of these Resolutions, voting can be by a simple show of hands.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** J'aimerais apporter quelques éclaircissements sur la position du Maroc à l'égard de cette question. La délégation du Maroc a toujours été parmi celles qui recherchaient le consensus, l'esprit de concertation et de dialogue.

Je voudrais faire remarquer à la séance plénière d'aujourd'hui que le délégué du Cameroun, au nom du Groupe africain, lors de l'adoption du rapport sur ces questions par la Commission, vendredi dernier, avait déjà fait cette proposition, à savoir que nous nous donnions un peu de temps pour procéder à des consultations en vue d'adopter en bloc et par consensus ces deux Résolutions. Malheureusement, déjà vendredi dernier, sa proposition n'a pas reçu le consentement des membres de la Commission III. Bien sûr, nous avons entendu des délégués dire qu'ils devaient avoir l'avis de leur gouvernement et savoir ce qui se passe actuellement à New York. Je pense que les positions sont suffisamment tranchées, à l'heure actuelle, pour qu'un après-midi ou une journée de plus puissent changer quoi que ce soit à la décision finale. Aussi, je pense qu'il nous appartient de trancher sur cette question.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would like to bring up two points for the consideration of the Conference. Firstly, there is the question of four documents out of five, that is, REP/7, REP/13, REP/14 and REP/16, on which there are no objections. If the delegates agree, then this report that was presented by the Chairman of Commission III, I suggest be put to the Conference for adoption less REP/15.

So we all agree that C 91/REP/7, C 91/REP/13, C 91/REP/14 and C 91/REP/16 be adopted unanimously.



Draft Report of Plenary, Part 7 (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, septième partie (émanant de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 7 (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 13 (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, treizième partie (émanant de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 13 (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 14 (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quatorzième partie (émanant de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 14 (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 16 (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, seizième partie (émanant de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 16 (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 15 (from Commission III) (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUINZIEME PARTIE (émanant de la Commission III)  
(suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 15 (de la Comisión III) (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** Now we come back to REP/15 on which there is a divergence of opinion. There have been two or three views. There are delegates for adoption of REP/15 as it is; there are others who are asking for a vote, which is their legitimate right; others have proposed that we postpone this for two reasons: one is to have further discussion in order to reach consensus and the other is to get some information from New York.

There is a desire for consensus. As has been stated, this Conference has proceeded so smoothly that we do not want to create a last minute difference of opinion.

Common sense tells me that to have a vote is not necessarily to create bitterness. It is part of a democratic process and, therefore, we must agree and achieve consensus on all matters possible. But when we cannot achieve consensus, the democratic way is, if people insist on having a vote, to express one's opinion on the Resolutions as in this case, or the subject that is in front of one, and it need not create an ambience of difference of opinion.

As far as the information from New York is concerned, I think the point is slightly valid, but I have just consulted here and that is not going to make a major difference. It was for information that Mr Shah informed the

Conference. If delegates insist on a vote, the Chair has no option but to put REP/15 and the Resolutions contained therein to a vote. The vote is a simple majority; there is no requirement for a two-thirds majority. Therefore, the vote will be by a simple show of hands.

Vote by show of hands

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Waleed A. ELKHERELJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** In the view of my country you began to hold the vote too quickly. We really are not quite sure what we are voting on. Also, we would like to know how we should proceed, what the procedure is for this vote. I think that many delegations share my view. We were discussing some proposals and then suddenly the vote was started.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

**Rudolph DEPOURTALES (Suisse):** Ma motion d'ordre va dans le même sens que celle de l'Arabie Saoudite. Pour ma délégation, il aurait été préférable de voter chaque Résolution séparément, parce que les conditions ne sont peut-être pas identiques sur les deux Résolutions. Il serait donc préférable qu'il y ait un vote sur le montant du Fonds de roulement, et un autre vote sur la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** I would like only to join my colleague from Switzerland and I would like to propose to separate the voting as regards the Increase in Level of the Working Capital Fund and the Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. I think in this way we can have a more clear procedure and we can have a better view about the situation.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** I too am rather confused, maybe you can help us. The voting started and I think was quite advanced and then permission was given for a point of order. So I would like to seek some clarification, one, whether the voting that was started is still valid to the end or it has been nullified by the point of order; two, if the points of order that have been raised are valid does it mean that we can go back and do things according to the points of order, namely voting on each of the Resolutions that are at stake, in which case the overall voting that took place would not be valid. I think it would help us to know exactly what the outcome of this exercise is but having said that I still repeat the regret of my delegation that we have not been able to consult further with a view to reaching consensus on very important issues before the Conference but, of course, we are here to abide by your guidance and

therefore your decision will be obeyed but I would have preferred that we were allowed enough time, at least until this afternoon, to consult with a view to reaching agreement.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** I am in agreement with the point that was raised by the delegate from Switzerland. In fact the point at issue that led us to this discussion while adopting the four reports that we have before us, the only point that was raised in as far as I remember was the Special Reserve Account and not the Operational Capital Fund. I also feel that if we could handle these two separately we might have a different stand from the stand that we just went through when we had this first vote on the whole document.

**CHAIRMAN:** Firstly, for the attention of our Kenyan friend and delegate, I would have preferred, as he would, to have had a consensus but unfortunately we could not reach a consensus. You heard the delegates from Belize and I think also we have had sufficient time. Commission III is the Commission of the Conference, they tried their best and I think since Friday they have had some discussions so we could not reach consensus. That is point one.

The second point, I do apologize that perhaps the point of order should have been taken a little earlier. I was under the impression that when we had both the Resolutions that I accepted a point of order from the delegate of Saudi Arabia, by Switzerland and other friends. Therefore I declare the previous vote which was for the whole of REP/15 to be null and void and accepting these very wise points of order we will then vote separately on the two Resolutions. So we will take first the first Resolution, which is Level of the Working Capital Fund and we will go through the process again.

Vote by show of hands

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL:** So the vote on the Resolution which is in document C 91/REP/15 on the Level of the Working Capital Fund, the results are: votes for 81; votes against 8; abstentions 11; number of votes cast 89; majority required 45. The Resolution is adopted.

**CHAIRMAN:** I now go on to the second Resolution, again in the same document and the Resolution is Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account.

Vote by show of hands

Vote à main levée

Votación a mano alzada

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL:** The vote on the Resolution which is in document C 91/REP/15 Replenishment of the Special Reserve Account, the results are: votes for 61; votes against 15; abstentions 24; number of votes cast 76; majority required 39. The Resolution is therefore adopted.

**John GLISTRUP (Denmark):** I have been requested to say a few words on behalf of the Nordic countries following this vote. May I start by endorsing the decision which you have taken. The Nordic countries are, of course, in favour of adopting things by consensus in this Organization. However, the discussions which took place in Commission III on these issues very clearly indicated that there was no consensus. On important financial issues like this we feel that it is necessary to make a democratic decision, which we have done, because otherwise you cannot complain if people are not following the democratic decision taken.

The Nordic countries have vote no to the Special Reserve Account. The reason is that when we were confronted with the establishment of a Special Reserve Account for the biennium 1988-89 the Nordic countries expressed the wish that more long-term solutions to fluctuations of currency rates and arrears should be found.

We do not support ad hoc solutions for the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account when and if need arises. We would, therefore, propose a closer examination of various ways to make provision for exchange rate variations.

**Rudolph DE POURTALES (Suisse):** M. le Président, je voudrais vous remercier d'avoir procédé au vote séparé des deux Résolutions. La délégation de la Suisse a voté différemment dans les deux cas.

En ce qui concerne le Fonds de roulement, nous nous sommes abstenus, car nous pensons que l'augmentation justifiée du Fonds de roulement créera certains problèmes de financement. Nous avons proposé en Commission que la reconstitution de ce fonds ainsi que son augmentation proviennent essentiellement ou totalement du paiement des arriérés promis, notamment par les Etats-Unis qui est le pays le plus grand contributeur. Ces paiements auraient dû suffire pour remplir ce fonds.

En ce qui concerne la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spéciale, notre position est similaire à celle du Danemark, à savoir qu'il y a d'autres moyens et qu'il y aurait eu le temps de les proposer pour protéger le Programme de travail de l'Organisation contre les fluctuations des cours des changes. Il y a d'autres fonctions de ce Compte de réserve spéciale, mais, je l'ai dit en Commission, il n'augmente pas la transparence de la gestion de l'Organisation. C'est pourquoi nous avons voté négativement. Je crois que beaucoup de pays ont des problèmes pour financer les contributions spéciales qui leur sont demandées. Certains pays développés auront aussi des problèmes, et pas seulement les pays en développement.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** M. le Président, je voudrais dans un premier temps vous remercier d'avoir fait procéder à ce vote, qui me paraissait indispensable dans la mesure où il y avait certaines divergences dans cette salle sur l'attitude à prendre à l'égard de ces deux Résolutions. Nous avons pu constater immédiatement que les scores respectifs qui ont été enregistrés n'ont pas été les mêmes en ce qui concerne le Fonds de roulement et la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spéciale. Pour ma part, j'ai voté en faveur de l'augmentation du Fonds de roulement, mais je me suis abstenu sur la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial.

J'ai voté en faveur du Fonds de roulement, avec un certain nombre d'autres délégations (la très grande majorité même) parce qu'il me semble normal, dans une organisation qui a le budget qui est le nôtre, d'augmenter notre fonds de roulement de 20 à 25 millions de dollars, complètement compatible avec le pourcentage requis par rapport au niveau du budget et conforme aux recommandations qui ont été faites par rapport au niveau du budget par le Corps commun d'inspection du système des Nations Unies. En ce qui concerne le Compte de réserve spécial que nous venons de décider, à la majorité, de reconstituer au niveau de 28 millions de dollars, ma démarche a été la suivante: dans un premier temps je comprends très bien que le Compte de réserve spécial serve à combler un déficit de trésorerie préoccupant et que ce niveau de 28 millions de dollars soit à peu près exactement équivalent aux 30 millions de dollars qui manquent dans le budget que nous avons voté il y a quelques jours pour assurer la totale exécution du Programme de travail que nous avons également voté. Je serais donc enclin de voter en faveur.

Mais, dans un deuxième temps, je m'aperçois que si nous acceptons de financer le déficit du budget par le Compte de réserve spécial et par une contribution spéciale sur les Etats Membres, cela voudra dire que les bons contributeurs que nous sommes, en grande majorité, vont payer pour les mauvais contributeurs, ceux qui ont des arriérés et ceux qui viennent d'ailleurs, par le vote qu'ils ont prêté de suite, de refuser la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial. C'est cette réflexion qui m'a incité à m'abstenir, avec un certain nombre d'autres délégations puisque je constate que nous avons été 24 à prendre cette décision qui me paraît effectivement la plus sage. J'ajoute que les informations que vient de nous communiquer à cette tribune M. Shah, selon lesquelles le Secrétaire des Nations Unies vient de recommander la constitution d'un compte de réserve, ou plutôt d'un fonds de réserve, de l'ordre de 250 millions de dollars, n'ont fait que m'encourager à l'abstention. En effet, il s'agit là d'une recommandation du Secrétaire général, qui va bien sûr être soumise à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies auparavant, je présume à la cinquième Commission. Je ne sais pas encore quelle sera l'attitude que prendra mon gouvernement vis-à-vis d'une proposition de cette nature qui est fort importante. Voilà pourquoi j'ai été renforcé dans ma décision d'abstention.

**Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden):** Mr Chairman, like my Danish colleague, I also wish to express my gratitude to you for making it possible to express our opinion.

I have also been asked by my Nordic colleagues to explain our vote on the Working Capital Fund since this was different from our vote on the Special Reserve Account. The Working Capital Fund is an important tool to buffer ad hoc cash-flow problems. Although we are in favour of increasing the Fund, we feel that the present proposal is a consequence of non-payment by Member States. The Nordic countries have repeatedly urged all Member States to meet their financial obligations. We regularly fulfil our obligations on time, and thus we do not see our responsibility for the depletion of the Fund. The burden-sharing based on the scale of contributions must, in our view, be maintained. It seems to us that the consensus Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget adopted last Wednesday has established necessary and sufficient conditions to start up the replenishment of the Fund without special appropriations.

For the reasons I have just mentioned, the Nordic countries abstained on the Resolution on the Working Capital Fund which has just been adopted.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania, the five countries of Central and Eastern Europe. I will give a short explanation on our voting. All of us know well that our countries are in transition from a command economy to a market-oriented one, and we are facing acute economic hardship. For the time being, our nations are in a weak and very difficult economic and financial position. Because of these difficulties we voted in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget submitted by the Director-General to the Conference, and so we presented our strong interest in cooperation with FAO. We presented our support to the FAO, being in a complicated financial situation when we gave our votes for the Working Capital Fund.

With regard to the Special Reserve Account, we agreed that for reasons of principle and the difficult financial and economic position of our countries we were not in a position to endorse the proposed amount and we decided to abstain.

Some countries belonging to the so-called good contributors, such as Denmark and Switzerland, proposed an in-depth study on currency rate fluctuation in order to save the Organization from negative exchange rates.

**CHAIRMAN:** May I thank you all for your cooperation and for the unanimous adoption of the four documents presented by Commission III, and for proceeding to a vote on REP/15.

It is now left to me to thank on your behalf, and on my own behalf, the Chairman of Commission III and his Bureau for having worked so hard and so efficiently. As you will have gathered from today's proceedings, it must have been no easy task to arrive at the consensus they did. We must thank them for all their efforts in getting everybody on board for the two Resolutions in REP/15. We must thank them for their many meetings over many days; we must thank their many members, their Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman himself. All our thanks and gratitude are due to them.

Although voting took place separately on the two Resolutions, this does not mean that there is any hostility or bitterness. This is a democratic process. I am glad that we have been through this process. REP/15 is thus adopted and we have concluded the adoption of Report of Commission III.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 15 (from Commission III), was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quinzième partie (émanant de la Commission III), est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 15 (de la Comisión III), es aprobado

**Mohammed Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** May I apologize for speaking after you have concluded the Item, but I could not refrain from making a brief remark on behalf of the countries of the Asian Region on the excellent work which the Chairman of Commission III has performed. It was a difficult task which

we had assigned to him given the nature of the issues examined in Commission III.

We fully share the sentiments which have been expressed regarding the excellent manner in which Commission III, under its Chairman's leadership, has come forward and has put recommendations on the various issues, which have generally been adopted by the Plenary by consensus.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Los colegas de América Latina y el Caribe, Sr. Presidente, me han pedido que exprese sentimientos similares a los que ha manifestado mi colega y amigo, Saleem Khan, de Pakistán. Los latinoamericanos y del Caribe nos sentimos complacidos y orgullosos de que Samuel Fernández, representante de Chile, país fraterno de nuestra región, haya cumplido una labor tan excelente como Presidente de la Comisión III.

Gracias también de parte de los latinoamericanos y del Caribe a los dos Vicepresidentes, Maria Galvolgyi, de Hungría, y Aidára, de Senegal, así como al excelente Relator, Mustapha Sinaceur, de Marruecos.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, I wish to thank you for the excellent work done during this Session. Like my colleagues from Asia and Latin America, I too as Chairman for the Near East Group wish to congratulate the Chairman of Commission III for the excellent job done. I also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of this Commission, Mr Mustapha-Menouar Sinaceur of Morocco.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I wish simply to associate myself with the remarks of the delegates from Saudi Arabia and Colombia and to congratulate all those - particularly the Chairman and the Rapporteur - who took part in the difficult work of Commission III. The work that was done - and particularly the establishment of the Rapporteur system - was outstanding. We for our part would very much like to see the continuation of this process in the future.

**Gerald J. MONROE (United States of America):** The United States delegation would like to add its voice to those who have congratulated the Chairman of Commission III. As my associate said yesterday, we are extremely grateful to the delegation of Colombia for the Rapporteur function, which we think was a great success. We thank all concerned: the Secretariats, the Rapporteur and the Chairman and his Bureau.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie):** Je m'excuse d'avoir demandé la parole mais je ne serai pas long. Je voudrais, au nom de notre Groupe des 77, tout d'abord exprimer notre fierté de voir les collègues du Chili, ainsi que les Vice-Présidents, mener à bien les travaux de la Commission III. Je voudrais aussi souligner la compétence, disons, l'intelligence de notre ami Sinaceur du Maroc qui a su bien rassembler tous les éléments de cette Commission en tant que Rapporteur, bien sûr aidé par notre collègue du Sénégal Aidára que je voudrais saluer en passant. J'aimerais bien sûr souligner mon avis sur l'idée de Rapporteur au niveau des Commissions. Je voudrais, au nom du

Groupe des 77, considérer cette idée de Rapporteur uniquement au cas par cas et qu'elle ne doit en aucun cas faire une règle automatique pour les travaux à venir.

**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** La delegación de España, Sr. Presidente, en su calidad de Presidente del Grupo OCDE, quiere unirse a todos aquellos grupos regionales y a otros grupos que han mostrado su satisfacción por la manera como ha funcionado esta Comisión y, en general, por los cauces tan aceptables y fructíferos por los que ha derivado esta Conferencia; pero, concretamente en el caso de la Comisión III, queremos agradecer a su Presidente todos sus desvelos para que los debates hayan llegado a buen fin. Estamos seguros de que ha hecho un trabajo más que aceptable.

Nuestro agradecimiento, también, al Relator y a todos aquellos que en los momentos en que se planteaban las cuestiones más espinosas han necesitado del consenso, de la buena voluntad y, muchas veces, del desprendimiento y sacrificio y que, finalmente, han logrado que todo haya llegado a buen término y que el consenso - aunque haya habido estas votaciones en estos momentos - haya sido la actitud reinante en todos nuestros debates.

#### IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

#### IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

#### IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

##### 35. Appointments (continued)

##### 35. Nominations (suite)

##### 35. Nombramientos (continuación)

##### 35.1 Appointment of Independent Chairman of the Council (continuation)

##### 35.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (suite)

##### 35.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** The results of the election for the Independent Chairman of the Council have now been received.

Vote

Vote

Votación



REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	109
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	14

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	86
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	9
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	95

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	48
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**ANTOINE SAINTRAINT**

Is accordingly appointed Independent Chairman of the Council.  
Est nommé Président indépendant du Conseil.  
Ha sido nombrado Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature: Ms Donna Henry (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Firma:

Signature: Mr Joseph R. TURKSON (GHANA)  
Firma:

Date: 26.11.91  
Fecha:

B. Linley, GICO  
Elections Officer  
Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

**CHAIRMAN:** I declare His Excellency Ambassador Antoine Saintraint as the Independent Chairman of the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je voudrais présenter à l'Ambassadeur Saintraint mes félicitations pour sa réélection en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil et je lui souhaite plein succès dans son nouveau mandat.

Au cours de son premier mandat, le Président Saintraint a participé avec une assiduité remarquable à la plupart de nos travaux, y compris à nos Conférences régionales et aux sessions du Comité du Programme et Comité financier. Il a ainsi pu apporter à nos discussions le fruit d'une longue expérience, d'une brillante carrière consacrée tout entière aux problèmes du développement. Partisan sans faille d'une solidarité active entre le Nord et le Sud, il fait honneur à ce pays du Nord, la Belgique, dont il est un digne ressortissant. Sa connaissance de pratiquement tous les continents fait de lui un interlocuteur très écouté au sein de notre Organisation. Je ne peux donc que me réjouir de sa réélection. Je suis en effet convaincu que les travaux du Conseil continueront à bénéficier ainsi de son immense expérience.

M. le Président indépendant du Conseil encore une fois "félicitations" pour votre réélection; Je tiens à vous assurer de tout mon appui et de celui de tout le Secrétariat de la FAO dans l'exercice de votre noble et difficile tâche.

**CHAIRMAN:** I would request the House to permit me also to say a few words on his election.

The vote by which the candidature of Ambassador Antoine Saintraint has been endorsed by this august house today for a second term as Independent Chairman of the Council itself reflects the high regard and recognition with which this august body notes the services and experience of the Ambassador. I have personally been associated with him for only a brief period, but I have heard high praise from distinguished country representatives based in Rome, not the least from Pakistan's own representation, regarding the ability and acumen with which he has conducted the affairs of the Council over the past biennium. Words are certainly not sufficient to describe the many attributes of the Ambassador, who is so well known to all of you.

I congratulate him on his success, and wish him all well in the onerous task which we have decided to re-assign to him.

**Gonzalo BUIA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, señor Director General, colegas y amigos: En primer lugar, deseo cumplir el grato y honroso encargo que me ha confiado la distinguida Representante de Guatemala, Presidente del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, para que intervenga a nombre de los Estados de nuestra Región.

Querido colega y Presidente Antonio, todos tus amigos latinoamericanos y del Caribe nos sentimos felices y orgullosos por tu merecida reelección. Hablas nuestro idioma, has visitado y conoces los países de América Latina y el Caribe, estás muy cerca de nosotros, eres uno de los nuestros.

Sr. Presidente, brevisimamente, quiero también intervenir, con toda humildad, en mi condición de ser el solo ex Presidente Independiente del Consejo que sigue participando en las actividades de esta Organización. Ser Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO elegido por Representantes de todos los Gobiernos del mundo es un gran honor, una alta responsabilidad, produce inmensas satisfacciones. Mi reelección en 1975 coincidió con la elección, para su primer mandato, del Dr. Edouard Saouma. En muchas de mis intervenciones he dicho que a partir de 1976 en la FAO se inició un estilo nuevo, pragmático, dinámico. En ese año, como Presidente del Consejo, presidí un Grupo de Trabajo cuyas recomendaciones cambiaron la composición y forma de elección de los dos órganos asesores más importantes del Consejo: Comité del Programa y Comité de Finanzas. También en 1976, como Presidente Independiente del Consejo, me correspondió dirigir las primeras discusiones sobre los dos pilares fundamentales del programa del nuevo Director General, elegido en noviembre de 1975: representantes propios de la FAO en los países y Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT).

Querido Antonio, este breve recuento de algunas de mis experiencias está dirigido a destacar la importancia del cargo al cual acabas de ser elegido. Tú has contribuido a dignificar esa posición. Has ejercido tus funciones con reconocida competencia, notable inteligencia, amplios conocimientos y, sobre todo, con mucha decisión y gran valor, cualidades que generalmente suelen ser escasas. Como tu antecesor lejano en el tiempo, me siento orgulloso de que esta Conferencia te haya concedido otros dos años a través de los cuales seguirás presidiendo nuestro Consejo, con las mismas altas y destacadas condiciones que todos te reconocemos.

A través de nuestras actividades comunes, he podido admirar la fidelidad y lealtad constantes con que te acompaña la querida Sra. Josane Saintraint. Permíteme que, al concluir estas palabras, asocie también a tu noble y abnegada compañera de tu vida para desear a los dos mucha felicidad, alegría plena y nuevos éxitos.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie):** Bien qu'il soit toujours difficile de parler après notre cher collègue, l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, je voudrais, au nom de mon pays la Tunisie et en celui du Groupe des 77, présenter toutes nos félicitations à l'Ambassadeur Antoine Saintraint pour sa brillante élection, pour un deuxième mandat, en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil. Notre estime pour l'Ambassadeur Saintraint est d'autant plus grande qu'elle est en rapport avec les efforts soutenus qu'il n'a cessés de fournir lors de son premier mandat à la présidence du Conseil. M. Saintraint a fait preuve de beaucoup de sagesse, beaucoup de courage et surtout beaucoup de patience. Par son intelligence et son esprit de solidarité active et de rassemblement, M. Antoine Saintraint a su mener les travaux du Conseil avec beaucoup d'adresse. Nous lui souhaitons, en conséquence, un plein succès et une bonne continuation; et nous l'assurons de notre entière disposition à l'aider dans sa lourde tâche.

**Waliur RAHMAN (Bangladesh):** I have asked for the floor to pay a very personal tribute to my dear friend Antoine Saintraint of Belgium on his election for the second time as the Independent Chairman of Council. As you, Mr Chairman, and the Director-General very rightly have said, Ambassador Saintraint deserved to be re-elected for a second term because he has stood out as a towering personality, as a negotiator of rare excellence in the past years that I have seen him, having had the privilege of associating with him in the various activities of FAO. I have been particularly privileged and honoured to have worked with him in the Governing Body of the World Food Programme. Have I not seen how he worked with dedication and commitment to bring about compromise, to create a situation where friendship and understanding prevailed all round? By electing him for a second term we have offered him both a challenge and an opportunity - a challenge because he is ideally suited to take on the problems of food and agriculture confronting the developing world, and an opportunity because he is intellectually tuned to creating the possibilities conducive to the promotion of better international understanding for the benefit of both developed and developing countries in the north and south. In conclusion, I wish Mr Saintraint good luck and buon lavoro.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** I speak on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Region in my capacity as Chairman of the Group during the present term of office. We have recently heard the Chairman of the Group of 77 and one member of the Asia Region pay tributes to congratulate Ambassador Saintraint. However, briefly on behalf of my delegation, all the Member States of the Asia and the Pacific Region and on my own behalf I wish to join you, Mr Chairman, the Director-General and all the other distinguished delegates who have spoken before me in congratulating Mr Saintraint and the Royal Kingdom of Belgium on his re-election.

Ambassador Saintraint certainly has a long and distinguished career behind him as a diplomat and civil servant in the employ of his country. All of us here in Rome who have had the honour of closely working with him have watched him most ably conduct the affairs of the Council over the past two years and are very pleased and proud to see him being re-elected for a second term. We assure him of our full support in his duties, and look forward to a close working relationship with him during his second term.

**Waleed A. ELKHERELJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** On behalf of both the Near East region and Saudi Arabia and on my own behalf I wish to express my warmest congratulations to Ambassador Saintraint on his re-election. Under his chairmanship we have all appreciated his experience and his keen vision of all problems. I can say that he has chaired our Council meetings as an excellent captain and has steered our ship in the most skilled manner. We are all certain he will continue working in the same way in future.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** La délégation libanaise ne peut que présenter toutes ses félicitations à son ami, l'Ambassadeur Saintraint, pour sa réélection en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil pour les deux prochaines années. Nous avons oeuvré côte-à-côte avec l'Ambassadeur alors qu'il était Président indépendant du Conseil, au cours des deux dernières années; et nous avons oeuvré à ses côtés alors qu'il

était représentant du Gouvernement belge. Dans toutes ces activités, l'Ambassadeur Saintraint a été à la hauteur de ses responsabilités. Une fois de plus, je lui présente toutes mes félicitations et lui fait mes meilleurs vœux pour sa prochaine mission dans laquelle nous sommes comme toujours disposés à l'aider.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** I have the honour to speak on behalf of the nine countries of the South-West Pacific Region - Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and the Cook Islands. As a representative of these countries on the Council we wish to add the Region's warmest congratulation to the Independent Chairman on his re-election and look forward to his continued impartial guidance and input into the work and deliberations of this important Council.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Je voudrais simplement m'associer à ce que viennent de dire les orateurs précédents au sujet de notre collègue et ami Antoine Saintraint. A titre personnel, ou plutôt national, je suis particulièrement heureux de voir une nouvelle fois la Belgique récompensée en la personne de M. Saintraint puisque, vous le savez, la Belgique est non seulement un membre de la Communauté économique européenne mais - et j'espère que les autres membres me pardonneront de le dire - de tous les membres de la Communauté européenne, c'est celui qui est le plus proche de la France par la langue, par la culture, par la géographie et par l'histoire.

Cela dit, j'ai bien conscience qu'Antoine Saintraint a été élu une nouvelle fois Président indépendant du Conseil et qu'à ce titre, il ne représente ni la Belgique ni la Communauté européenne mais tous les membres de cette Assemblée.

Nous connaissons les qualités éminentes d'Antoine Saintraint. Travailleur infatigable, ancien parlementaire et, à ce titre, particulièrement averti des mécanismes qui prévalent dans les assemblées et dans les conférences, grand connaisseur des hommes et, en particulier, du tiers monde, totalement dévoué à la cause du développement qui est la nôtre à tous, je crois qu'il est l'homme de la situation et qu'il saura, pour le biennium qui vient, gérer avec habileté et efficacité un budget qui est en déclin et qu'il saura également affronter les difficultés de trésorerie qui se profilent à l'horizon. Je ne doute pas qu'en dépit de toutes les difficultés, Antoine Saintraint soit capable, comme vient de le dire mon collègue d'Arabie Saoudite, de conduire le navire à bon port. Et nous savons tous qu'il pourra compter sur l'assistance du Secrétariat et du Directeur général, qui se trouve aujourd'hui à ses côtés.

**Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon):** When, two years ago, Ambassador Saintraint was appointed Independent Chairman of Council, the African Group hailed him with open arms. It is on behalf of that Group that I am now speaking, just to pay a little tribute that Ambassador Saintraint has been elected a second time. The old adage says that a man can be appointed for the first time in error, but when a man is re-elected a second time, it is proof positive of competence. That is what Ambassador Saintraint has demonstrated.

Everyone who knows him knows that wherever he is his arms are always in the air to welcome anyone; we hope he will continue to keep his arms open in facing our problems and in guiding the work of our Council for another two years. More grease to your elbow, Mr Saintraint; we are still here to give you our competence and cooperation.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** I would like to join my colleagues from other regions in congratulating Ambassador Saintraint for being re-elected in his important capacity as Independent Chairman of the Council. I do this also in my current capacity as Chairman of the European Forum and on behalf of the European member countries of FAO. The European countries of FAO wish Ambassador Saintraint every success in his responsible work.

**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** Como Presidente del Grupo de la OCDE, expresamos nuestra más sincera felicitación al Sr. Saintraint por su reelección para otro periodo como Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

En este mundo, que está cambiando cada vez con mayor rapidez, la FAO se esfuerza por estar a la altura de los cambios, por mantener su papel primordial en el mundo de la cooperación para el desarrollo.

En estas nuevas etapas, estos cambios van a necesitar un esfuerzo especial de todos los miembros de la FAO y, a su vez, una labor cada vez más cuidadosa, más intensa de sus órganos de gobierno. El Sr. Saintraint, al frente del Consejo, va a tener que hacer honor a todas sus habilidades, a todas sus posibilidades como Presidente, como conductor sabio de este Consejo, y creo que todos los miembros de la FAO, y nuestro grupo en especial, debemos colaborar con él para llevar a buen término estas, como digo, difíciles etapas que nos toca recorrer.

**Antoine SAINTRAINT (Président indépendant du Conseil):** M. le Président, M. le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, je voudrais avec beaucoup de franchise, mais de façon très brève parce qu'il est tard, vous remercier du vote qui vient d'être émis. Ce vote est important. Vous savez que depuis que vous m'avez chargé des fonctions de Président indépendant du Conseil, j'ai toujours agi en mon âme et conscience et vous ne m'enlèverez certainement pas le mérite d'avoir toujours dit en toute circonstance, en toute indépendance, ce que je pensais.

Aussi je voudrais très sincèrement et très amicalement même, remercier non seulement ceux qui ont émis un vote positif, mais également ceux qui ont émis un vote négatif et ceux qui se sont abstenus. Il était très important pour moi qu'un certain nombre de votes négatifs soient émis, ce qui veut dire que mon pouvoir de persuasion et mes convictions profondes ne sont pas encore partagés par tous.

J'ai eu l'occasion de dire que la volonté de consensus ne pouvait pas être un commun dénominateur de médiocrité. J'ai eu l'occasion de suivre cette Conférence qui a été importante, parce qu'elle a permis de se mettre d'accord sur la relance de notre Organisation; notre Organisation a beaucoup souffert pendant ces dernières années, et je crois que nous sommes arrivés maintenant à un stade et à un palier où elle pourra réellement redémarrer.

Je ne voudrais pas qu'en aucune circonstance on puisse me faire dire ce que je n'ai pas dit. Une institution n'existe pas pour elle-même et en fonction d'elle-même, elle existe pour les services qu'elle peut rendre à la communauté internationale.

Je crois profondément au secteur multilatéral, à la confrontation dans l'amitié et la collaboration entre les hommes venus de différents horizons, de différents continents, de différentes cultures. Je crois que la chance extraordinaire de la famille des Nations Unies est de permettre à tous les hommes - et bien sûr à toutes les femmes - de travailler ensemble pour en arriver à construire cette société internationale dont nous rêvons tous et qui est difficile à construire et à élaborer.

Je crois que l'atmosphère de collaboration et d'amitié qui nous unit nous permettra demain de rendre notre Organisation encore plus efficace, plus opérationnelle, sous la direction de son Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouraa, auquel je rends hommage. Je crois que nous avons encore beaucoup de choses à faire, que notre tâche sera toujours incomplète, qu'elle ne sera jamais terminée mais que nous devons tous travailler ensemble pour tenter l'accomplir.

Merci à tous. Merci à tous ceux qui m'ont fait confiance. Merci à ceux qui attendent peut-être que demain nous puissions dans un dialogue franc les persuader davantage de la nécessité de travailler ensemble. Merci également à ceux qui ont émis un vote négatif, parce que je crois que c'était important. Je suis un homme qui a toujours été discuté ou contesté. Mais je crois que le dialogue et la confrontation dans la franchise et l'amitié sont toujours non seulement nécessaires mais indispensables. Je me rends compte que je suis très imparfait, que je ne suis certainement pas le Président idéal. J'ai essayé, dans la modeste mesure de mes moyens, de rester toujours ouvert, impartial, tout en vous communiquant mes sentiments et mes convictions profondes. J'essaierai peut-être de faire, durant le second biennium, mieux que je n'ai fait hier.

Muchas, gracias a todos. Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a la 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 91/PV/19

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE 19ª SESION PLENARIA

(26 November 1991)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 19ª sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia



IV. APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

IV. NOMINATIONS ET ELECTIONS (suite)

IV. NOMBRAMIENTO Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

33. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued) - European Economic Community

33. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite) - Communauté économique européenne

33. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación) - Comunidad Económica Europea

**CHAIRMAN:** I declare open the Nineteenth Plenary Meeting. We will take up again Item 33, Applications for Membership in the Organization which had been left open on Monday 11 November when we had admitted three new Member Nations and one new Associate Member.

As you are aware, an application for membership was received by the Director-General from the European Economic Community on 25 November, and was circulated yesterday to all Member Nations.

You will also recall that yesterday the representative of the Netherlands had requested a suspension of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization in order to allow this application for membership in FAO to be considered at the present Conference session. I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

**Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** I would like to confirm that we asked the Secretariat for the suspension of Rule XIX of the General Rules of the Organization in order to allow for the European Economic Community's application for membership in FAO to be considered at the present session of the FAO Conference.

As I have the floor, I would like to propose that the fifth entry of document C 91/LIM/47-Corr.1, the word 'competent' should be replaced by 'competence'. should be deleted. We would like to retain the word competent.

**CHAIRMAN:** The suspension of a Rule has once again been requested. I shall read out Rule XLVIII.1 of the General Rules of the Organization on Suspension and Amendment of Rules, which provides that: ...the foregoing Rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at any Plenary Meeting of the Conference, provided that notice of the intention to propose the suspension has been communicated to the delegates not less than 24 hours before the Meeting at which the proposal is to be made.

You have heard the formal proposal made by the Netherlands, which gave notice of its intention early yesterday within the time limits established.

We should have a roll call vote to decide whether the Conference wishes to suspend Rule XIX in this case. Should the decision be favourable, in accordance with Article II.3 of the FAO Constitution the Conference would then vote by secret ballot on the admission of the EEC as a Member Organization.

A yes in the roll call vote signifies that you agree to the suspension of Rule XIX; a no signifies that you do not so agree. Are there any questions on the procedure?

We now move to the roll call vote on the suspension of Rule XIX. There are at least 87 Member Nations in the Hall so we have a quorum and can vote. The first country to be called is Algeria. I shall now request the Elections Officer please to conduct the roll call vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Session of the Conference                      ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
26      Session de la Conférence                      APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
            Período de sesiones de la Conferencia                      VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

1st      Vote sur                      Suspension of Rule XIX GRO to allow for an Application for Membership in FAO by EEC to be considered at the present Session

Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Afghanistan				X	China	X				Germany	X			
Albania				X	Colombia	X				Ghana	X			
Algeria	X				Comoros				X	Greece	X			
Angola	X				Congo	X				Grenada	X			
Argentina				X	Cook Islands				X	Guatemala	X			
Australia	X				Costa Rica	X				Guinea	X			
Austria	X				Côte d'Ivoire	X				Guinea-Bissau				X
Bahamas				X	Cuba	X				Guyana	X			
Bahrain	X				Cyprus	X				Haiti	X			
Bangladesh	X				Czechoslovakia	X				Honduras	X			
Barbados				X	D.P. Republic of Korea	X				Hungary	X			
Belgium	X				Denmark	X				Iceland				X
Benin				X	Djibouti				X	India	X			
Bhutan	X				Dominica	X				Indonesia	X			
Bolivia	X				Dominican Republic				X	Iran (Islamic Republic of)				X
Botswana	X				Ecuador	X				Iraq				X
Brazil	X				Egypt	X				Ireland	X			
Bulgaria	X				El Salvador	X				Israel	X			
Burkina Faso				X	Equatorial Guinea	X				Italy	X			
Burundi				X	Estonia				X	Jamaica				X
Cameroon	X				Ethiopia	X				Japan	X			
Canada	X				Fiji				X	Jordan				X
Cape Verde	X				Finland	X				Kenya	X			
Central African				X	France	X				Korea (Rep. of)				X
Chad				X	Gabon	X				Kuwait	X			
Chile	X				Gambia	X				Laos				X

Session of the Conference                      ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
 26      Session de la Conférence                      APPEL NOMINAL ET DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
             Período de sesiones de la Conferencia                      VOTACION NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCION DE PAPELETAS

Vote on

1st      Vote sur                      Suspension of Rule XIX GRO to allow for an Application for Membership in FAO by EEC to be considered at the present Session

Votación para

MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR	MEMBERS	YES	NO	ABS	NR
Latvia				X	Nigeria	X				Swaziland	X			
Lebanon	X				Norway	X				Sweden	X			
Lesotho	X				Oman	X				Switzerland	X			
Liberia				X	Pakistan	X				Syria	X			
Libya	X				Panama	X				Tanzania	X			
Lithuania				X	Papua New Guinea				X	Thailand	X			
Luxembourg	X				Paraguay				X	Togo				X
Madagascar	X				Peru	X				Tonga				X
Malawi	X				Philippines	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Malaysia				X	Poland	X				Tunisia	X			
Maldives				X	Portugal	X				Turkey	X			
Mali				X	Qatar				X	Uganda	X			
Malta	X				Romania	X				United Arab Emirates	X			
Mauritania				X	Rwanda	X				United Kingdom	X			
Mauritius	X				St. Kitts & Nevis				X	USA	X			
Mexico	X				Saint Lucia				X	Uruguay	X			
Mongolia				X	St. Vincent &				X	Vanuatu				
Morocco	X				Samoa				X	Venezuela	X			
Mozambique				X	Saudi Arabia	X				Viet Nam				X
Myanmar	X				Senegal	X				Yemen				X
Namibia				X	Sierra Leone				X	Yugoslavia				X
Nepal	X				Solomon Islands				X	Zaire	X			
Netherlands	X				Somalia				X	Zambia	X			
New Zealand	X				Spain	X				Zimbabwe	X			
Nicaragua	X				Sri Lanka	X								
Niger	X				Sudan	X								

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APEEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on                      Suspension of Rule XIX GRO to Allow for an  
1st    Vote sur                      Application for Membership in FAO by EEC to be  
Votación para                      considered at the Present Session

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	104
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	50

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	104
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	70
--	----

ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

Date: 26 November 1991

Elections Officer                      Mr. B. Linley

Date: 26 november 1991

Fonctionnaire electoral

Date: 26 noviembre 1991

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.

**CHAIRMAN:** By the roll call vote you have decided to suspend Rule XIX so the Conference can now vote on the admission to membership of the EEC. Delegations will be called one by one and they will proceed to the voting area on my right. Before we begin may I remind you that paragraph 14 of Rule XII of the General Rules specifies that once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting. I should now like to invite the delegations of Ghana and Trinidad and Tobago to kindly serve as Tellers and to proceed to the voting area. If there are no comments we shall proceed with the vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

REPORT OF BALLOT RESULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACION	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers issued Bulletins distribués Papeletas distribuidas	107
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	3

4. Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	98
5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	6
6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	104

7. Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	70
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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
(EEC)

Having obtained the required majority, is admitted as a Member Organization.  
Ayant obtenu la majorité, est admise comme Organisation Membre.  
Habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitida como Organización Miembro.

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature

Ms Donna HENRY  
(Trinidad and Tobago)

Firma .....

Signature

Mr Joseph R. TURKSON  
(Ghana)

Firma .....

26.11.91

.....

Date

Fecha

Ms D. Debilde, GIOO

.....

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

**CHAIRMAN:** Having obtained the required majority the European Economic Community is admitted as a member of this Organization. I now invite the EEC to take its place here as a new Member Organization of the FAO.

EEC Delegation enter and takes its place

La Delegation de la CEE entre et prend sa place

La Delegación de la CEE entra y toma su puesto

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** M. le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, l'admission de la Communauté économique européenne comme membre de notre Organisation représente une décision de grande portée pour la FAO. C'est une première en son genre, qui crée un précédent pour l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Mesurons donc à sa juste valeur l'importance de l'acte politique que la Conférence vient de poser.

Je me réjouis que cette question délicate ait pu se régler dans la plus complète harmonie. Le mérite vous en revient ainsi qu'aux différents Etats Membres, aux Présidents des Commissions - surtout la Commission III - et aux représentants qui, depuis plus de deux ans, ont négocié les conditions de cette adhésion avec une intelligence aiguë des écueils juridiques à éviter, avec un doigté diplomatique remarquable. Ce succès revient d'abord et avant tout à la Commission des Communautés que je salue ici en la personne de M. MacSharry, Commissaire pour l'agriculture, qui a su surmonter de nombreuses difficultés internes et externes qui se sont présentées.

Responsable de l'agriculture, M. MacSharry joue également un rôle éminent dans les Négociations d'Uruguay. Je lui souhaite le plus grand succès dans ces efforts pour faire aboutir les négociations du GATT à propos du dossier clé le plus brûlant, celui concernant le commerce agricole auquel la FAO attache une grande importance.

Le Secrétariat n'est pas non plus étranger à l'adhésion de la CEE. Je suis satisfait d'avoir pu personnellement y contribuer modestement. Certes, les relations entre nos deux organisations sont anciennes et excellentes, mais aujourd'hui, les prémisses sont posées pour qu'elles assument une mission nouvelle mutuellement bénéfique entre partenaires à plein titre. Il nous appartiendra de valoriser cette coopération dans un esprit ouvert et constructif.

La CEE a choisi la FAO comme banc d'essai pour entrer dans le système des Nations Unies. Ce n'est pas un hasard puisque c'est dans notre secteur de compétence qu'elle a le plus progressé sur la voie de l'intégration économique, le commerce des produits agricoles, les pêches, etc. Mais aussi - je le pense en toute modestie - parce que la FAO peut beaucoup lui apporter par sa connaissance unique du monde rural, son analyse permanente de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle, sa fonction normative, son vaste répertoire d'expertise et sa présence à peu près partout dans le monde.



A l'inverse, il est vrai que le concours que la CEE est en mesure d'offrir à la FAO peut être considérable et, dans de nombreux secteurs, on peut entrevoir une véritable complémentarité et un partnership. Le mérite de l'arrangement-cadre de coopération signé entre la CEE et la FAO, en juin dernier, est précisément d'être l'instrument susceptible de concrétiser notre volonté de coopération. Il devra permettre de définir les activités du grand Programme ordinaire où la coopération serait mutuellement profitable. Je pense, par exemple, au rôle que les Communautés pourraient jouer sur des questions prioritaires comme la sauvegarde des ressources génétiques ou dans l'élaboration et la mise en oeuvre de normes et de codes de conduites sur différents sujets. Mais ces accords devraient surtout déboucher sur une coopération opérationnelle au niveau du terrain par le biais de fonds fiduciaires à l'appui de programmes et de projets prioritaires définis et approuvés en commun. Des premières discussions en cours, j'ai confiance qu'une telle coopération pourra effectivement s'installer, contribuant à renforcer l'aide que notre Organisation apporte, en particulier, aux plus démunis de nos Etats Membres.

En terminant, je voudrais exprimer mes plus vives félicitations à la CEE pour son adhésion. Celle-ci sera, j'en suis sûr, bénéfique à notre organisation. Pour ma part, je voudrais assurer la CEE qu'elle peut compter sur ma collaboration pleine et entière. Je sais de même pouvoir compter sur la sienne. Je l'en remercie.

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr Director-General, please allow me to say a few words on the momentous decision that has been taken by the Conference. It is a very great honour and privilege for me to congratulate and welcome, on my own behalf and I am sure on behalf of you all, the EEC to membership of FAO. It is an historical initiation for a community, in the family of the UN, and its participation and contribution to the activities and proceedings of intergovernmental meetings in FAO, would certainly be most valuable.

I am sure that all members of FAO look forward to a close and productive working relationship with the newest of our members. I am also sure that the EEC is equally looking forward to its new and constructive relationship and role in the Organization of the FAO.

I now give the floor to the honourable delegate from the EEC.

**Ray MacSHARRY (EEC):** Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to be here with you on this historic day. It is a great honour for the European Community to be accepted as a Member of this most prestigious Organization. On behalf of the Community, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and to all those people who have made our membership possible.

In the first place, my special thanks go to the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, who played a decisive role in bringing about this membership through continuous dialogue between the FAO Member Nations and our delegation.

I want particularly to underline the special role played by the Colombian Ambassador, Mr Bula Hoyos, Chairman of the Special Committee, through his talent and experience, in finding the right compromise solutions between the legitimate interests of all concerned.

Furthermore, I want to thank the Chairman of the Legal and Constitutional Committee, Mr Fotis Poulides, as well as the Committee's members. They have been extremely helpful in formulating the necessary amendments to the FAO Constitution which made our membership possible.

I would like to pay tribute to the President of the FAO Council, Ambassador Sainttraint, for the role he played in following the membership process to its successful conclusion.

I also want to thank the Legal Counsel, Mr Gerald Moore, the Chairman of Commission III, the Rapporteurs and the members of the Drafting Committees as well as the members of the Special Committee.

Last, but not least, I would like to pay tribute to the representatives of the Regional Groups in FAO and to the delegations of individual Member Nations. They have been particularly helpful in discussing, modifying and drawing up the proposals which led to the amendments of the FAO Constitution. We very much hope that the end result is to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned.

The European Community's request for FAO membership had been made with the full support of the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament. You are, I know, all fully aware of the reasons why the Community wished to become a member of FAO. The status of Observer no longer corresponds with the role and competence of the Community in, for example, the fields of agriculture and fisheries. Furthermore, the Community is convinced that given many common goals in the development field, the Community can play a more constructive role in the work of FAO as a member.

Our willingness to work towards common goals was already clearly demonstrated when, in June of 1991, the Commission of the European Community and FAO signed a framework agreement in order to strengthen their cooperation in favour of the developing countries. Already, a number of specific decisions have been made regarding Trust Fund arrangements to support FAO's activities. We pledge our willingness to continue in that direction. We will increase our activities as regards the identification, preparation and implementation of technical cooperation projects. There will be regular consultations between both institutions and their services, and also between their representatives in the field. I can assure you that the European Community is determined to participate very constructively in the work of FAO. Community membership will further strengthen this fine Organization. I believe that the positive outcome of the Community's application for membership of FAO is a clear demonstration of FAO's capacity to adapt to new international developments. The Community, whose very foundation is built on cooperation and ever-closer integration amongst its Member States, has welcomed and will continue to support regional cooperation throughout other parts of the world.

The Community is on the eve of an historic European Council in Maastricht where vital decisions on political as well as economic and monetary union will be taken.

Mr President, I would like to underline, as I did when speaking to this Conference on 13 November, that the Community will remain outward-looking and will continue to work for peace and prosperity throughout the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Before I offer the floor to different distinguished delegates, may I mention that this morning we agreed that one country would respond on behalf of each Region. Let us see if we can stick to that!

First of all, I will call on the honourable delegate from the Netherlands.

**Frederik Ch. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands):** It is a privilege at this juncture to express on behalf of the Member States of the European Community our gratitude and satisfaction that the Community has become FAO's first member as a Regional Economic Integration Organization. In the first place, we would like to thank the membership of FAO that they made it possible by voting in favour of the Community's membership application. Secondly, we thank the Director-General of FAO who has shown during the whole process of negotiating with the European Commission, and later on also with the Member States, about the amendments to the Basic Texts of FAO and the General Rules his great interest in the matter, and made it possible for the Legal Counsel, Mr Gerald Moore, to devote a part of his precious time and the best of his abilities to this case. Gerald Moore and his staff, and especially Mr Richard Stein, deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts to pave the way for Regional Economic Integration Organizations to become members of FAO.

At the same time, I should mention the name of our colleague the Ambassador of Colombia to FAO, Mr Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, who has chaired in his famous, unique style, the ad hoc Group.

Many other names come to my mind when I think about the intensive work done during the last couple of weeks. I cannot mention all of them here. However, I would like to make an exception, namely the Chairman of Commission III, Mr Samuel Fernandez Illanes, one of the most charming chairpersons I have ever worked under.

The future of FAO with the EEC as a member will be an interesting one, and we sincerely hope that the Community will not remain the only Regional Economic Integration Organization in FAO but that others will follow suit.

It could be, and it will be, that many delegates here in the Plenary Hall are inclined to ask for the floor in order to congratulate us - the Community and the Member States. Although I am not against it - of course not - it is perhaps too early. Indeed the new licence is there, but let us drive for a while showing that this public vehicle with twelve seats is facilitating the traffic when it is needed, while everybody will experience that all the passengers still have their own cars which are used in a well-considered way and at the right time.

I do not want to continue in drawing symbolic parallels, not only because not every comparison will hold water but in this specific case it can be considered a tricky business.

I limit myself to what I have said already, and that was the main reason for asking for the floor: to thank everybody who made the decision, which was taken a minute ago, possible.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** On this historic occasion for FAO, and at the same time for the evolution of public international law and the law of international inter-governmental organizations, I would be remiss if I did not express my recognition to those who have made this possible. New horizons have been opened with the amendment of the FAO Constitution only last week to allow the membership of Regional Economic Organizations. Today, with your vote, the European Economic Community has been admitted as a member of FAO. Such events do not happen by themselves. Much effort is required and our Organization is fortunate to have in its Secretariat highly devoted staff members who were willing to put in the extra effort that was required. Certainly, this was also the case for the EEC, and they deserve our thanks as well.

We owe special recognition to the Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma, for his untiring efforts, as well as to the FAO Legal Counsel, Mr Gerald Moore, and his valued cooperators who for more than two years have demonstrated their ability to cope in an imaginative and innovative way for the vast range of problems which are ours.

Without them, we would never have succeeded. They deserve the expression of our heartfelt appreciation, whilst not forgetting at all the numerous other FAO staff members who provided the indispensable and often concealed support required.

I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to express my warmest thanks and appreciation to Mr MacSharry, Commissioner for Agriculture and Forestry of the European Economic Community, for his nice words, which I gladly accept on behalf of all members of the CCLM and the FAO Legal Counsel and his staff.

Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the opportunity to express through you to this august body, these thoughts, which reflect my deep conviction.

**Amor Ben RHOMDANE (Tunisie):** M. le Président, l'admission de la Communauté européenne en tant que membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est un événement historique qui rentre dans les annales de la FAO. Cette admission d'un nouveau membre d'un caractère particulier donnera, j'en suis sûr, un nouvel élan aux actions de notre Organisation. Ce nouvel apport touchera aussi bien les activités techniques de conception que les activités d'exécution sur le terrain et renforcera les actions de coopération envers nos pays en développement.

Tous les membres du Groupe des 77 ont pris acte de l'engagement solennel de la Communauté européenne à s'acquitter en toute loyauté et confiance des obligations en vigueur découlant de la qualité de membre de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Tout en nous réjouissant de ce résultat positif, je saisis cette occasion pour souhaiter la bienvenue à la CEE et présenter, au nom de Groupe des 77, toutes nos félicitations à la Communauté européenne ainsi qu'à ses Etats membres pour cette brillante élection.

Nous présentons également tous nos remerciements et notre gratitude à tous ceux, des Etats membres ou du Secrétariat, qui ont contribué de près ou de loin à l'élaboration des textes d'amendement qui ont permis et qui permettront l'adhésion d'organisations d'intégration économique et régionale à notre prestigieuse Organisation.

**Rita MISHAAN ROSSELL (Guatemala):** Gracias Sr. Presidente. Sr. Presidente en nombre de los miembros del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe, y especialmente en nombre de mi delegación, doy la bienvenida al ingreso de la CEE en esta Organización. Estamos seguros de que éste es un paso que trascenderá históricamente dentro de la familia del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, como bien ha dicho el Director General. Tenemos la confianza de que será un efectivo aporte a la FAO por su experiencia tecnológica, conocimientos y ayuda económica. Asimismo, el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe ha observado que, más allá de las consideraciones jurídicas que su ingreso tiene respecto a la FAO, sobre las cuales el Grupo expresó distintas opiniones, acoge el ingreso conscientes de que esto constituirá el ejemplo que abrirá las puertas para que las ORIE de Latinoamérica y el Caribe puedan ingresar en la Organización y hacer sus aportes en el futuro.

La Región expresa su confianza de que las labores de la FAO, gracias a las reformas que se aprobaron, podrán verse enormemente beneficiadas, en especial los países en vía de desarrollo, y que esto seguramente se verá reflejado en los trabajos que conjuntamente hemos de desempeñar en esta Organización.

Finalmente, permítame rendir homenaje al Embajador de Colombia, Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, por el rol que desempeñó en las negociaciones que permitieron el ingreso de la CEE a la FAO.

Aprovecho esta oportunidad para solicitar que la versión española se adapte a la versión inglesa en el documento C 91/LIM/47, en la parte 2 de las competencias no exclusivas, bajo el párrafo 3 de la parte d), en lo que se refiere a la palabra plátanos, que debe ser sustituida por la palabra bananos, como aparece en la versión inglesa.

**Mian Riaz SAMEE (Pakistan):** We once again take the floor to speak on behalf of the Asia and Pacific Region. The warmth with which the Conference today decided to admit the EEC to membership of FAO underscores the significance which FAO members attach to the EEC and its participation in the activities and intergovernmental deliberations within FAO. We in the Asia and Pacific Region welcome the EEC amongst us, and congratulate it on its election.

In the past, we have worked closely with the twelve Member Countries in the EEC, and also with the Commission, although in somewhat different capacity. We are sure that the admission of the EEC as a member will result in a significant strengthening of FAO.

**Michael KIMA TABONG (Cameroon):** The admission of the EEC to this world organization, FAO, is both unique and significant. The African Group, of which Cameroon is a member, welcomes its admission wholeheartedly, with the following comments:

It should be remembered that when the issue first came up during the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in November 1990, Cameroon gave a blanket approval, on the condition that some obvious loose ends would be tied up. Cameroon was honoured with the Chairmanship of a Special Working Group which was appointed by the Council during the Hundredth Session to endeavour to remove most of the brackets which impeded the EEC's smooth sailing into FAO membership. Work later continued under the able chairmanship of His Excellency Bula Hoyos of Colombia. We are now seeing the result of those meetings.

Cameroon, like the majority of African countries, is an Associate Member of the EEC. It is very important to remember this; the Yaoundé-Lomé Convention has confirmed it. What is more, this is the first time that a Regional Economic Integration Organization, consisting of FAO members, has been admitted to FAO as a member. This may open the door to other similar regional organizations in the future.

We hope that the EEC will bring with it its associate members, at least in spirit, if not materially, and not only its well-known technology in the domain of food and agriculture, but also its financial contribution.

The African Group wholeheartedly welcomes the EEC as a Member of FAO.

**Frank BUCHHOLZ (United States of America):** On behalf of the North American Regional Group we are pleased to welcome EEC into FAO. We are confident that it will add greatly to FAO's ability to address the many problems before it.

We regard the EEC as having clearly satisfied the requirements of the FAO Constitution as a member. It meets the requirement of Article II.4 of the Constitution in that its Member States have transferred its competence on a range of matters within the purview of the Organization, including the authority to make decisions binding on its Member States. That competence also includes the transfer of treaty making powers by Member States, and means that complete power with respect to that subject is transferred, and no residual power remains with the Member States.

We are pleased to see that the Declaration submitted by the EEC confirms this statement by, for example, citing specific treaties as the basis for the competence and specific types of agreements which the EEC has the competence to enter into within the purview of the FAO. In addition, we, like many other governments, are familiar with the EEC's competence in a number of areas within FAO's purview. Because of our experience with the EEC in those areas - for example, by participating in international agreements concerning the EEC Declaration - we believe that a more specific declaration would have been more helpful. We note however that the provisions of the Constitution allow us and other governments to ask the EEC specific questions as to competence. We expect to make use of that ability to fill in the gaps left by the Declaration.

**Arpád SZABO (Czechoslovakia):** In my current capacity as Chairman of the European Forum I have the honour, on behalf of the European Region, to take the floor and congratulate the EEC on its membership to FAO. It is a privilege for me, too, as representative of one of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, to speak on behalf of the European Region on this historic day.

EEC membership means a qualitative change not only in the life of FAO, but in the United Nations system as a whole. We are proud that our Organization is the first United Nations specialized agency having a Regional Economic Integration Organization among its members. We are sure that EEC membership will have a positive influence on the activities and effectiveness especially of FAO, and will give an example to other European agencies of how to act in a rapidly changing world.

This is an exceptional day in the life of FAO and represents the result of long and difficult negotiations as well as the good will and constructive efforts of Member States. On behalf of the European Region we thank the countries of other Regions for accepting EEC as a member among us. We wish the EEC fruitful cooperation with FAO resulting in positive effects in favour of all the member countries of FAO.

**S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand):** On behalf of the South Pacific Region, it is my pleasure to welcome and congratulate the EEC on its admission to FAO. As many before have observed, it is an important occasion for both the EEC and FAO, an important precedent for the other organizations of the United Nations system.

Many of the countries of the South Pacific Region have a long and close association with members of the EEC and we look forward to working closely with the Community in this forum as well.

Finally, I congratulate the delegate of Colombia, the Chairman of Commission III and not least the Secretariat for their timeless efforts in making this event possible.

**Waleed A. ELKHEREJI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic):** I would like to say how happy we are, this idea which has been in our minds has germinated and finally borne fruit. It has taken two years to come to fruition. The EEC is now a member of our Organization, together with its Member States. It is for this reason that on behalf of the Near East Group I welcome most warmly the Member States of the EEC and the EEC itself on its new membership.

On this occasion, too, I wish to congratulate the Director-General of FAO because he is always looking to the future and renewing the Organization. I would like also to express my thanks to the man of difficult missions His Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia, Mr Bula Hoyos, who has managed to achieve a consensus on this issue through very complex negotiations.

On behalf of my Region, I congratulate Mr Poulides, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, for his efforts in this matter. I thank the various Rapporteurs who prepared the reports and last but certainly not least I congratulate the new Legal Counsel for the

Organization, Mr Moore, who has worked so hard to turn this dream into reality. He never gave up, even when things looked difficult.

Finally, I am sure that the entry of the EEC will be an encouragement to other Regional Organizations to follow this example and to take up responsibility in the same manner.

**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** El Grupo de países de la OCDE, al que nos honramos presidir en estos momentos, saluda y felicita a la Comunidad Económica Europea como nuevo miembro de la FAO y hace votos para que su entrada sirva para que se cumplan las grandes expectativas que surgieron durante el proceso que ha culminado ahora.

Felicitamos a los miembros de la Comunidad, los cuales pertenecen también a nuestro Grupo de países de la OCDE. Felicítamos a la Comisión en la persona del Comisario MacSharry, aquí presente, y a todos los miembros que durante este proceso participaron en las negociaciones juntamente con el personal de la FAO bajo la experta dirección profesional del Sr. Moore, el cual no ha ahorrado en ningún momento su constante y competitísimo consejo legal.

Felicitamos también a todos los países que en los distintos foros en que fue discutido este asunto colaboraron, incluso expresando sus legítimas dudas y reservas, pero que ayudaron también con ello a clarificar y a perfeccionar los delicados y difíciles problemas jurídicos que iban surgiendo durante el proceso.

En este sentido hay que reconocer la insustituible labor de mi colega y amigo el Sr. Bula Hoyos, al frente del Comité Especial. Bajo su experta batuta, llevada con mano que tiene años de experiencia en estas situaciones y que es en estos momentos cuando esta experiencia hace su aparición y resulta definitiva, este Comité Especial constituyó la etapa más importante del proceso. Durante el Consejo, y durante las negociaciones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, con sus respectivos Presidentes al frente, el proceso siguió su camino y al final nos encontramos en esta Comisión III que ha llevado al Plenario los últimos momentos de la negociación, momentos que sin duda podemos calificar de históricos.

Repetimos, Sr. Presidente, muchas felicidades a todos los que han intervenido y muy especialmente a la Comunidad Económica Europea. Bienvenidos.

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Je vous remercie de m'avoir accordé la parole. J'ai l'honneur de prendre la parole au nom des pays du Maghreb arabe à savoir l'Algérie, la Libye, le Maroc, la Mauritanie et la Tunisie. Notre pays s'associe aux intervenants qui nous ont précédé pour exprimer nos vœux de bienvenue à la Communauté, ainsi que nos vives félicitations. Nos félicitations vont également à tous ceux qui ont contribué à permettre que ce qui hier encore était une idée soit aujourd'hui une réalité et nous tenons à désigner plus précisément le Directeur général de notre Organisation, M. Edouard Saouma, l'Ambassadeur Kima Tabong, Cameroun, le Président du Comité des questions juridiques et constitutionnelles, l'Ambassadeur Poulides, sans oublier, bien sûr le rôle compétent et efficace qui a été joué par l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos dans la résolution de cette affaire. Nos remerciements vont également à M. Moore, notre



Conseiller légal ainsi qu'au Président de la Commission III, et nous tenons à rendre hommage également à Messieurs Papa et Allo de la Communauté économique.

Nous sommes certains que cet événement contribuera au renforcement des liens de fraternité et de coopération entre les pays membres et la Communauté économique européenne. Monsieur le Commissaire Mac Sharry, permettez-nous de vous dire bienvenue dans la maison.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** The Chairman of Group of 77 and the Chairman of the African Group have spoken on behalf of our group, and we fully share the sentiments they have expressed. Sitting just beside the EEC it might be difficult not to use the opportunity to congratulate them and speak even though we are aware of the time constraints.

On behalf of myself and of my delegation, permit me to use this opportunity to congratulate and warmly welcome the EEC as a member of FAO. Its admission into membership of this Organization is historically significant not only because it is the first Regional Economic Integration Organization to be admitted as a member, but also because it opens new avenues of opportunity for enlarging FAO membership. Therefore this important decision is a further achievement in the enlarged membership of a global forum on food and agriculture.

For my delegation, sitting between two of the four newly admitted members, it is of particular significance that at this Twenty-sixth Session of Conference we have had this further sentimental experience, and we feel that this particular situation is unique. My delegation is honoured to have had this experience. We wish them well in their new status. We also hope that their membership of and participation in FAO will assist the Organization in all the technical and material difficulties that it might face in future. We have no doubt that the deep technical and administrative know-how and skill of the EEC will have its proper share in enriching the working of our Organization.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Estoy muy agradecido, Sr. Presidente, al Sr. MacSharry, distinguido representante del nuevo Estado Miembro de la FAO, la CEE, porque el Sr. MacSharry en su declaración de esta tarde tan positiva, profundamente afirmativa y llena de esperanzas respondió plenamente, sin dudas ni vacilaciones, a la pregunta que los representantes de Colombia hicimos en el Consejo de la FAO ¿por qué la CEE ha decidido entrar a ser miembro de esta Organización?

De todo corazón gracias a los Sres. MacSharry y Prillewitz, de Países Bajos, y a todos los colegas y amigos que han tenido palabras tan generosas para con mi humilde persona. Estoy seguro de que el Director General se siente orgulloso si yo reitero mi reconocimiento y gratitud a uno de sus colaboradores, al competente asesor legal Dr Gerald Moore, quien trabajó de manera consagrada, inteligente y hasta obstinada en este asunto.

Los representantes de Colombia estamos seguros de que la Comunidad Económica Europea es consciente de que esta tarde esta Conferencia ha cumplido un acto valeroso, ha dado un paso histórico, y que al lograr el propósito de la CEE de entrar a ser miembro de la FAO mediante este hecho realmente innovador, la CEE tendrá ocasión de confirmar y ampliar su

propósito de seguir contribuyendo en forma cada vez más constante, significativa y válida a la cooperación internacional en su condición de miembro de la FAO, organización universal de carácter multilateral.

Con esa convicción, señor Presidente, señor Director General, distinguidos colegas y amigos, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia damos nuestra más cordial bienvenida a la CEE como miembro de la FAO.

35.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee

35.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel

35.2 Nombramiento de los representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal

**CHAIRMAN:** The next item on our Agenda is the Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee, for which you have document C 91/16. This Committee requires three members and three alternates to be appointed by the Conference.

**Kazuo TATEISHI (Director, Personnel Division):** You have document C 91/16. The appointment of the United Nations Joint Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related pension benefits for the staff of the United Nations and other related organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the Joint Pension Board and the Staff Pension Committees in each of the member organizations. The Board members are drawn from these Committees whose members and alternate members are chosen by the Governing Body, the Head of the Organization and the participating staff of each organization. In the case of FAO the Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the nine alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. Until now all members and alternate members representing the FAO Conference were appointed for two years. Document C 91/16, paragraphs 8 to 12 describe a proposal to change the term of office of the representatives of the Conference to three years with alternative measures to permit a change from two to three years.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as members or alternate members from the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

As members: Ms Daw Marlar Sein Maung of Myanmar, Second Secretary, Alternate Representative to FAO, for the period January 1992 to 31 December 1994.

Mr Christian Bonaparte of Haiti, Chargé d'Affaires, and ad interim Permanent Representative to FAO, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1993.

Mr Frank Buchholz, United States of America, First Secretary, Alternate Permanent Representative to FAO, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1993.

As alternate members: Mr Filibus Bature of Nigeria, Minister, Permanent Representative to FAO, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1994.

Her Excellency, Souad Abdallah of Syria, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to FAO, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1993.

His Excellency Frederik C. Prillewitz of the Netherlands, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative to FAO, for the period 1 January 1992 to 1 December 1993.

Mr Chairman, you may ask the Conference if it wishes to decide on the term of office of members and alternate members on the Staff Pension Committee and to proceed with the appointment of persons just named to become members and alternate members of the FAO Staff Committee.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, you have heard the proposal. There are two parts, the extension by one year of the period, and then there are members and alternate members, three each.

Are there any objections to the proposal as explained by Mr Tateishi? Since there are no comments, I take it that this proposal is adopted.

The next item on the Agenda is the Date and Place of the Twenty-seventh Conference Session.

V. OTHER MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

V. OTROS ASUNTOS

36. Date and Place of the Twenty-seventh Conference Session

36. Date et lieu de la vingt-septième session de la Conférence

36. Fecha y lugar del 27º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL:** Il est proposé que la prochaine session de la Conférence, qui sera la vingt-septième session, se tienne à Rome du samedi 6 novembre au jeudi 25 novembre 1993.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, you have heard the proposed dates for the Twenty-seventh Conference Session of the FAO. The dates are 6 November to 25 November 1993. Are there any comments? I hear no comments.

The proposed dates for the Twenty-seventh Conference Session of FAO are adopted.

37. Any Other Matters

37. Autres questions

37. Otros asuntos

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

**CHAIRMAN:** The next item on the Agenda is Any Other Matters.

I believe it is normal and customary on the occasion of each Conference Session that we pay tribute to those staff members of the Organization who have passed away during the preceding two years, that is, since the last session of the Conference in November 1989. May I ask you to kindly stand and observe one minute's silence in their memory.

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

UNE MINUTE DE SILENCE

UN MINUTO DE SILENCIO

**Juan NUIRY SANCHEZ (Cuba):** Tratando de ganar tiempo. Sr. Presidente, y mientras conocemos el resultado de las elecciones, desearía hacer una pregunta. Querría conocer la opinión de la Secretaría, y de más está decir que nuestra delegación evalúa de muy positiva y muy rica experiencia esta 26<sup>a</sup> Conferencia; pero, a la luz de haber definido ya cuándo se va a efectuar la próxima Conferencia, preguntamos si no resulta muy largo el que antes de la Conferencia se efectúe un Consejo, después la Conferencia y después otro Consejo.

Sin otro ánimo que el de que se me ilustre preguntamos, Sr. Presidente, si no es un período demasiado largo. Creo que están muy unidos el 100<sup>o</sup> Consejo, la Conferencia y, después el 101<sup>o</sup> Consejo que, lógicamente, es nada más que de un día.

Como digo, Sr. Presidente, he hablado con algunos colegas y resulta un período demasiado largo. Creemos que puede pensarse en no unir dos Consejos y una Conferencia, sino que este Consejo pudiera estar un poquito más separado de la Conferencia. Insisto en que esta pregunta la hago con el ánimo de oír la opinión de la Secretaría en este tiempo en que estamos esperando los resultados de la votación.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** Je suis surpris par cette proposition de la dernière minute. La Conférence se termine et j'aurais bien apprécié que cette question puisse être discutée et fasse l'objet d'un point de l'ordre du jour avec un document, etc. Je suis même arrivé en retard et je n'ai pas saisi tout à fait la question, ou la suggestion. Il y a le Comité du Programme, le Comité financier, avec 20 pays membres éminents, choisis par le Conseil qui vont se réunir deux fois en 1992 au printemps et en automne. Ils ont votre confiance, vous les avez élus, ils sont compétents, ils sont là depuis plusieurs années, ils passent chacun 15 jours au printemps et 15 jours en automne; ils examinent tout, ils voient tout, ils font rapport au Conseil au mois de novembre et c'est ainsi que cela fonctionne depuis 45 ans. Maintenant, tout est possible, tout peut évoluer. Vous pouvez décider tout ce que vous voulez. Mais si c'est pour donner des conseils, nous avons tous vos conseils, nous allons les suivre, nous allons faire un rapport devant ces deux Comités et leur demander leurs instructions et leurs orientations, etc.

Si la question est d'organiser une session supplémentaire du Conseil au mois de juin de l'année prochaine, en tant que Directeur général, je n'en vois pas la nécessité. Nous avons tout juste le temps de mettre en oeuvre ce que vous venez de décider, avec tous les ajustements nécessaires: couper

32 millions de dollars. Où faut-il les couper? Nous allons faire plusieurs ajustements du Programme de travail et budget. Nous serons heureux, à ce moment-là, de demander au Comité financier ce qu'il en pense. Mais dire, à la fin de la Conférence, qu'il faut tenir une session du Conseil en juin prochain, je ne comprends pas. Je suis pourtant ici depuis 16 ans. Cette réunion coûterait 400 ou 500 mille dollars, sinon plus. Et qu'ajouterait-elle à ce que le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier vont nous dire au mois d'avril, eux qui vont se réunir pendant plus de 15 jours, plus longtemps que le Conseil? A neuf ou dix, on peut mieux se concentrer, on peut mieux comprendre, on peut mieux s'exprimer. Je réponds là d'une façon directe, presque intuitive, à une remarque qui vient d'être faite par le délégué de Cuba.

Il y aura aussi les Conférences régionales. En 1992, nous allons être occupés par-dessus la tête. Je vais moi-même me rendre à cinq Conférences régionales, de même que tous les Sous-Directeurs généraux: A Montevideo, en Inde, à Prague, à Accra, Téhéran. Tous les Ministres de l'agriculture seront présents. S'ils ont quelque chose à dire, ils le diront et nous les écouterons avec intérêt parce que ce sont eux les patrons, ce sont eux qui décident et nous, le Secrétariat, nous tenons compte de leur avis. Il y aura donc ces cinq conférences régionales avec les Ministres de l'agriculture du monde entier, il y aura les réunions du Comité financier et du Comité du Programme. Il me semble que le calendrier de 1992 sera assez chargé, sans avoir en plus une réunion du Conseil. Evidemment, c'est la Conférence qui décide mais cela n'est pas à l'ordre du jour et les incidences financières ne sont pas prévues. Donc, si la Conférence décidait de convoquer une session extraordinaire du Conseil et je serais obligé d'accepter. Vous me demandez ma réaction; je vous la donne.

The meeting rose at 16.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a 16.45 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/PV/20

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Twenty-sixth Session  
PLENARY

Vingt-sixième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

26º período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

### TWENTIETH PLENARY MEETING VINGTIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE VIGESIMA SESION PLENARIA

(27 November 1991)

The Twentieth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Malik Abdul Majid, Chairman of the Conference, presiding

La vingtième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Malik Abdul Majid, Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 20ª sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Malik Abdul Majid, Presidente de la Conferencia

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 4

**CHAIRMAN:** Good morning. We have only one item on our Agenda, which is the three reports C 91/REP/4 and its Corrigendum 1, C 91/REP/17 and C 91/REP/18. I do not believe there will be any immediate difficulties in approving these reports, which, as you will have noted, are factual.

Let us take first REP/4. Any comments? Thank you. This report is adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 4, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, quatrième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 4, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 17

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIX-SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 17

**CHAIRMAN:** We go on to REP/17. Are there any comments? No. This report is adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 17, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, dix-septième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 17, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF PLENARY - PART 18

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA PLENIERE - DIX-HUITIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA PLENARIA - PARTE 18

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 11

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 11

PARRAFOS 1 A 11

**CHAIRMAN:** Now, on REP/18, are there any comments?

Paragraphs 1 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 12 AND 13

PARAGRAPHERS 12 ET 13

PARRAFOS 12 Y 13

**Mustapha-Menouar SINACEUR (Maroc):** Hier, lors de la discussion du point de l'ordre du jour relatif aux autres questions pendant la plénière, vous avez dit qu'il était de tradition, lors de la Conférence, de rendre hommage aux fonctionnaires de l'Organisation disparus pendant l'exercice biennal. J'aimerais, compte tenu de la circonstance, proposer un amendement au paragraphe 13 du REP/18 et j'aimerais, s'il est possible, que la Conférence puisse rendre hommage également aux représentants des pays membres qui sont morts au service de leur pays, mais tout en étant, bien sûr, dans le cadre d'une mission conjointe avec l'Organisation et leurs gouvernements. Si cela était possible je pense que c'est une manière de rendre hommage à un ami qui nous est très cher et qui a disparu l'année dernière.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you honourable delegate from Morocco. I think it is a very good suggestion and if the Conference approves, the document will be amended. Thank you. So if there are no other comments, REP/18 is adopted.

Paragraphs 12 and 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 12 et 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 y 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part 18, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Plénière, dix-huitième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte 18, así enmendado, es aprobado

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación de Brasil, Sr. Presidente, había pedido a la Conferencia su explicación de voto sobre el proyecto de Resolución que aprobó las enmiendas a los Textos Básicos de la FAO. Mi delegación pidió que su explicación de voto fuera registrada en el Informe de la Conferencia. Hicimos esta petición porque creemos que es natural que un país tenga registrada su explicación de voto en una Conferencia dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Esta mañana, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Brasil consultó al Secretariado de la FAO sobre esta cuestión y el Secretariado nos informó que la explicación del voto de Brasil hecha el día 18 de noviembre, después de aprobadas las enmiendas a los Textos Básicos, podría figurar como anexo al Informe General de la Conferencia.

La delegación de Brasil quería pedir a usted, Sr. Presidente y al Secretariado de la FAO, que confirme este entendimiento. Nuestra delegación desearía también declarar que la referencia a la explicación de voto mencionada es satisfactoria para el Brasil.

**CHAIRMAN:** Your explanation and your suggestion is confirmed and it will be regarded as your suggestion. Thank you.



**LEGAL COUNSEL:** I would like to confirm that, as we have said, all the explanations of vote on the Resolution on the amendment of the Basic Texts will be included verbatim as an appendix to the Report of the Conference, as has been indicated by the delegate of Brazil. Also, a reference to the appendix will be made in the footnote to the Resolution.

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, for the few minutes that are left before we close, I am going to first request the honourable Director-General to offer his remarks to the Conference then we shall ask if there are any special points that any of the honourable delegates wish to raise. Then I intend to say a few words. I now offer the floor to the Director-General.

**LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL:** La vingt-sixième session de la Conférence s'achève sur un bilan que j'estime positif.

Elle s'est déroulée dans un climat de concorde. Elle a évité toute politisation. Elle a contribué à faire de la FAO ce qu'elle doit être: une organisation spécialisée, technique, vouée à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des plus démunis. Aux hommes de bonne volonté, elle offre un forum unique de dialogue sur un des problèmes les plus brûlants de la planète: la faim et la malnutrition.

La FAO a vocation à l'universalité et cette Conférence l'a enrichie de nouveaux membres et membre associé: les pays Baltes, Porto Rico et la CEE. L'adhésion de cette dernière - j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de le dire - n'a pas de précédent dans les annales des Nations Unies. C'est en effet une première que de voir une organisation d'intégration économique régionale siéger en qualité de membre. C'était une sorte de gageure. Il reste maintenant à la CEE à trouver sa place au sein de notre Organisation, à jouer le rôle qui correspond à son importance croissante sur la scène internationale, à contribuer aux objectifs de notre Organisation par une participation active à nos travaux et un appui à nos activités de développement.

En adhérant, elle a, en réalité, pris une grande responsabilité vis-à-vis du reste de nos Etats Membres. Je suis persuadé qu'elle ne les décevra pas.

La Conférence a été marquée par un climat d'entente, fait non seulement de conciliation réciproque, mais plus encore de convergence profonde sur la fonction, le rôle et l'action de la FAO. Sans cela, comment expliquer que nous puissions clore nos assises avec un jour d'avance et par un accord consensuel sur presque tous les points.

Je me félicite de ce climat. Il augure bien de l'avenir. La situation n'est cependant pas devenue pour autant toute roses et violettes. Le Secrétariat, en particulier, reste confronté à un programme de travail arrêté unanimement, mais qui n'a pas une couverture financière suffisante.

Le prix de ce consensus est en effet, ne l'oublions pas, une réduction nette du budget de quelque 4,6 pour cent. En outre, la seule note discordante de cette Conférence a porté sur l'augmentation du montant du Fonds de roulement et la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial, ce qui laisse planer quelques incertitudes sur la marge de sécurité dont nous disposerons effectivement durant le prochain biennium.

La FAO n'est pas la seule à se trouver handicapée par une insuffisance de liquidités. Les arriérés de contributions aux Nations Unies, par exemple, s'élèvent à près d'un milliard de dollars, au point que le Secrétaire général vient de proposer à l'Assemblée générale d'accroître le Fonds de réserve de 100 à 250 millions de dollars: il est aussi vide que le nôtre, soit dit en passant, ce fonds de réserve! Il propose aussi de charger les gouvernements d'intérêts pour les arriérés de contributions et de l'autoriser à emprunter auprès des banques commerciales. Vous avez été informés hier matin par M. Shah de la situation financière des Nations Unies.

Il me faut donc, d'ores et déjà, faire appel à nos Etats Membres pour qu'ils s'acquittent de leurs contributions aussi vite que possible en début d'année et à ceux en arriérés de paiement pour qu'ils les apurent dans les meilleurs délais. Quoi qu'il en soit, cette coupe dans le budget ne peut se justifier qu'à titre vraiment exceptionnel. On ne peut nier les difficultés financières qui tenaillent certains pays: déficit budgétaire, chômage, remise en cause des avantages sociaux, léthargie économique ou récession larvée. Mais on ne peut pour autant oublier l'immensité des besoins non couverts, des urgences non satisfaites. Cette Organisation s'occupe d'un des besoins les plus pressants de l'humanité, le plus pressant, je dirais; avec la paix et la liberté: se nourrir. Nous sommes tous concernés, car nous sommes tous des consommateurs. N'oublions pas que les ruraux constituent la majeure partie de la population active du monde, trop souvent vulnérables aux aléas climatiques et seuls devant les hauts et les bas de la conjoncture et les fluctuations des cours de leurs produits. La Conférence s'est d'ailleurs inquiétée de la tendance à la baisse persistante et alarmante que connaît la production vivrière par habitant dans nombre de pays.

Nous nous sommes engagés à intensifier nos activités dans le domaine de l'environnement et du développement durable. La gestion rationnelle des ressources naturelles devient un impératif pour sauvegarder le patrimoine collectif menacé par les nombreuses agressions de la vie moderne: pollution, urbanisation accélérée, déforestation, etc. La Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement, qui se tiendra en 1992, représente une occasion unique de coopération internationale dans ce secteur mais exigera de la FAO une contribution substantielle tant pour sa préparation que pour les actions de suivi.

Voilà des enjeux majeurs dont la FAO doit s'occuper. En bonne logique, on aurait pu s'attendre à ce que des moyens correspondant à ces besoins lui soient octroyés. Au lieu de cela, on rogne ses ressources au nom du dogme de la croissance zéro. Ce dogme de la croissance zéro, il faut bien qu'il s'arrête un jour. Il a commencé en 1986, nous sommes en 1991 et il se perpétue jusqu'en 1993. J'espère qu'un jour ce dogme disparaîtra et que l'on ne dise pas que nous pouvons faire plus et mieux avec moins. Toutes les économies et tous les gains de productivité ont été réalisés. Maintenant, c'est la substance des programmes qui est en jeu.

Pourtant, ce que la FAO mériterait, c'est une discrimination positive en sa faveur, car elle s'occupe non du superflu mais de l'essentiel. Je ne dis pas cela pour rouvrir une discussion mais seulement pour souligner qu'à l'avenir il conviendrait de réajuster programmes et ressources dans une perspective de croissance raisonnable fondée sur les besoins.

Entre-temps, je peux vous assurer que je mettrai tout en oeuvre pour sauvegarder les activités techniques et économiques de l'Organisation telles qu'elles ont été décidées par la Conférence.

Ce faisant, je tiendrai compte des priorités essentielles que vos délibérations ont mises en lumière comme l'environnement et le développement durable; la diversité biologique et la protection des ressources naturelles; les systèmes d'information et les conseils en matière de politique; la foresterie; le rôle des femmes et la participation populaire; les activités relatives à la Convention internationale sur la protection des végétaux et les travaux du Codex Alimentarius; la coopération entre pays en développement. Je m'inspirerai également des lignes d'action définies dans le plan à moyen terme et que vous avez déjà approuvées.

A ce stade ultime de la Conférence, il serait oiseux de dresser à nouveau la liste de toutes nos activités. Je voudrais cependant m'arrêter un instant sur quelques-unes d'entre elles qui mériteront un accent tout particulier.

Tout d'abord, les Négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT. La Conférence en a souhaité l'heureux aboutissement. Elle a demandé à la FAO d'évaluer les retombées des mesures convenues lors de l'Uruguay Round sur le secteur agricole mondial, notamment pour les pays en développement.

Je voudrais relever que le Ministre néerlandais de l'Agriculture a souhaité voir la FAO fournir aux pays en développement qui le désirent toute l'information, les conseils et l'assistance nécessaires pour comprendre les répercussions de l'Uruguay Round sur leur commerce d'exportation, et saisir les opportunités qui s'offrent à eux en édictant des législations appropriées, par la promotion commerciale, etc.

Ces propositions me paraissent très pertinentes et je suis disposé à saisir l'offre qui m'est faite d'une étude pilote conjointe sur fonds fiduciaires néerlandais afin d'analyser les retombées possibles de l'Uruguay Round dans quelques pays. On pourrait aussi envisager certaines publications, des ateliers de travail, des séminaires de formation, etc. Mes Services ne manqueront pas d'approcher les autorités néerlandaises en temps opportun.

En deuxième lieu, je voudrais remercier la Conférence pour l'appui unanime et convaincu qu'elle a apporté à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, organisée conjointement avec l'Office mondial de la santé et en coopération avec toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies. Comme son titre l'indique, ce ne sera pas une Conférence sur la malnutrition, mais sur la nutrition. Le défi à relever n'est pas de soigner les malnutris mais de prévenir la malnutrition. C'est un défi à double titre: d'abord, parce que les actions nécessaires pour prévenir la malnutrition, aussi bien dans les pays développés que dans les pays en développement, sont multiples et touchent à un grand nombre de secteurs de la vie économique et sociale. Il faut donc arriver à ce que l'agriculture, la santé, l'éducation, les économistes, bref, tous ceux qui sont concernés, se mettent d'accord sur les actions à entreprendre et coordonnent leur mise en oeuvre.

Le deuxième défi est de réussir dans le domaine de la nutrition ce que le monde médical a mis plusieurs décennies à réaliser dans le domaine de la santé, à savoir: convaincre les gouvernements qu'il vaut mieux prévenir que

guérir. Nous avons encore beaucoup de chemin à faire pour réaliser cette mutation dans le domaine de la nutrition. La préparation de la Conférence et la Conférence elle-même devraient aider la Communauté internationale à faire un bond en avant dans cette direction.

J'espère que les pays donateurs sauront entendre l'appel qui leur a été lancé pour aider les pays les plus pauvres à se préparer au mieux à cet événement unique et à y participer effectivement. La Conférence se tiendra à Rome en décembre de l'année prochaine dans cette même salle plénière.

En troisième lieu, je voudrais me référer un instant aux activités de terrain à la lumière des nouveaux arrangements pour les dépenses d'appui du PNUD. La FAO s'attend à une baisse d'activité sur financement PNUD et, en tout cas, à des changements importants dans la nature des prestations à fournir dans la perspective d'une accélération de l'exécution nationale.

A l'avenir, l'Organisation aura moins de responsabilités dans l'exécution directe des projets, leur gestion administrative et financière; elle aura, par contre, davantage à se consacrer aux activités en amont des projets - revue sectorielle, analyse et conseil en matière de politique - et au support technique des programmes et des projets.

En terme de personnel, cela signifie moins de gestionnaires de projets et plus d'analystes des programmes et d'expertise technique. En terme de ressources, l'un ne compensera pas l'autre, d'autant plus que le système de rétribution va changer du tout au tout et perdra beaucoup de sa prévisibilité. On doit s'attendre à une baisse notable des remboursements reçus du PNUD pour les dépenses d'appui, baisse que le Programme ordinaire ne sera pas en mesure de combler. En conséquence, nous devrons réajuster nos effectifs et leurs qualifications en fonction des besoins et des changements prévisibles dans la nature des services à fournir.

Ce n'est toutefois qu'à la lueur de l'expérience qu'on pourra moduler le rythme et la profondeur des ajustements à appliquer - car ceux-ci ne pourront être quantifiés avec précision aussi longtemps que la charge de travail sous le nouveau régime ne pourra être évaluée. Je suivrai donc cette situation de près, avec toute la souplesse que la Conférence a bien voulu m'accorder, et en accord avec le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il est quelque peu navrant de constater que ce nouveau système a été conçu sans une évaluation précise de son impact sur les agences et qu'il sera mis en application avant même que ses modalités n'en soient connues avec précision.

Je voudrais, d'autre part, exprimer ma satisfaction devant l'évolution généralement favorable de nos fonds fiduciaires et remercier les nombreux Etats Membres qui nous font confiance, en particulier la Hollande et l'Italie. Comme la Conférence l'a autorisé, le Secrétariat procédera à une analyse du régime actuel de remboursement des coûts pour évaluer si ceux-ci restent adéquats et il fera rapport au Conseil, en novembre 1992.

Un mot maintenant concernant le personnel car, comme je l'ai déjà mentionné à cette Conférence dans mon discours d'ouverture, la diminution prévue des prestations de retraite a provoqué de nombreux départs anticipés et en provoquera sans doute d'autres au début de l'année prochaine. Ces trous ne peuvent être automatiquement comblés par ceux qui seraient sans emploi à

la suite des nouveaux arrangements du PNUD dont je viens de parler, car les qualifications requises ne sont pas nécessairement les mêmes. Il y a donc des vides à remplir alors que les traitements et conditions d'emploi que nous pouvons offrir n'attirent guère de compétences nouvelles. Par rapport au privé ou à des organisations comme la CEE, l'OCDE ou la Banque mondiale, nous ne sommes plus compétitifs.

Ainsi, en début d'année, je serai amené à effectuer un certain nombre de nominations, y compris à des postes supérieurs. Mon souci sera de sélectionner les titulaires les plus qualifiés, de préférence parmi nos collègues déjà en fonction et qui ont une connaissance intime de l'Organisation, de son esprit et des problèmes qu'elle doit affronter.

Finalement, permettez-moi de me référer un très bref instant à la question de la coordination. L'agriculture est le secteur du développement qui bénéficie du plus grand nombre d'organisations: quatre, rien qu'à Rome. De bonnes relations de travail existent ici entre elles, mais les risques de double emploi subsistent. En ce qui concerne le PAM, je suis satisfait des nouvelles dispositions qui ont été arrêtées et qui devraient assainir le climat de nos relations. La FAO est, en tout cas, disposée à apporter tout son concours au Programme dans ce nouveau cadre institutionnel.

La Conférence se souviendra que j'avais suggéré, au cours de l'Examen de la FAO il y a deux ans, d'organiser des réunions informelles à Rome des quatre organisations pour renforcer notre coopération mutuelle. Il semble qu'il y ait finalement accord sur l'intérêt de telles rencontres. Les Etats Membres seront tenus au courant des développements à ce sujet.

J'ajouterai que la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, instituée par la FAO ici même, à la Conférence, en 1979 et fixée au 16 octobre pour coïncider avec l'anniversaire de sa fondation, est aussi une occasion pour chaque organisation des Nations Unies de promouvoir ses objectifs à travers le monde en animant cette journée selon ses possibilités. La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation en 1991, sur le thème L'arbre, source de vie a été un franc succès. Célébrée ici, à New York à l'Assemblée générale, aux Etats-Unis par des centaines d'organisations non gouvernementales, un peu partout de par le monde, elle a permis la plantation symbolique - la plantation réelle aussi - de millions d'arbres en signe d'une prise de conscience universelle: celle du devoir impérieux de préserver la nature, patrimoine commun de l'humanité, à transmettre de génération en génération.

M. le Président, je ne voudrais pas vous lasser davantage par un long discours, après ces semaines de délibérations. Laissez-moi seulement vous assurer que je m'efforcerai d'exécuter fidèlement les décisions de la Conférence dans toute la mesure où nos ressources le permettront. Mes collègues et moi-même ne ménagerons aucun effort pour améliorer sans cesse nos performances et répondre à la confiance que vous mettez en nous.

J'aborde le nouveau biennium avec sérénité et la volonté de maintenir au cours des réunions qui s'y tiendront le climat d'harmonie qui a caractérisé cette Conférence. J'entends poursuivre un dialogue ouvert avec les Etats Membres, les consulter à travers les comités du programme et financier et le Conseil, dans l'espoir de vous présenter à la prochaine Conférence un bilan de nos activités que vous jugerez positif. Je vous demande, en revanche, d'aider l'Organisation dans cette entreprise par des versements rapides de vos contributions.

Dans deux ans, quand la Conférence se réunira à nouveau, j'espère que vous n'aurez plus à endurer les inconvénients des travaux aujourd'hui en cours et que la plupart de nos collègues de la Cristoforo Colombo auront pu être rapatriés au Siège central, réduisant ainsi les frais administratifs, augmentant l'efficacité de notre action et vous facilitant les contacts avec les Divisions techniques concernées.

J'espère également qu'à cette époque l'informatisation des services administratif, financier et du personnel de l'Organisation aura pu être menée à bien, assurant une plus grande célérité, fiabilité et transparence de l'information. Comme vous le savez, ce programme a subi des retards et rencontré des difficultés - comme ce fut le cas dans la plupart des entreprises de grande taille qui s'y sont essayées. Nous nous efforcerons en tout cas de mettre ce programme au point et garderons à ce sujet un contact étroit avec le Vérificateur externe aux Comptes.

Enfin, M. le Président, permettez-moi, en terminant, de vous exprimer ma gratitude pour avoir guidé nos délibérations avec une maestria digne d'éloges et porté à bon port cette vingt-sixième session de la Conférence avec un jour d'avance sur son calendrier. Mes remerciements vont aux trois Vice-Présidents de la Conférence ainsi qu'à tous les membres du Bureau pour leur importante contribution dans le déroulement de la Conférence. Cette dernière n'aurait pu mener sa tâche à bien sans le travail remarquable accompli par les Commissions. Je voudrais donc remercier en particulier leurs Présidents et Vice-Présidents qui n'ont pas ménagé leurs efforts pour aboutir à d'excellents résultats, sans oublier les Rapporteurs. Merci également aux Présidents et aux Comités de rédaction qui ont travaillé avec célérité et efficacité. Mes remerciements vont enfin à tous les délégués dont la participation active et constructive a conduit la Conférence au succès.

A tous ceux qui rentrent dans leur pays, je souhaite un bon voyage de retour. A tous, j'adresse mes vœux les plus chaleureux de bonne et heureuse année.

En clôturant cette Conférence, nous pouvons, je crois, exprimer notre satisfaction pour une tâche bien accomplie et redire, avec Charles Péguy, Heureux les épis mûrs et les blés moissonnés.

Je vous remercie.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Director-General. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are approaching the very last moments of this important Conference and we have had a great deal of time to discuss exhaustingly various points of view in Committees and in discussions. I would, in deference to the delegates here, entertain any extra special point you may have to improve on the Conference but this must not be taken as a re-opening of the general debate. I see there are no requests for the floor.

Excellencies, distinguished friends, we have now come to the moment where we must close this session and say goodbye.

Allow me to thank you all once again for the honour and privilege that you have done me in selecting me to serve as your Chairman. Thank you all, also for your support in making this a landmark session, both in terms of the decisions we took and the amity and mutual goodwill with which we took them.

It was not an easy task given the nature of issues and the wide gap between positions on some of those issues. The approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for the forthcoming biennium, with consensus, would by itself stand out as a landmark. The decision does not represent a victory for any one party or a loss for the other, but represents the extraordinary efforts made by Member States on all sides to bridge the gap between their radically different positions in the greater interest of international cooperation and of FAO. Given the magnitude of demands on FAO and the extent of problems confronting Member States, particularly the developing countries, no marginal increase in the budget level, far less a 4 percent negative growth in real terms would be adequate.

Nevertheless, I am confident that when the Conference convenes next, in the fall of 1993, the foundations we laid during this session, would lead to an understanding over a significantly increased budget level.

This session has seen the welcome addition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the family of Member Nations of FAO and, that of Puerto Rico in an associate membership capacity. Perhaps the initiation of these new members to FAO at the outset proved to be the herald for subsequent good tidings. The amendments to the FAO Constitution and Rules to allow for Regional Economic Integration Organizations to become members of the Organization, and the consequential admission of the European Community as member of FAO, is another event of historical importance. This event denotes not only a recognition of the evolution which is taking place within Europe but also allows the EEC to play its due role in the affairs of FAO. We welcome them amongst us and hope the decision would prove catalytic in fostering closer economic integration between Member States of other REIOs.

Ladies and gentlemen, the laudable manner in which you worked to develop consensus over the more thorny issues before Commissions II and III, facilitated greater focus of attention on the more down-to-earth matters before Commission I. The exhaustive and involved examination of the world's state of food and agriculture, and the ensuing advice from Commission I, would give critical direction to future actions to FAO and the international community's fight against poverty, hunger and undernourishment in the world. Equally significant were the deliberations and decisions on environment and sustainability, biodiversity and plant genetic resources, people's participation and women in development, fisheries and forest policies and programmes and the range of other subjects considered in Commission I. This healthy trend augurs well for the future and should, hopefully, be consolidated upon at the Twenty-seventh Conference as well as during the intervening period.

In eulogizing this success, I must thank my colleagues from Colombia, Lesotho and Czechoslovakia - the three Vice-Chairmen - for having steadfastly stood by me in conducting the affairs of the Conference. Our good friends from Saudi Arabia, Denmark and Chile, and the members of their respective bureaux, made our task easier by the excellent conduct of the proceedings in the Commissions. The hours of personal comfort sacrificed by

the Chairmen and the members of the Drafting Committees, as well as the Rapporteurs, enabled to adopt most of the reports with the minimum of amendments in the Commissions and en bloc in the Plenary.

Special recognition is due in all these positive developments to Dr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General, who withstood trying circumstances and worked hard since the last Conference to make possible the consensus which had been evading us for the past several years. His qualities of administration and dedication were certainly visible at their best during this period.

Every success is built up on the toil and efforts of a number of faceless people working behind the scenes. We owe a lot for the success of this Conference to the numerous staff members who put in endless hours and sleepless nights to organize the Conference with precision and to prepare the numerous comprehensive documents and information reports on which we worked. We thank all these dedicated personnel, the translators, interpreters, messengers, security guards and all others whose contribution has been invaluable. On a personal note, I would wish to add my thanks to our most excellent Secretary-General, Mr Alessi, his Lieutenant, Mr Tedesco, and all others in the Conference and GI Department, for their invaluable support and assistance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, while we tabulate our achievements, let us pause and reflect upon the unmet aspirations and not so pleasant realities. Hunger, poverty and misery continue to confront millions of unfortunate and deprived people worldwide. The world food security situation remains uncertain and access to food supplies distorted. The gap between the haves and have-nots is widening in the wake of uncertain national, political and economic situations in developing countries and a hostile international economic environment. Sluggish growth and problems close to home are constraining the more fortunate members of the international community to freeze the level of support and assistance for the international development effort. The Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations under GATT for liberalizing international trade relations are stalled. We, who sit today, owe it to posterity to work between now and the next Conference in 1993 for viable solutions to these perennial problems.

Goodbye, good luck, and bon voyage. The Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference is closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas.