

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
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DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I
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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

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C 91/I/PV/1

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26^o período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIRST MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PRIMERA SESION

(13 November 1991)

The First Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 14 h 30

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 14.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful. What I would first like to do is to thank all of you for having elected the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which I represent, to chair Commission I of this FAO Conference.

In this Commission we shall be discussing food policies and agricultural policies, and we shall also be looking at the general outlook in these areas. This is the main forum for discussions of general policy, and these discussions are to be held on the basis of the contributions which are made at the Plenary Session.

The General Committee has put forward the name of Mr Manuel Vara Ochoa, Ambassador for Peru, as the First Deputy Chairman. Mr. Tadeusz Strojwas, who is the Representative of Poland, has been put forward as the Second Deputy Chairman. On everyone's behalf, I would like to congratulate them both on the nominations.

I would like now to refer to document C 91/2, which gives the agenda and sets out the work to be done by this Commission. We shall be discussing the following items: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Those are the items on the agenda which it falls to us to discuss, and I hope that our discussions of those various points of the agenda will be successful.

I would also like to refer to document C 91/12 and particularly paragraph 35 of that document. This refers to the need for us to prune as far as possible the number of resolutions; it states that these resolutions should be restricted to those issues which really require an official resolution from this Conference. I suggest that we hold our sessions from 09.30 until 12.30 for the morning sitting and from 14.30 to 17.30 for the afternoon sitting. I do hope that all of you will be able to be here at that allotted time so that we do not have to wait to get a quorum.

I would also like to remind you of what has been agreed regarding the Drafting Committee. For Africa, Lesotho and Kenya. For Asia, Malaysia and India. For Latin America and the Caribbean, Costa Rica and Uruguay. For the Middle East, Libya and Syria. For the OECD, Turkey, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Germany. These representatives will select a Chairman from amongst the membership of the Drafting Committee.

I would ask you all to try to be brief and succinct when you take the floor, because we have a great deal on our agenda and we do not want to have night sessions if we can avoid it. Tomorrow, in pursuance of the resolution taken by the General Meeting, we will not meet in the morning -that is to say, our second meeting will be held at 14.30 hours tomorrow.

We will finish at 17.30 and this means that there will be a night sitting which will last from 19.30 to 22.30. On Friday, there will be no meeting, the reason being that Commission III will be meeting.

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo

- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): As in the past, the Secretariat has prepared two documents for this agenda item. The first one, The State of Food and Agriculture 1991, C 91/2, is based on information available to the Secretariat up to late July. The second one, C 91/2-Sup.I, contains information updated to mid-September. A longer term perspective of selected trends and issues related to food and agriculture is provided in document C 91/18, International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report, which as you all know will be discussed under Agenda Item 6.2.

In introducing this item, I shall focus on recent developments and changes. Document C 91/2 begins with an overview of the global economic environment surrounding agriculture. However, since the preparation of this document, estimates and forecasts of the main world economic indicators have been significantly revised. According to recent IMF estimates, world economic activity is likely to grow by only 0.9 percent this year, 1991, the lowest in any year since 1982. The most significant revision concerns Eastern Europe and the USSR where overall output is expected to fall by almost 11 percent. For the coming year IMF forecasts the world economy to grow 2.8 percent in 1992. This is expected to be the result of the recovery in the major industrialized nations. Economic growth is also forecast to accelerate in the developing countries as a whole reflecting the recovery in industrial countries, expectation of some firming in commodity prices and more normal trade and reconstruction activity in the Near East. However, the expected GDP growth in Africa in 1992 according to the IMF estimates, would only barely exceed population growth, while Latin America and the Caribbean would only moderately improve over the poor growth performance of the previous four years. After the dramatic contraction this year, output is expected to fall further by nearly 4 percent in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

External debt of developing countries, which according to the World Bank rose by about 6 percent in 1990, remains a major economic constraint to many countries. The debt-service ratio of developing countries only slightly improved in 1990 reflecting debt-relief and debt-forgiveness operations as well as the strong export performance of several severely indebted middle income countries. However, the service on long-term debt in sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 20 percent of total exports in 1990, compared to 17 percent in 1989.

Turning to agriculture, recent information confirms our earlier rather pessimistic forecasts for food and agricultural production in 1991: namely a decline at the global level, for the first time since 1983; a slowdown in agricultural production growth in developing countries, significantly below the 1980s average; and a decline in per caput food production in much of

Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Near East. As regards cereals, the supply/demand situation has further tightened as a result of expectations of below-trend production and a sizeable erosion of stocks. Estimates for global cereal production in 1991 have been revised downwards to 1 885 million tons, about 4 percent less than last year's record, mainly reflecting lower than expected harvest in the United States and the USSR. The wheat output in the United States of America will be over one-fourth smaller than last year's bumper crop and coarse grain production 5 percent smaller. In the USSR (including the newly independent Baltic States), a 25 percent reduction in the output of cereals and pulses is expected this year. This reduction, considerably more pronounced than previously estimated, arises from unfavourable weather conditions, infrastructural bottlenecks and shortages of spare parts and fuel.

The forecast of world trade in cereals in 1991-92 has been only slightly revised from those contained in document C 91/2- Sup.1. However, this forecast still remains tentative. Considerable uncertainty surrounds the market outlook for cereals which may be strongly affected by financing conditions and hence the volume of cereal imports by the USSR. Indeed, wheat and coarse grain prices have further strengthened in recent weeks reflecting the tight supply/demand situation and expectations of larger shipments to the USSR.

The recent increase in cereal prices contrasts with the weakness that has persisted in other commodity prices of crucial economic importance for many developing countries. Thus, prices of tropical beverages, particularly coffee, have continued to fall to levels significantly below those of a year ago, as have those of cotton and bananas. Such price movements give rise to concern, as they follow several years of pronounced deterioration in the terms of trade and purchasing power of agricultural exports of developing countries.

Another market development with implications for agricultural production, transport costs and agricultural terms of trade has been the recent increase in oil prices, to the highest levels since the Gulf War, caused by expectations of tight supply conditions in the coming months and possible disruptions in exports by the USSR.

Even assuming no growth in world cereal utilization, carryover stocks of cereals at the end of the 1991-92 seasons appear to be poised for a significant drawdown, to the current forecast of 301 million tons, 32 million tons or 10 percent less than their opening level. The reduction in stocks which will be mainly concentrated in developed countries will erode the margin for food security close to what the FAO Secretariat considers to be the minimum safe level for food security and introduce increased market volatility and pressure on prices. In these conditions, world food security in 1992-93 will crucially depend upon the achievement of significantly larger cereal harvests in 1992.

S. NAJMAS-SAQIB (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for an informative paper on the subject, as well as for the clarity of Mr Dutia's presentation.

As this is the first time that our delegation has taken the floor, we would also like to congratulate the Chairman of the Commission on his assumption of office.

Documents C 91/2 and C 91/2-Sup.1 reflect on the State of Food and Agriculture in the world today and indicate that the world economic situation, particularly as it relates to the developing countries in this sector, is not satisfactory. The overall economic growth has primarily been unfavourable. Besides certain other factors, this perhaps has been mainly due to (1) unresolved external debt problems; and (2) protectionist policies of the developed countries while trading with the developing countries.

We share FAO's priority to replenish depleted food shortages and to establish a minimum level of global food security with particular emphasis on the situations in the developing countries. We would like to jointly work with FAO for evolving methodologies for sustainable development in the food and agriculture sector, which would improve the consumption, production and equitable distribution of food.

With 1989 as the base year, it would be seen that there has been an overall declining trend in the food and agriculture sector in the developing countries. In fact, the current growth rate as indicated represents a significant slowdown from the high growth rate of 3.2 percent in 1989. In some of the developing countries the Gulf War and the resultant rise in oil prices could have been another factor for the economic retardation.

At the same time, unfortunately, the world food production-forecast is lower for 1991. Global cereal supplies are expected to tighten further in 1991-92. Output is likely to fall short of utilization, indicating the drawdown of stocks. The food supply position is becoming critical in different regions. The Horn of Africa is a case in point, where food emergency is deepening - this calls for immediate and continued massive relief efforts. Only by doing so, can the sufferings of the people be alleviated in this region. In this respect, FAO's role should be crucial and should be more visible.

Farm activities and bilateral trade relationships in the countries in the Near East Region have been affected by the Gulf crisis. Efforts are called-for to effect normalcy in production and to lay the basis for sustainable agricultural development in this region.

Notwithstanding the above, the state of food and agriculture in the Asian Region and in my country, Pakistan, has been satisfactory on the whole. It may be added that effect of the declining trend in world imports has not been as severe in Asia as it has been in other regions mentioned above. In fact, the adaptability capacity, if I may use the term, of the developing countries in this region vis-à-vis the overall economic conditions affecting them was strengthened in this period. It may be safe to add that no Asian country was faced with famine conditions during this time. In Pakistan various economic reforms have been undertaken, including the food and agriculture sector. A growth rate of 4.7 percent has been envisaged in the ongoing Seventh Five-Year Plan (1988-93); while in 1990-91, a growth rate of 5.2 percent was achieved as against the targeted one of

4.5 percent. Our future goal is to accelerate the rate of growth of our agricultural economy. Details of the Pakistan agricultural sector have been given earlier. (See Council 99 documents, etc.)

The serious debt problems along with the outflow of capital in the developing countries, unfortunately, works against the development efforts undertaken by these countries. The indebtedness of the developing countries, unfortunately, plummeted to a record level of approximately US\$1.29 trillion. This leads to the weakening of food-importability of the developing countries, as well as in the reduction of the capital needed for the development of this sector. At the same time, the developing countries experience difficulties in obtaining aid and debt reliefs in accordance with their own respective priorities. It is here, unfortunately, that the developing countries become vulnerable to external pressures.

On the other hand, it is becoming more and more difficult for the agricultural commodities from the developing countries to gain access to the markets of the developed countries. This problem is accentuated by the fact that developed countries - already enjoying the advantageous position because of their economic controls - tend to increase subsidies in their agricultural sector, both in production and export. All this and more makes the markets of the developed countries more and more inaccessible to the developing countries.

As I attempted to explain earlier in the Council Session, this unfortunate situation is likely to go-on as we step into the 21st Century. Under the circumstances, may we submit that the Conference try to find solutions to the ever increasing and continuing problems of the developing countries, many of which are, unfortunately, man-made.

In the end, it is stated that it gives one confidence that food and agriculture - a sector on which most developing countries are dependent - attracts the attention of the world; and through deliberations, serious thought and genuine efforts, solutions would, Insha'Allah, be found for the problems of the developing countries.

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Le document C 91/2 nous donne un bon aperçu de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. En réalité, la production agricole a une croissance bien limitée et une analyse plus profonde démontre qu'il y a encore de vastes et importantes régions où la production agricole est insuffisante.

Ainsi, il serait important de vérifier si l'augmentation plus significative de la production alimentaire, qui s'est vérifiée dans les pays développés (où les carences alimentaires n'existent pas), est due à l'activité locale ou si elle a recours à des importations, ou bien si l'augmentation s'est vérifiée, surtout dans les pays en développement. Il serait aussi important de savoir si l'augmentation globale de la production (si elle existe) signifie ou non une augmentation de la production pro capita.

Tout le monde suit avec préoccupation la situation africaine, laquelle ne se trouve pas dans une situation d'amélioration de la production pro capita.

Nous savons que les excédents alimentaires n'ont pas permis de résoudre les problèmes des régions ayant des carences d'aliments et qui ont besoin de progresser à une plus grande vitesse afin de garantir une autosuffisance alimentaire convenable

La continuité de l'aide des pays développés est nécessaire ainsi que celle des pays en développement qui devront utiliser leurs ressources de la meilleure manière possible.

Nous nous préoccupons beaucoup des situations fréquentes qui font ressortir une moins bonne utilisation des ressources naturelles ainsi qu'une augmentation rapide de la production. La fertilité des sols disparaîtra rapidement si les techniques agricoles mises en place devaient ne pas être plus performantes.

L'augmentation de la production alimentaire ne peut pas découler des autres aspects du développement global du pays, y compris la protection des ressources évidemment, mais aussi l'augmentation de la productivité par l'introduction de techniques adaptées, l'utilisation des pesticides, des engrais et des semences et d'autres ressources génétiques convenables.

Il est aussi nécessaire d'améliorer les infrastructures ainsi que les transports des circuits de distribution et de commercialisation y compris l'emmagasiner et la garantie des prix au niveau des agriculteurs. Le développement de l'agriculture devra surtout être coordonné avec le développement des secteurs secondaire et tertiaire, même pour recevoir la population agricole qui se rendra excédentaire avec l'introduction des nouvelles techniques agricoles.

La conservation des ressources s'associe massivement avec la forêt intertropicale, c'est-à-dire avec la forêt humide. Ce problème est réel et important, mais nous ne devons pas oublier que la plus grande partie de l'agriculture annuelle au niveau des tropiques se situe dans des zones de savane et des zones subdésertiques sur lesquelles pèsent aussi des problèmes graves de conservation des ressources en raison d'une agriculture ou d'un élevage très intensif. Il est techniquement très intéressant de recommander les meilleures techniques pour maintenir les ressources, mais l'agriculteur a besoin d'aliments et n'accepte pas facilement des arguments impliquant la non-culture des sols marginaux, dans la mesure où la survie et la surveillance sont en cause et que d'autres formes d'utilisation du sol ou d'autres opportunités de survie ne lui sont pas indiquées.

La délégation portugaise considère comme un facteur très important que l'aide alimentaire devra se maintenir ou même se renforcer, si nécessaire, afin de combattre la famine ou faciliter les échanges au niveau structurel.

Ma délégation accorde aussi une énorme importance à la formation adéquate des cadres, à tous les niveaux, ainsi que les aides techniques que les pays développés pourront accorder et la considèrent comme un système très intéressant et productif de l'aide au développement.

Moalim Ibrahim HASSAN (Somalia): May I preface my remarks by congratulating you, Mr Chairman, for your election to the chair of this most important Commission and I would like to say that I am certain with thanks to your experience and wisdom this work will be crowned with success.

The Somalian delegation would like to draw your attention when looking at the agricultural and food situation, and the attention of the delegates around the room, to para. 3 page 20 of the document C 91/2, as well as C 91/2-Sup.1, para 25. In both of these paragraphs reference is made to the situation in Africa which is particularly pressing and it particularly refers to malnutrition in rural parts of Somalia because of the war.

Although we have had some food aid from various parts of the world this aid is insufficient and remains insufficient. This is insufficient if you set it against the breadth of the problems facing my country. Farmers, and particularly small-scale farmers, are those who are suffering most from the present crisis and the conflicts which upset my country have had a direct effect on the food production in the country as a whole.

This important international body is the best qualified to deal with the problems such as those which my area, the Horn of Africa, is going through at the moment, particularly as is suffered by the people of Somalia at the moment. Given that this Organization plays a crucial and very important role in the area of food and agriculture we would like the FAO to devote particular attention to Somalia because Somalia is really crumbling at the moment; its agricultural structures are collapsing, as is its economy.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): Since this is my first intervention in Commission I, I take this opportunity to congratulate you and your bureau. I can assure loyal and constructive cooperation from my delegation.

It is hard to intervene just after the very impressive statement by Somalia but I will try nevertheless.

Before commenting on some details in the report, I would like to make some general policy-oriented comments:

The document we have in front of us has traditionally been considered to be the main document of the FAO Conference alongside with the Draft Programme of Work and Budget and from now on also the Medium-Term Plan. It should be the basis for the main global debate on the State of Food and Agriculture and as such the major world event in our sector.

However, what we have in front of us is hardly a policy paper. It is a well-written and a very useful handbook on food and agricultural data from 1989-1991. The Danish delegation highly appreciates the work done by the Secretariat. But it covers a too short time span, it does not fully document major economic trends likely to challenge substantial policy discussions. It does not indicate the likely impact on FAO's goals and programmes as a consequence of these trends. And consequently FAO is missing this event to get signals from membership on the more strategic aspects for FAO of these major economic trends. Such signals are not only a useful, but an indispensable supplement to the discussions on the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan.

In my specific comments I will deal with not only the State of Food and Agriculture, but also with the next item, which is International Agricultural Adjustment. The issues dealt with in these two documents are in our view interrelated and should really be discussed together.

In fact we would like formally to propose the termination of specific reports on "International Agricultural Adjustment". However, the main elements analysed in the report on "International Agricultural Adjustment" should be incorporated in the report "State of Food and Agriculture". In doing this we would have a consolidated document, which would give a better background for the discussion in this committee, and we would still have the basis for monitoring progress, as analysed in the present progress report on "Agricultural Adjustment". I should like to know the Secretariat's reaction on this proposal.

Of special concern to all of us is the global food situation and in particular the fact that still a large number of people in the world are underfed and hungry.

The report tells us that in the 1980s food and agricultural production increased with an average annual rate of 3.3 percent against the target of 4 percent in guideline 1 of the agricultural adjustment.

We also note with particular interest the achievement in two countries, that is China and India, which together account for half of the population of the developing world, and which have had an annual growth of 4.1 percent in the agricultural production. The report does not explain why the two countries have succeeded so well. It would have been interesting to have more information about the reasons behind this development, successful development I must say. The lessons derived would be to the benefit of other countries, even in spite of very different agro-ecological and socioeconomic condition.

The promising performance of these few developing countries stands in contrast to developing countries as a whole, where there was an increase in agricultural production in 1990 of 2.2 percent only, which is certainly not satisfactory. For Africa there was a decline in per caput food production of 3.7 percent, which underlines the need for special efforts in this region to assure sufficient food supplies.

We are in this context struck by the effect of the macroeconomic environment on the food situation in developing countries. It is stipulated that in the case of Africa a decline in per caput GNP between 1990 and 1991 of about 2 percent would result in a decline in per caput food consumption of 0.8 percent. These figures underscore the fact that problems related to hunger and malnutrition are best alleviated by fighting or eradicating poverty.

It is also interesting to note that the deceleration of global food production growth largely is due to lower rates of growth in developed countries, which are trying to cope with surplus production, and the decline in global cereal stocks, can partly be attributed to this effort. This matter is of importance for the effective world food security. We do note, however, that food security is becoming less a problem of global food supply and stock levels as such, and more a problem of inadequate access to food supplies by vulnerable groups. In this context it is important that developing countries themselves not only adopt national stock policies, but also implement such policies. This is clearly a matter related to food aid policies and the WFP and its governing committee, the CFA.

We should also endeavour to analyse more in depth the question of external debt of developing countries, which is a matter of importance for their development effort. We learn from the State of Food and Agriculture that the debt in 1990 is estimated at US\$1 341 billion, or 6 percent more than in the year before. This is a staggering figure, in particular when seen in context with a long-term agricultural external debt of developing countries, a figure of barely US\$53 billion, and when compared with figures for official disbursement of external assistance to agriculture in 1987-89 in the "narrow definition" which amount to only US\$8.2 billion.

A few weeks ago the EC and the European Free Trade Area, EFTA, concluded their discussion on the establishment of an European Economic Space, creating the largest free trade area in the world.

Equally of immense importance are the Uruguay Round talks, which are now approaching their climax. We wish to see a successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations leading to freer world trade, also with agricultural commodities. It is of importance, however, that reduction of support and protection is realized in a manner that permits competition on a fair basis, thus allocating resources and production to regions that possess natural comparative advantages. It is also important to consider social aspects and to assure the future of farm families and rural communities.

Last, but not least, it is important to take into account the environmental aspects of trade. The present GATT round hardly considers this issue and it is too late now to introduce it. However, it is important that in future GATT rounds it becomes a major challenge to make trade more "greenish" by combining trade and environmental issues with the notion of regional comparative advantages.

Mr Chairman, in terminating, I would like to express the hope that in the future FAO, as the centre of excellence for food and agriculture, will enhance its professional and technical capacities in inviting more dialogue with membership on revision of goals and programmes in the light of a more policy-oriented State of Food and Agriculture. It would help discussions on the Medium-Term Plan on how to accomplish these objectives, and it would enhance considerably the credibility of FAO vis-à-vis its partners inside and outside the UN system.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): The delegation of Cyprus wishes to congratulate you on your election to this important Commission of the FAO Conference. The documents submitted by the Secretariat and the introduction to this item by Mr Dutia are very informative and we express our appreciation to them.

The information provided by the relevant documents reflects the real situation of the state of the world's food and agriculture and indicates to us that, despite the slight improvement of the food situation in certain regions, the overall food situation has not really improved. In certain regions, namely Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the food situation appears to be even worse. As shown in Table 4 on page 16 of document C 91/2, the percentage rate of change in the per capita food production was negative for 98 countries out of the 150 countries listed in this table.

Amongst the countries with a negative rate of change we note with great concern that there are 77 developing countries, most of which are in great financial difficulties and, surely, not in a position to apply the necessary measures for improving the critical food situation that has existed there for years.

The document under review also reveals that the huge debt burden in most of the developing countries continues to be a great obstacle for any development, including food and agricultural production. In 1990 the total external debt of the developing countries has been increased even further and is now estimated at US\$1 341 billion. In certain sub-regions, as in the case of the sub-Saharan countries, the stock of debt is highest relative to the size of economy and corresponds to around 112 percent of Gross Domestic Product compared to 87 percent for North Africa and Middle East and 48 percent for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the same document we also notice a decline in both the export prices and the volume of commodities exported from developing countries. As stated on page 27, the UN agricultural export price index shows a 2.3 percent decline in developing countries, comparing 1990 to 1989 as opposed to a 2.9 percent increase in those of developed countries. Surely, under such conditions, the purchasing capacity of the developing countries should decline even further.

In view of the deteriorating economic and financial conditions in many of the low-income and food deficit countries, and taking into account the current uncertainties in the international economic situation, we can state that the short-term prospects for improving the world food situation are not very promising. Therefore, the issue of world food security as well as the issue of depressed food consumption will continue to be a big challenge for this Organization. Surely, the overall problem concerned with these issues is a complex one, requiring a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach, funds and, above all, cooperation.

FAO, being the leading international agency for agricultural development and nutrition since its establishment, has been the centre for promoting cooperation and multidisciplinary activities aiming to improve world agricultural production and nutrition. The role of FAO in this field is becoming even more important nowadays for promoting coordinated efforts towards sustainable agricultural development. We believe that FAO, as always, with the cooperation and assistance of all Member Nations, will be able to respond to the big challenges for sustainable agricultural development and for improving the conditions of nutrition, namely in the low-income and food-deficit countries.

Kwang Wook AN (Korea, Republic of): First of all, my delegation would like to convey my heartiest felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of Commission I.

Coming to the topic of our deliberations here, I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the document and Mr Dutia for his lucid presentation of the topic.

Certainly, world food security has been a matter of grave concern to the international community. As a result, food production has been increased remarkably at the global level. However, Mr Chairman, it is regrettable that developing countries are becoming more and more vulnerable as far as food security is concerned.

From the Conference documents, we can see that the situation regarding food production in many developing countries has become rather serious in recent years. Furthermore, economic recession, indebtedness and declining purchasing power in those countries make it increasingly difficult for them to import food to meet their own needs.

We also note that in the context of food aid there have been declining shipments on a global base in recent years, falling well below the target set by the World Food Conference in 1974.

In this regard, I am of the opinion that world food security should be ensured by helping developing countries to increase their production of basic food stuffs. Therefore, I sincerely hope that all countries in a position to do so will provide practical support and assistance to developing countries with their resources and technology.

Mr Chairman, one of the objectives of the Uruguay Round is to make agricultural trade move in the direction of liberalization, without exception. It is our firm belief that the liberalization of the agricultural market will be of benefit to both the developed and developing countries. However, we feel that, for technical, financial, and other reasons, developing countries still find themselves in a very hazardous situation with regard to trade in agricultural commodities.

As we are all aware, the majority of agricultural products from developing countries, especially from agriculturally-underdeveloped countries, are not competitive with those from developed countries. Furthermore, the demand in the traditional markets of Europe and North America for agricultural products from developing countries is close to saturation. Consequently, the agricultural export earnings of developing countries will hardly be expanded, and their agricultural sector will face serious problems if developed countries become competitors with developing countries in a completely open market for agricultural products.

For this reason, I firmly believe that the principle of differential treatment should be earnestly followed in the course of improving the terms of agricultural trade. The freezing of investments in and support to agriculture at the present level and the reduction of them applied equally to all countries would further aggravate the position of agriculture in those developing countries.

In this connection, I am of the opinion that the concept of basic foodstuffs should become a safety net since developing countries have to maintain the required domestic production level of their major crops. Because we underwent similar experiences, Korean people feel sympathetic toward the poverty-stricken countries and have a deep understanding of the problems they are presently facing: poverty, hunger, underdevelopment, and foreign debts.

We will not forget the support we received from the international community in launching certain projects, the results of which were considered quite satisfactory. In this context, I take this opportunity to reiterate our willingness to share our development experience with other developing countries to the best of our ability.

Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka): Let me join the other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

The document on The State of Food and Agriculture, which has now been examined, summarizes the main trends in the food and agricultural situation in 1990 and 1991. In fact, it has captured all salient points and drawn attention to major areas of concern. The Secretariat, of course, should be congratulated on its task.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to place before this Commission the experiences we have in Sri Lanka in the field of food production and flag some disturbing trends.

We have been focusing our attention primarily on production of rice. New varieties of rice have been bred which are adaptable to our ecological conditions and are high-yielding. As a result of continuing efforts by agricultural scientists as well as the farmers, we have been able to march rapidly towards food self-reliance. I am happy to state that we are 90 percent self-sufficient in our main cereal, namely rice.

Import of this commodity has been drastically reduced as a result of this effort, but we are observing a rather disturbing trend in the production of rice. There has been a plateauing trend in rice production for the past 3 to 4 years. The gradual increase in rice production has stopped and is at the same level.

Agricultural scientists observe that this trend can continue and perhaps deteriorate within a few years, principally due to one factor: the low levels of fertilizer consumption.

The rice varieties that have been bred are highly responsive to fertilizer. Our farmers have had the experience of using this input at correct levels, but due to price escalation, the required amount of fertilizer is not being used. At present this situation has been compounded by the fact that the subsidies that were provided by the Government had to be withdrawn as part of structural adjustment policies. The impact of these will be visible within the next few years. Still, our soils are rich in nutrients as a result of the application of fertilizer in correct doses. This richness will fast disappear unless it is replenished. Gradual depletion of soil fertility will result in a significant drop in production.

In the Medium-Term Plan for the FAO which was examined in Commission II, FAO proposed to advise the major donors and agencies in regard to structural adjustment policies. I wish to emphasize that this aspect should be kept constantly in focus by FAO and support should be given to the Member Nations in sustaining their food production efforts by insulating them from factors which are beyond their control and which are largely dictated by structural adjustment policies.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation read document C 91/2 with great interest and wishes to congratulate FAO for the excellent job it does in monitoring world food production and in giving early notice of trends through the Global Information and Early Warning Systems.

Table 3 in paper C 91/2 highlights a worrying trend, namely the decline in per capita food production in the developing world in 1990. As the example of Botswana shows in paras 165-179, it does not always make economic sense - or imply the best use of resources - for countries to aim to be self-sufficient in food. However, unlike Botswana some food deficit developing countries lack foreign exchange to import food and are thus dependent on food aid emanating from the surpluses produced in the developed world.

It cannot be assumed that these surpluses will continue in the longer term, as there are indications that food production in developed countries may not continue to rise - indeed, the increase in the developed world was only 0.3 percent in 1990 and food production in Western Europe declined by 0.4 percent. Environmental concerns - for example the contamination of drinking water by pesticides and nitrate - are one factor suggesting that in developed countries a shift may well take place towards lower input forms of agriculture.

In this uncertain climate it becomes even more important that food production in developing countries should increase at a rate significantly faster than population growth. In absolute terms a 2.4 percent increase in food production in developing countries in 1990 is not a poor performance; however it failed to match population growth. It is a self-evident but sometimes understated fact that per capita food availability is related to population growth as well as food production. The faster the population grows, the greater must be the increase in food production to maintain per capita food availability. Land resources are finite, and, notwithstanding technological advances, the capacity to increase food production on a sustainable basis is not unlimited.

Of particular concern is Africa, where in 1990 food production fell by 0.6 percent or by 3.7 percent on a per capita basis. There is a clear need for research into how to farm the semi-arid areas of Africa sustainably. Evidence accumulates that, given existing technology, these areas are not only at best marginal for sustainable agricultural production, but are also highly susceptible to environmental degradation. There is a need to provide a political and institutional environment which enables farmers on higher potential land to increase food production whilst a major international research effort seeks to develop technologies which allow the semi-arid areas to be brought into sustainable production.

Most of the world's productive land is already under cultivation and the potential to bring more land into agricultural production is limited. Hence, increases in global food production will depend on enhanced productivity per unit of land. For reasons already cited in the longer term the onus for this is likely to fall on developing and middle income countries.

On a more cheerful note, in Africa in 1990 there was a 25 percent increase in farmed fish production (para 107). Although the total harvest is still small this is a welcome increase, and perhaps a happier note on which to end.

Saleh Idris MUHAMMED (Tanzania): While my Head of Delegation, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Cooperatives, will present the review of the State of Food and Agriculture in Plenary when submitting his statement, I would only comment on the statement presented in the Report C 91/2-Sup.1, Para 10 on the World Production of Roots and Tubers.

It has been stated in the Report under review that "Cassava output is anticipated to rise slightly." It has not been indicated whether the problem of the cassava mealybug has been reviewed as a serious issue in the cassava industry. In Tanzania cassava mealybug is a very serious pest and has caused a serious decline in the cassava production in the infested areas, and thus a general fall of cassava production in my country.

It is also understood that other countries, particularly in Africa, have experienced the problem of the cassava mealybug.

Although currently measures are being taken to conduct biological control against the pest in Tanzania, I would request the Secretariat to highlight its experiences on the cassava mealybug issue: how is it being observed as an issue in several cassava-producing countries.

Ali ERYILMAZ (Turkey): First of all I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman for your election and wish you every success in your endeavours.

My delegation reviewed the State of Food and Agriculture as outlined in the relevant conference documents. It is not pleasing to see that despite the relatively favourable political framework, the overall economic environment has not improved in favour of world food and agricultural production. Likewise, due to the depressed demand there is no sizeable expansion in agricultural trade. It seems that the slowdown in the agricultural production during the last biennium is the result of two major factors, namely, unfavourable ecological conditions and man-made catastrophes which prevented the allocation of much needed funds for food and agricultural production. However, one should not underestimate the adverse effects of the long lasting problems such as protectionism, debt servicing and inadequate levels of international assistance. Therefore, our search for measures to address the present world food and agricultural problems should give full recognition to the above factors and their combined effects on the national and regional policies. In our opinion, the present resource allocation has to be carefully analysed and weaknesses in this respect should be dealt with in order to ensure sufficient funds for the sector. Also, policies related to pricing and other supports should be formulated and implemented to ensure that farmers are encouraged to adapt and use the appropriate new technologies. It is certain that political as well as social variables play an important role in the design of these policies. However, we believe that a compromise can be reached within economic, political and social preferences.

Having said this, I will now turn briefly to the state of food and agriculture in Turkey and the recent national programmes implemented in the agricultural sector. Turkey is one of the developing countries distinguished from many others with an agricultural potential which is sufficient for domestic as well as partial foreign demand. A regular increase in yield and production levels of agricultural products has been achieved through the years. For example, a production increase of 23 percent in wheat has been achieved since 1980. The level of increase has been 47 percent in barley, 67 percent in maize, 53 percent in potatoes and 121 percent in sugar beet during the same period. Appropriate policies which have been applied in agriculture had an aggregate effect on these achievements. Production, procurement and distribution of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers have been liberalized with an emphasis on private initiatives. Also, through bilateral agreements, trade in agricultural commodities has been liberalized. In this connection I would particularly refer to our agreements with EEC and EFTA countries.

Our national efforts, as well as of the other countries, have a limited impact on the overall improvement in international trade. It is unfortunate to observe that the launching of the trade liberalization efforts under the Uruguay Round have not yet resulted in satisfactory agreements and actions.

Turkey is one of the countries which was very severely affected by the Gulf crisis in 1990. Indeed, our trade with the Near East countries diminished in 1990, and still stands at an unsatisfactory level. This development has brought about restraints on the level of production due to lower prices to farmers.

In our opinion FAO and other agencies concerned should give due consideration to the various consequences of the Gulf crisis and try to expand opportunities for creating new channels for the marketing and distribution of the surplus agricultural commodities. In this connection concerted efforts are needed to enhance trade with USSR and Eastern European countries. There is indeed great interest in these countries in importing agricultural commodities from the region. However, these countries are in the process of reform and at present are unable to ensure financial means to meet their import bills. FAO can play an important role on these issues. We believe that a study should be carried out to assess the needs of these Eastern European countries, available products of potential exporting countries in the region, and to assess the financial requirements of such an intra-regional trade in the short- and medium-terms. Such a study should then be brought to the attention of potential aid, donor and financial institutions for the consideration of modalities of mutually beneficial solutions.

In conclusion, I would like to state that Turkey has a genuine interest in the achievements of other nations which are on the way to development and prosperity. Thus, we will be happy to share our experience in agriculture and free market practice with them.

Mme. Y. LANGRAND (France): Permettez-moi de vous féliciter, M. le Président, de votre élection, à la présidence de cette Commission.

M. le Président, Monsieur le Ministre de l'agriculture et de la forêt française a évoqué dans son discours la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Je ne ferai donc qu'un court commentaire concernant le très intéressant rapport préparé par le Secrétariat sur ce sujet pour l'année 1991.

M. le Président, la situation constatée et les efforts faits pour l'améliorer entraînent chez le lecteur deux sentiments contradictoires: le découragement et l'espoir.

Le découragement de constater que des populations entières - 4 à 5 millions de personnes en Somalie - 8 millions de personnes au Soudan - combien d'autres encore en Ethiopie, Mozambique, Angola - sont encore menacées de famine dans les années 1990 comme dans les années 1980.

Face à cette détresse quasi permanente dans certains pays, tous les moyens mis en oeuvre pour que quelques indices positifs de productivité apparaissent ont échoué. L'aide d'urgence elle-même, malgré la considérable mobilisation internationale de ces dernières années, est trop souvent en situation d'échec.

Pour, au moins, lutter contre la famine, essayons de compléter les bonnes volontés nationales, bilatérales et multilatérales par l'organisation sur place, dans chaque pays menacé, de véritables pools de coordination des apports et d'acheminement des produits.

Plaidons inlassablement pour que la notion de sécurité alimentaire soit au premier rang des préoccupations de développement des pays régulièrement en difficulté, et pour que les guerres civiles ne paralysent pas toute tentative de développement économique.

Acceptons l'idée qu'une partie du monde est favorisée par les conditions naturelles actuelles de sol et de climat, et qu'il est normal que cette partie là fournisse des produits agricoles et alimentaires à l'autre partie défavorisée, dans l'attente bien sûr des progrès réalisés concernant le développement notamment. Cette attitude réaliste permettrait de ne pas considérer comme souhaitable la stérilisation trop rapide des capacités de production agricole là où cette production peut être abondante, car il y a un véritable danger international, dont il faut bien prendre conscience, dans le découragement des producteurs des pays dits développés.

Ne cultivons pas le paradoxe de l'inquiétude affichée devant le recul de la production agricole mondiale certaines années, et la condamnation répétée de ceux qui produisent les millions de tonnes nécessaires à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Essayons plutôt de trouver les moyens d'une solidarité mieux organisée qu'elle ne l'est aujourd'hui.

C'est là qu'il faut porter aujourd'hui quotidiennement l'effort, ce qui n'empêche pas, bien au contraire et simultanément d'aider au développement et d'améliorer les échanges, pour obtenir un meilleur équilibre économique mondial.

Et maintenant l'espoir - car il y a aussi de la place pour l'espoir dans le rapport du Secrétariat sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1991.

Les notes d'espoir, c'est la volonté d'accès à la démocratie marquée par certains pays, c'est la lutte contre la croissance démographique qui s'amorce, aussi lorsque celle-ci met en échec toute amélioration de la productivité.

Ce sont le désengagement de l'Etat et la libéralisation des marchés constatés dans les anciennes économies planifiées d'Europe de l'Est et d'Union soviétique, mais aussi dans quelques pays d'Afrique et d'Asie.

Ce sont les progrès marqués par l'initiative individuelle et le développement participatif.

Ce sont les organisations régionales qui vont ou ont déjà donné aux pays concernés des chances nouvelles concernant l'organisation des productions et l'amélioration des échanges - c'est-à-dire le Pacte Andin - l'Union du Maghreb Arabe - c'est l'adoption en 1991 par l'Organisation de l'Union africaine d'un nouveau traité fixant un calendrier pour la création d'une communauté économique africaine, et aussi les aspects très positifs des travaux entrepris par la Conférence des ministres de l'agriculture de l'ouest et du centre de l'Afrique, qui devraient permettre à cette région du monde de construire elle-même son développement économique, car l'Afrique a des atouts pour y parvenir.

Je souhaite conclure, M. le Président, sur ce constat d'espoir, en rappelant que beaucoup d'efforts sont faits par la France - efforts déjà rappelés par le Ministre de l'agriculture et de la forêt, et qui seront précisés dans d'autres interventions - pour trouver à la fois des solutions à l'aide d'urgence et d'autres à plus long terme, pour qu'enfin le constat annuel change.

Huang YONG-NING (China) (Original language Chinese): We would first of all like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

Since the last session of the Conference the world situation has become more complex, and the agriculture and food situation has changed. In general terms agriculture in many developing countries has increased. The achievements in international agriculture as developed across the broader front of different international actions have been taken so as to revitalize world agriculture, and these are now bearing fruit. More voices are now being heard for a fairer balance in rural agriculture, and a number of real advances have been made. However, we also have to look at the concrete results that have been attained thus far, and we do hope that more can be attained.

In the document from the Secretariat it indicates that over the last two years growth in agriculture has decreased, and we have even seen negative growth, which has been rather rare in recent years. Cereals stocks have not really come back to the security levels, and they have dropped again.

There are a number of obstacles to agricultural trading that remain in place. Regarding trade for a number of developing countries, the situation has been exacerbated and there are imbalances in development that are becoming more and more apparent.

The poverty of many populations under these social conditions and the burden of debt that is found in a number of developing countries has also been exacerbated. There are a number of very difficult tasks facing us here. I would like to give some of our ideas on this.

There has to be massive increase in the possibility for developing countries themselves to develop. That is a basic question. The solution to these problems depends on efforts being made on both sides. First, the developing countries themselves have to make specific efforts. To that end, we have always said that we have to adapt according to local conditions and we have to have an integrated development strategy. We have to have more farming input and we also have to take this into account when doing promotional work. It is also important that we boost international cooperation because all developed countries have to cooperate so as to develop world agriculture and to bring transparent technology and capital to developing countries which will allow them to develop in their turn. In the long term this will benefit everybody, and South-South cooperation is something that has great potential. We would advocate that we have mutual assistance schemes that are complementary and mutually beneficial so as to improve the possibility of self-reliance.

We also feel that we have to have a propitious environment for agricultural development. We believe that this is one of the most important and urgent tasks facing us at the moment. We feel that we need to have a social environment that is stable. These are the pre-conditions so that we can attain agricultural development.

We cannot neglect other economic problems, as well as social problems such as demography, debt and the social structure.

Thirdly, we feel that we have to have a fair and rational system for distribution of agricultural goods. There are a number of imbalances in agriculture today and problems of distribution are becoming more pressing regarding agricultural products. These problems are quite acute at the moment, and we feel that all countries should apply principles of equality and comparative advantage when viewing trade and agricultural goods so as not to complicate trading systems.

We also have to look at the specific conditions that pertain in certain developing countries so that we can guarantee their position in international markets. Here we would appeal for the negotiations of the Uruguay Round to come to a conclusion as quickly as possible, because agriculture has a very important role to play. We are entering the last decade of the Twentieth Century, and we hope that thanks to our efforts over the next ten years we will be able to resolve these problems that we come up against time and time again in the context of food and agriculture throughout the world in order that we may make real progress and create a better world.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria) (Original language German): Mr Chairman, perhaps you will allow me to express my congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would also like to thank Dr Dutia for the very concise introduction that he gave us.

Document C 91/2 gives us a very good conspectus of the current status of food and agriculture. The graphs that are contained in this document show extremely clearly the changes that have occurred in agricultural production. We were concerned to note the production development in 1990.

Austria does not really figure in this document, and for that reason I would like to give you some supplementary information about Austrian agriculture. 1990 was a very good year for the Austrian economy. Gross domestic product grew in real terms by 4.9 percent, which meant it grew more than the GDP of Western Europe in general. But we have to say that for the years 1991-92 there is going to be a weakening of that trend. Also, in the agricultural and forestry sector 1990 was a very good year, certainly above average. The value of agricultural production and value added increased greatly. Agricultural income also developed favourably. There are a number of factors that led to this positive outcome.

There was a greater supply, agricultural prices were higher and there was not such an increase in the prices of farm inputs. There was an increase in direct payments. The final production of agriculture and forestry in 1990 was at 81.95 billion schillings, 6.3 percent higher than it had been the previous year. Gross Domestic Product was 56.2 billion schillings. This meant that it was 3.2 percent of the total economy. The share in the total economy increased by 10.2 percent. This happened after we had an extremely good year in 1989.

The number of people working on the land and in forestry has gone down. The share working in farming and forestry is 6.3 percent of all those in gainful employment. The figure for 1989 was 6.7 percent. The per capita income of full-time family farmers increased on average by 18 percent, and it went up to 165 000 Austrian schillings.

The main task of a future oriented agricultural and forestry policy is creation or improvement of the general economic condition so that farming and forestry are able to find sales outlets for high quality food and for raw materials for processing, as well as for energy sources. They have to be able to sell these at appropriate prices so that farmers can obtain a reasonable income.

What has been done by Austrian farming for food production and supply is very important. The main thing that we want to do in our policy is to give the population a diverse and secure offering of food at reasonable prices. Of course, people are now more aware of their health, people are changing their eating habits and asking more and more for high quality and branded goods. These have impinged considerably on the Austrian market.

The medium-term international agricultural situation and the current calls for income from domestic agriculture, particularly in the areas of cereals, dairy production and meat, means that we are going to have to tailor production to domestic requirements. We are also going to have to diversify

as well, so that we can find an alternative in animal production and in the plant area in order that we may get rid of the surpluses in cereals and give some relief to the milk market. That is a policy that we are going to pursue in the future.

If you look at the total area under production at the moment, 10 percent is now in alternative crops, mainly oilseed rape, sunflowers and pulses. In future years about 20 percent of the area under cultivation, that is to say, 300 000 hectares will be planted with alternative crops.

We have not only revised the laws pertaining to agricultural markets in 1991, we also have made sure that our policies are catered to our final needs and goals. Here, for example, there has been something of a drop in cereal prices this summer. This led to some protests by farmers. The task of farming to produce food and primary goods can only be guaranteed in the long term if we take account of the environment. In order that we can maintain production in the long term it is important that we actually shoulder responsibility for the environment, because we have to protect the environment and the soil. We also must look at sustainable agriculture so that we can protect resources such as groundwater and soil. We have to protect the biotope and give high priority to viral protection.

I would like to say that in 1989 Austria submitted an application for membership of the European Community. In its response to this request the European Commission in August 1991 stated that in this connection agriculture would not present any insurmountable obstacle.

Finally, I would like to point out that Austria believes that document C 91/2 is very important and we will certainly in the future attempt to provide all information and data that FAO needs regarding Austrian agriculture. We do hope that the data we give you can be reflected in the appropriate FAO documents.

Russell MULELE (Zambia): I thank you for the opportunity to enable me to contribute briefly to this debate. It is very sad to note that the food supply position has not improved significantly recently. While the overall world food production increased by 2 percent, sadly production in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean still remained below the population growth. Production estimates for 1991 indicate even a worse picture or position in a number of African countries where production is predicted to decline by as much as 12 percent.

Several factors which can be attributed to the low increase (if any at all) in food production, especially in the developing countries, include the Gulf crisis, the impact of political changes and the debt burden faced by all of the developing countries. Needless to say, the major implications of these problems have manifested themselves in the rising cost of living, extreme poverty and food shortages - especially among the low income group.

There is no doubt that the impact of galloping inflation has to a large extent resulted in the failure by governments in the developing countries to maintain and rehabilitate the infrastructure so necessary for agricultural production. This situation has, for sure, militated against efforts to achieve food security in developing countries.

My delegation wishes to propose that certain measures be taken by the international community in order to complement and supplement the efforts of developing countries. These include: (i) the continuation of cancelling debts owed by developing countries; (ii) revision of financial lending conditions in view of the changing political climate and increased lending to agricultural projects; (iii) increasing food aid as a short-term measure based on triangular transactions; (iv) supporting plans and projects for irrigated agriculture by donors. This should provide a long-term solution to the drought conditions prevalent in most of the African countries. Least but not last, we want to see donors paying more attention to the issues related to environment. Here again, we want to call for enhanced donor support to projects and programmes aimed at increasing food production while conserving the environment.

Lastly but certainly not the least, my delegation wishes to thank Mr Dutia for his lucid introduction of the document which we are now discussing. Special thanks should go to the Secretariat for the high quality of this document.

Mrs Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): Let me take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Commission 1.

The world food and agricultural situation is on the agenda of every FAO session, and it should be on it as long as outstanding problems in this field persist. I am afraid, however, that this item will remain on the agenda for many years to come.

On this occasion as well I would like to point out the quality of the document prepared for this item of the agenda. Documents C 91/2 and C 91/2 - Sup.1 offer a clear picture of the present situation with regard to production, consumption, stocks and levels of international prices of a large number of agricultural products. In various regions and countries furthermore, the document describes current developments and contains comparisons with the previous year. However, the agricultural situation in Yugoslavia has not been elaborated enough in this paper. I mention my country because in part K of the document C 91/2 the agricultural situation in all the other Central and Eastern European countries were well elaborated. That is the reason why I will take this opportunity to say a few words about the situation in Yugoslavia.

Like most Central and Eastern European countries, several years ago Yugoslavia initiated a process of fundamental political, economic and social reforms. The most radical reforms were launched in the agricultural sector, with a view to ensuring food security and strengthening the economic efficiency of agriculture. As regards the economic system, the domestic market and foreign trade were liberalized and an institutional basis for ownership transformation was established. Various measures were taken to provide production incentives and protection to farmers. As a result, new enterprises could be set up on the basis of private, cooperative or mixed ownership. At the same time, the process started of structural adjustment in agricultural production, generally in accordance with market principles and consumers demands. However, at the point when the new agricultural policy- yielded the first significant results, the

consequences of the general crisis of the system began to be felt, which, unfortunately, threaten to undermine all the efforts and sacrifices made in order to implement the reform, amid social and political tensions, and put the economy on a path of growth and development. At a time when war is raging in Yugoslavia, the paradox is that our country will have a bumper wheat and maize crop. Food production is, unfortunately, the only field where growth has been registered, which will undoubtedly be of great political and social importance.

This Twenty-sixth Conference has been convened at a time when deep and far-reaching changes are taking place on the international scene resulting in significantly different relations among world political forces. Certainly the Eastern European countries are striving to establish market economies and strengthen democracy through radical transformation.

Apart from these countries many developing countries have also embarked upon economic reforms, very often in a rather uncertain global environment. For these reforms to succeed stable world economy growth is essential, implying also the resolution of the problems these countries are facing such as external debts, development, financing, transfer of technology, poverty, famine, governmental protection, etc. If these problems are not solved in an adequate manner the situation might deteriorate and lessen the prospects of economic recovery and development. Famine and malnutrition remain one of the acutest problems of our time.

Although agricultural production has been improved somewhat by 2 percent the situation is still critical in a large number of African countries. The problem of the disproportion between food production and consumption, the resolution of which is one of the basic pre-conditions for food security in the world has not been solved yet. While on the one hand the developed countries have a surplus of agricultural and food products and undertake various measures to limit the growth of production, developing countries on the other hand encumbered by their external bad debts, the low prices of their exports, trade barriers and various protection measures struggle to survive.

I would like to stress on this occasion also the importance of the Uruguay Round and the need to conclude the negotiations successfully. After the standstill in the negotiations last year in Brussels, we expected them to be possibly concluded successfully by the end of this year or the beginning of next. Even that is uncertain now.

We would like to remind you of the basic goals of the GATT negotiations in agriculture. I will not quote them but I would like to stress that if these goals are not achieved no economic recovery is to be expected in the medium or long term, nor will the purchasing power of the heavily indebted countries improve. Associated with this is also the possibility of regular debt servicing; if this requirement is not met, the current over-indebtedness, the economic and social crisis, and the gap between the developed and the undeveloped will continue to grow to the detriment of the less developed, and at the highest rates ever, over the past decades.

I will not speak of Yugoslavia's participation in the negotiations nor about our attitudes. I only want to underline in fact that there are some opposite views on some key issues of the negotiations on agriculture, mostly as a result of different levels of agricultural development of

various countries, at a time when we all call for the global development of the agriculture food security as well as the eradication of famine in the world. The often inflexible position of some countries or economic integrations cannot be justified. We therefore believe that the agriculturists of the world united within the FAO should find adequate and workable solutions in order to speed up the negotiations of the GATT Uruguay Round and to contribute to their successful conclusion. In this connection I would like to remind you of the message of the Minister of Agriculture who participated in the session of the World Food Council in Copenhagen in June this year.

Finally, as the elimination of famine and malnutrition and the increase of overall world food security are our common objectives the Yugoslavian delegation requests FAO to be more extensively involved in the Uruguay Round Negotiations, especially in defining elements for the special and more favourable treatment of developing countries, in strengthening market discipline and promoting foreign trade.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): In compliance with your request that we try to improve our efficiency by avoiding a repetition of arguments and views expressed by previous speakers I will refrain from all my comments, all but two more specific ones.

The first one concerns global food security. Here the indicator for cereal stocks and the 17-18 percent benchmark for safe stock levels plays a central role in the monitoring of the global food security situation which is a basic task for the FAO, and it is of course used also in the comprehensive and in many respects impressive document for this item, although we share the view expressed by Denmark that it should be much more policy oriented. During years there has been scepticism expressed about the validity of the stocks indicator. There are several reasons for this. Firstly global stock figures are highly uncertain and information are missing for major countries. Secondly the relative size of working stocks vary widely between countries and even in countries through time. Thirdly the reserve stock element is no more than guesswork or a committee product and the implication that higher stocks means a higher degree of food security is far from obvious since rising stocks normally are associated with lower prices which reduce incentives for production and profitability which in turn tends to reduce rather than increase food security.

For these and some other reasons, members have been reluctant to endorse the 17-18 percent stocks indicator. It was decided that it should only be used in connection with several other indicators and that it should be made clear that it was not agreed by FAO Members but rather that it was a Secretariat opinion. Unfortunately, the global-stocks-to-consumption ratio has received undue attention in conventional assessments, in particular in the public debate and in news coverage. This has led to misconceptions and confusion and it is of no significance whether or not the original source of information is more circumspect and complex. The 17-18 percent benchmark or limit has during recent years been unkindly treated by reality since it has become more and more obvious that the working stocks element, which is around 12-13 percent of the total, is well above what is required. In this connection, I would like to quote a most knowledgeable and respected expert

from the International Wheat Council who last summer concluded that "Trends over several recent seasons suggest that the world grain market could operate with a lower level of stocks in the major exporting countries than had once been thought safe."

In view of these facts, a continuation of traditional analysis would be unfortunate and affect the usefulness of FAO's analysis in general and the confidence in its judgements. We would therefore support an urgent and thorough reexamination of the stocking indicator and its use.

My second comment also concerns the vital task of monitoring of food security. The traditional FAO analysis has covered production, trade, food aid and stocks, and done so with increasing accuracy and coverage regarding the number of commodities and the number of countries.

But it is by now well known that this is not enough for an adequate assessment. The biggest and most fatal declines in food security in our times were in fact not associated with any particular shortage of food in the sense of an abnormal decline in per capita production or availability, neither nationally nor globally. Instead, the drop in food security and the resulting famines were caused by a rapid decline in purchasing power of the poorest and most vulnerable groups. This, in turn, was the result of declines in real income, employment rates or increases in prices of necessities such as food and fuel. The opposite, fortunately, is also true, since we have several examples, in particular from India and Africa, of large, drastic declines of food production and availabilities that did not give rise to famine or severe hardship. In short this means that a conventional assessment based only or mainly on food availabilities may very well indicate a crisis in an area where there is no real threat to food security, while at the same time a famine is approaching silently in another part of the world.

So it was rather encouraging to note at meetings earlier this year that there was wide interest in, and large support for, an improvement of the conventional analysis, with more emphasis on access to food and food entitlements. It was also encouraging to learn that the Secretariat, in fact, has been making efforts along those lines, although so far with limited success. On this occasion we want to reiterate our strongly felt view on the need for improvements in this respect. In spite of the lack of indications of response from the Secretariat in this overview document, and in the proposed Programme of Work, we look forward to a comprehensive discussion in accordance with the agreement reached when the issue was discussed earlier this year.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, desea felicitarle y agradece también a la Secretaria la presentación de un documento tan interesante y claro.

Desearíamos agregar también al documento la información referente a la subregión de Centroamérica. En fechas muy recientes, los países de Centroamérica y Panamá han venido confirmando la trascendencia de los conceptos de la economía de mercado experimentando una verdadera ola de

revisión y reforma económica y profunda. A todo lo largo y ancho de la región hay inquietud y búsqueda de nuevas soluciones. Las recetas del pasado no dieron los frutos esperados y ya no son fácilmente aceptados.

Indudablemente, parte de esta efervescencia y cuestionamiento en materia de política económica ha sido provocada por el vuelco histórico dado a nivel mundial en los últimos años. En particular, hemos sentido las reverberaciones de tres cambios fundamentales en el exterior: uno, la apertura decisiva de políticas económicas hacia el mercado; dos, el resurgimiento de bloques internacionales de comercio, a la vez que se continúan los esfuerzos por abatir las barreras al comercio libre a nivel mundial; y tres, el predominio de los programas de ajuste estructural en los esquemas de las entidades internacionales de apoyo al desarrollo.

Empero, no habría que subestimar la importancia de factores autóctonos en este proceso de repreguntar y replantear los enfoques básicos de nuestras políticas económicas. El estancamiento económico de los años 80, en una región todavía caracterizada por una alta incidencia de pobreza, dio lugar a un gran descontento por los efectos del desempeño de los modelos económicos anteriores y a una nueva determinación de encontrar soluciones nuevas que permitieran la realización de la amplia potencialidad de la región.

Para mencionar solamente el ejemplo de mi país, Honduras, los integrantes del Gobierno llegaron a tomar posesión de sus cargos con principios y programas económicos ya formulados en sus aspectos esenciales, y sólo después del inicio de los programas se acudió a los entes de financiamiento internacional para solicitar su participación en la enorme tarea de ejecutar las reformas que se consideraron necesarias.

Ha habido una franca frustración ante la lentitud del desarrollo económico durante la última década, así como ante la persistencia de hondos problemas sociales y económicos. Todavía en ocasiones nos desalienta el paso lento del mejoramiento económico y social, debido a la urgencia de nuestras necesidades; pero hay optimismo porque sentimos que estamos en el rumbo correcto; que, al fin y al cabo, hemos encontrado el sendero más adecuado y lo único que tenemos que hacer ahora es redoblar esfuerzos para que ello nos conduzca al destino deseado.

Concretamente, a raíz del desenvolvimiento de estos eventos, en todos nuestros países ha habido dos evoluciones importantes: un impulso acelerado hacia la integración regional, sobre todo en el sector agrícola; y, a nivel de cada país, un replanteamiento, comprensivo, en algunos casos, de las estrategias de desarrollo agrícola y manejo de los recursos naturales.

Durante el mes de julio del presente año los Presidentes Constitucionales de la Región aprobaron el Plan de Acción Agrícola de Centroamérica. El PAC es un documento de avanzada; exige no solamente la eliminación de las barreras intrarregionales al libre comercio de productos agrícolas, sino que también la armonización de las políticas cambiarias y arancelarias, la eliminación de los controles de precios y la coordinación de las políticas de fomento de exportaciones y de mercadeo agrícola. Es un conjunto de medidas ineludiblemente vinculadas entre sí. Para quealguna de ellas adquiera operatividad, es necesario que se ejecuten las demás.

El PAC coloca en la vanguardia de la integración regional al sector agrícola. Su objetivo es nada menos que crear un mercado común para los productos agrícolas y llevar a cabo los pasos consecuentes para hacer consistentes las políticas agrícolas nacionales con las de la región en un conjunto.

Por último, nuestro ámbito de preocupación se relaciona con la política diferenciada de algunos países con respecto a nuestra región. Para sostener nuestro desarrollo, los países de nuestra área reclamamos un acceso igualitario a los mercados mundiales y un acceso sin privilegios en cuanto a la cooperación internacional. Por ello, los invitamos a no plantear enfoques de cooperación que favorecen divisiones en un mundo ya demasiado fragmentado. Abogamos por la uniformidad, la transparencia y la solidaridad como principios para llegar a un desarrollo económico favorable a todos.

Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia): Let me begin by expressing the Indonesian delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat of FAO for their informative reports contained in document C 91/2 and C 91/2-Sup.1 on the world food and agricultural situation now before us. May I also express our sincere thanks to Mr Dutia for his comprehensive and lucid introduction to this report.

As to food and agriculture, the paradox continues. While the world is producing more food than ever before, hunger and malnutrition continue to rise. In human terms, there is a tragic rise in the number of people who go hungry, especially in a large number of developing countries. This untenable trend is an indictment of our times. Without special efforts, the fight against hunger may become more difficult in many parts of the world in the years to come.

Therefore, Indonesia fully supports the FAO's programmes and activities which give top priority to food problems and, in this context, FAO should be able to identify a realistic and potentially new initiative to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, as environmental degradation, poverty and deprivation lie at the heart of the hunger problem.

The current and prospective medium-term economic situation is not conducive to the efforts of Third World countries to fight hunger. Many of these countries were caught in the struggle with chronic difficulties of heavy debt, high inflation, deterioration of terms of trade and low food production growth. Commodities, which have long constituted the staple export earnings of many developing countries but are now languishing in a prolonged slump, demand our urgent attention. The current protectionism in agricultural trade was the cause of great economic inefficiency. Agricultural trade liberalization is in the long-term interest of all countries as it will contribute to more efficient and stronger economies and help strengthen food security in the long run. Therefore, Indonesia calls for a speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks.

In conclusion, if the fundamental and universal human right to food is to be effectively defended, the international community should take determined action to promote self-sufficiency in food. What remains to be done is to mobilize political determination and financial and human resources to translate the global consensus on hunger alleviation goals into effective policies and programmes.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): My delegation would also like to congratulate, Mr Chairman, on your election.

Perhaps you would allow me, as a preface to my statement, to say something about the preparations for this Conference and for the work in this Commission.

My feeling is that the effectiveness of the work done by this Commission would be enhanced if documents were received in good time. The most recent documents were only received by us a few days ago, despite the fact that we are quite close to Rome. How is it, then, for those countries who are further away from Rome? Perhaps they will get the documents in time for Christmas !

We basically agree with the Report by FAO on the State of Food and Agriculture. As tradition has it, it is a series of very interesting statements which are also of interest and significance to us in Germany.

In connection with the development of international agricultural trade, I would like to refer specifically to the role of Germany as an international trading partner for agriculture. Total imports from developing countries before German Unification in October 1990 - this is excluding the Asian State trading countries and Cuba - were in 1990 vis-à-vis the previous year, 6.3 percent higher at DM 66.2 billion. Exports from Germany to developing countries grew by 5.4 percent to DM 64.9 billion. This meant that there was an import surplus of DM 1.3 billion in 1990, and in the previous year this surplus has been but DM 0.7 billion.

Looking at agricultural goods: In 1990 imports had dropped by 7.5 percent to DM 10.9 billion, and exports to developing countries reduced by 5.8 percent to DM 2.55 billion. The traditionally high agricultural trading deficit run by the Federal Republic with developing countries was reduced from DM 9.1 billion in 1989 to DM 8.4 billion in 1990. In the first half of this year, 1991, Germany has imported agricultural goods from developing countries to a value of DM 6 billion. Exports for that period were DM 1.5 billion.

In spite of the fact that we give a generally positive welcome to document C 91/2, I would like to point out that there has been a misinterpretation regarding statements made about the cocoa market. The statement is that the volume of cocoa exported by developing countries has fallen: the opposite is true. Regarding volume, cocoa-producer countries were able to improve their position. Cocoa bean exports only increased marginally from 1.72 million tons in 1989 to 1.76 million tons in 1990 but there has been no marked drop. It might have been possible therefore to have been a decrease at the level of first processing, but if you look at the exports of all cocoa products of the first stage of production there has fortunately been an increase in volume. We are particularly pleased to see this, because this shows that developing countries are in a better position to improve their situation with semi-finished goods which, of course, means that they can earn more.

What is said about development of cocoa prices does not correspond to fact. Contrary to what it says in- the document, the prices for 1990 were lower than those for 1989. It would not be possible for any other development to have taken place, given the increase in surpluses and stocks.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for the section contained in this document about the impact of agriculture on post-German unification. Here, I would like to say two things, because the figures are not quite right. In paragraph 326 on page 90, reference is made to the milk quota as being about 7 million tons. This does not refer to current production - this refers to milk production for 1989. In paragraph reference is made to 600 000 hectares, but that is an underestimate - in fact, 700 000 hectares have been set aside. That therefore amounts to 13 percent of arable areas.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan) : As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor, I would like to extend our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election. I would also like to extend our compliments to the Secretariat for their well-prepared document, as well as our appreciation of the lucid introduction given by Dr Dutia.

My country has a great interest in stable food supply and demand, as the largest net food importer in the world. To achieve stabilization of world food supply and demand, my country deems that every effort should be made continuously by every nation in the world towards this goal.

While the performance of world cereal production was good in 1990, in 1991 it is estimated to be down by 3 percent on the previous year, as mentioned in the supplementary paper from the Secretariat. Consequently, the global cereal carryover at the end of 1990-91 is estimated to be less than 300 million tons, which is about 17 percent or 18 percent of annual world consumption volume. That is the level which FAO feels to be the minimum amount of world food security. Furthermore, food aid in cereals is estimated at 10 million tons more or less, which is 10 percent down from the previous year. Nevertheless the state of hunger and poverty in the sub-Sahara has been serious.

Even in the long perspective, I dare to say that we seem to have many destabilizing factors, such as the effect of climate changes, including global warming, on agricultural production, as well as steady factors of increasing food demand from the population, and an increase in per capita consumption. We should never stop our continuing struggle against hunger, and should support those countries that take on the development of agriculture.

My Government particularly appreciates FAO's effort to resolve the world food and agricultural programmes, and fully supports FAO's activities. My country has contributed food aid, mainly through triangular transactions, but I dare to say that food aid is an emergency measure to support food-deficit countries. We have to cure the chronic structural problem of agriculture. My country has made efforts along this line to support developing countries in their agricultural development through multilateral and bilateral cooperation. In this connection, we sincerely wish success to the GATT Uruguay Round Negotiations to substantially support agriculture in developing countries. We have advocated that export subsidies hinder the development of agriculture in developing countries. The environmental issue has become a common threat to the life of human beings and the flora and fauna in our world, and it is especially a threat to the activities of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, which depend on natural

environment. It is necessary that each country make an effort to establish sustainable agriculture through the utilization of nature's various functions, and the preservation of its own natural environment. We consider it important to preserve the global environment for the future, and that this measure should be taken as a basic agricultural policy, and not disturbed by trade issues. We consider that it is a basic issue for each country to develop its own characteristic agricultural system, harmonizing the global environment in order to secure basic foodstuffs.

My Government confidently anticipates FAO's initiative to address and preserve the programmes on food and agriculture.

Moussa TRAORE (Mali): Je remercie tout d'abord le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté sur les grandes tendances de l'évolution agricole. Néanmoins, j'ai deux petites observations à faire. Comme l'a dit le représentant du Danemark, il serait effectivement bon de rapprocher, sinon d'intégrer, le document, "Ajustement structurel et agricole" au document présenté, ce qui nous permettrait de mieux cerner les raisons de la stagnation agricole. Parmi les causes de la stagnation je crois qu'en dehors du climat, il faut insister sur le rapport des prix aux producteurs et sur les prix des intrants.

Je pense que nous reviendrons largement sur ce point demain ou après -demain.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): My delegation is very glad to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on being elected to chair this Commission.

With regard to document C 91/2-Sup.1 we would like to inform this meeting that our cereal production recovered from the pest-stricken harvests of 1990 because we were able to control the pests, the brown plant hopper and the ragged stunt virus disease as a result of having a new resistant rice variety. We were able to do this in the later part of 1990. However, in the early stages of the 1991 rice-growing season, we still faced drought in the rice-growing areas, but later in September we benefited from heavy rain.

Although Thailand is a surplus rice-producing country, our policy is still to continue to grow rice, and we have adopted food security as an important programme. From our experience in Thailand, food security should not depend only on food stocks, but also on the availability of materials for replanting after the crops are damaged by disasters such as drought or flooding. That being the case, we think that the preservation of planting materials for emergency use must be part of the programme of food security.

Ms Carol J. KRAMER (United States of America): My delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to this important Chair, and to thank Mr Dutia for his introductory remarks. We would also commend the Secretariat for its comprehensive, generally accurate and well-balanced treatment of the world food and agricultural situation, in the papers offered for review. We have a few comments to make, and would like to offer some information regarding the cereal situation.

The United States Department of Agriculture's October estimates agree with those found in paragraph 8 of the supplement C 91/2-Sup.I which forecasts a decline in world grain production in 1991-92. In fact, the United States Department of Agriculture forecasts total grain production to be nearly two percentage points lower than does FAO, with the decline in both wheat and coarse grains each about one percentage point larger. USDA and the Secretariat also agree on the general magnitude of the forecast decline in grain stocks during 1991-92, although the absolute level of stocks estimated by the USDA is a little higher. FAO characterizes the forecast level of stocks to be the lowest since 1983-84, found in paragraph 21. But the United States Department of Agriculture reports lower stocks at the end of 1989-90, and about the same as the level at the end 1988-89. FAO estimates that the ratio of stocks - and these are presumably beginning stocks - to trend utilization during 1992-93, "would be at or below the 17-18 percent range that the FAO Secretariat considers to be the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security".

The United States' very preliminary estimate of the ratio of ending stocks to cereals use in 1991-92 puts this figure somewhat higher, at 18.4 percent. While our own estimates of changes in the levels of cereals production and stocks in 1991-92 roughly corresponds to those of the Secretariat, we do find it difficult to evaluate the estimate of the Secretariat of the ratio of stocks to utilization during 1992-93. This difficulty is due to the absence of estimates by the Secretariat either of cereals utilization for 1991-92 or of projected trend utilization in 1992-93, as referred to in paragraph 21 of the supplement.

The United States delegation would like to recommend, that in view of the frequent references to this ratio of stocks to utilization, that the Secretariat should routinely provide the Conference and the Council meetings discussing the current cereals situation with a supply distribution table presenting the usual categories dealing with stocks, production, net trade and utilization from which the ratio is derived. In addition, when trend values are used, we would find it appropriate to explain the calculations. We would also like to see such data disaggregated to at least the level of wheat, rice and coarse grains.

Incidentally, we believe there is some inconsistency in how the ratio is specified in various FAO sources with beginning stocks used in some cases and ending stocks in others. Further to this point, the United States would support the line of thinking expressed by the delegate of Sweden regarding the potential pitfalls of placing too much emphasis on a single measure. He also pointed out the critical importance of access and entitlements for food. We find it very useful that the Secretariat is now disaggregating some of the data into developed and developing country categories.

My delegation would like to provide a little new information on the United States grain situation for the other delegates. It is based on estimates produced by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture. United States wheat production is now estimated to be down almost 28 percent in 1991-92 from the previous year's near-record high. The increase in the amount of land required to be idled under our wheat support programme and low wheat prices reduced plantings almost 10 percent, while adverse weather meant more wheat was grazed and helped reduce yields by

about 13 percent. Domestic use of wheat, including that for feeding livestock, is expected to fall about 9 percent. We expect our wheat exports will rise about 3 percent. Year-end wheat stocks are expected to fall almost 40 percent to about 14.5 metric tons, a little below the level at the end of 1989-90. Despite the reduced supplies, wheat prices averaged only about US\$92 per metric ton in June/July, with the average forecast to rise to the US\$99-107 range by the end of the marketing year.

For the 1992 crop, 5 percent of a farmer's wheat programme acreage must be idled under the Acreage Reduction Programme in the United States to be eligible for Programme benefits, compared with 20 percent in 1991.

Despite an increase in planted area, poor weather is forecast to reduce United States' production of coarse grains by almost 6 percent in 1991-92. A smaller corn crop is responsible for all but half a million tons of the 12 million tons reduction. Supplies of coarse grains were projected to reach the lowest level since 1983-84, but domestic use is forecast to rise slightly! We expect our exports of coarse grains to fall about 6 percent to a little under 49 million metric tons. Coarse grains stocks are forecast to fall 20 percent during 1991-92 to a little over 38 million metric tons. Corn prices for 1991-92 are projected to range between an average of about US\$82-104 per metric ton. For the 1992 corn crop, a preliminary Acreage Reserve Programme requirement of 5 percent has been established, which is 2.5 percent lower than in 1992.

Despite poor weather, United States' soy bean production in 1991-92 is forecast to rise about 3 percent thanks to a nearly 4 percent increase in planted area. Nevertheless, soy bean supplies are forecast to be only slightly smaller than in 1990-91, while crushings of soy beans are expected to reach a record high, and exports of soy beans and soy bean meal to increase.

I would like to make a small comment about the United States Farm Bill as described in paragraphs 299 to 301 of document C 91/2. This section summarizes selectively but faithfully the longer summary prepared by USDA's Economic Research Service at the request of the Secretariat of how the major provisions of the United States 1990 Farm Bill operate. The United States delegation would now like to comment on the following items.

Regarding fast-track authority, paragraph 301 speaks of United States Presidential authority terminating for taking certain actions should the failure of the United States by 30 June 1992 to enter into a Uruguay Round agricultural agreement result from the unavailability of fast-track authority. We wish to remind delegates here that such authority has been extended to June 1993.

With reference to the United States Grain Reserve Policy, paragraph 301 describes the renewal of the four-million-ton United States Food Security Wheat Reserve designed to back up United States food aid commitments. Our delegation wishes to remind other delegates present here that the United States Farmer-Owned Reserve was also reauthorized by our 1990 Farm Bill.

Turning to food aid, my delegation wishes to provide the following information on the status of the United States fiscal 1992 appropriation for food aid. The Agricultural Appropriation Bill for the fiscal year 1992,

awaiting signature by the President, supports a programme level of US\$1 607 million for the Food for Peace Programme compared with an estimated US\$1 576 million in 1991. The programme level is US\$564 million for Title I credit sales, US\$710 million for Title II commodities for donation abroad, and US\$334 million for Title III government-to-government commodity grants. This concludes our intervention.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): Mr. Chairman, please allow me to start by congratulating you on your election. We wish you success in the conduct of business. I also wish to thank Mr Dutia and to congratulate him for the excellent background documents.

The President of the Inter-American Development Bank defined the 1980s as a lost decade for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was certainly not lost in terms of the political evolution of the region. However, the economic crisis, despite some favourable signs, is not over yet and continues to present a challenge to the consolidation of democracy. In fact, the restoration of political rights must be followed within a reasonable span of time by the extension of economic and social rights. This has proved an elusive goal for the whole region.

The encouraging economic performance in some countries often reflects the mere fact that economic and social indicators have fallen so far that they have had no where to go but up. In any case, the results are still far below what could reasonably be expected in view of the intensity of the adjustment effort undertaken across the region. These disappointing results are mostly due to an overall hostile international economic environment.

The figures on the evolution of the terms of trade of developing countries are eloquent in this respect. Table 6 of the Supplement C 91/2 gives an idea of the extent to which our efforts have been defeated by the depressing effect of international financial and trade constraints. Of the two, it would seem that trade distortions have had the largest impact. In fact, the lack of response of export prices of agricultural commodities to the marked reduction in interest rates in 1991 appears to indicate a rigidity in international agricultural markets that can only be ascribed to large-scale interventionism.

Brazil has suffered dearly from subsidies and protectionism in its export markets for more products than I care to mention. I wish the Secretariat could give us its views on the relative importance of interest rates and import restrictions on the determination of commodity prices.

World food security cannot be achieved within the current structure of international trade in agricultural products. Stability in the two largest markets, Western Europe and North America, have been achieved at the cost of much increased volatility in international markets. Incapable of competing with the treasure chest of the major industrialized countries, developing countries have grown accustomed to seeing their production subject to a staccato rhythm increasing and decreasing in response to widely fluctuating prices. The resulting concentration of production and stocks in the developed countries effectively impedes the achievement of food security at the global- level. The indicators of world food security should be reviewed to take into account the excessive dependence on a limited number of crops produced in a relatively small area. A major crop

failure due to adverse weather in the United States or in Europe could, for instance, probably bring world stocks to a level well below that recommended by the FAO Secretariat.

As stated by the Minister of Agriculture in the Plenary, Brazil is bracing itself for a harvest of what we hope will be a record crop. We need, however, to have reliable access to external markets if we are to sustain our increased production in the coming years. Therefore, we attach the highest importance to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. We hope that the FAO Conference will send a loud and clear message to that effect.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La Séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/2

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SECOND MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE SEGUNDA SESIÓN

(14 November 1991)

The Second Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 15.00 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

M. Badr Ben AMMAR (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne voudrait joindre sa voix à celles qui l'ont déjà précédée pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence de cette importante Commission, et féliciter aussi le Secrétariat pour la qualité du rapport relatif à ce point de l'ordre du jour, ainsi que M. Dutia, qui nous a toujours habitué à des introductions claires et précises.

Je voudrais tout d'abord attirer l'attention des interprètes sur le fait que je commencerai par une mise au point qui n'est pas contenue dans le texte de mon intervention, qui leur a été communiqué. Cette mise au point se rapporte au fait que mon intervention s'est basée essentiellement sur les informations qui sont contenues dans le document C 91/2, et particulièrement les informations relatives à la production agricole, au commerce et aux termes de l'échange, du fait que ma délégation n'a pas reçu le document C 91/2 - Sup.1 à temps pour pouvoir l'étudier. Ce document supplémentaire C 91/2 - Sup.1 a actualisé les informations contenues dans le rapport initial C 91/2, et nous ne pouvons qu'accueillir favorablement cette actualisation d'autant plus qu'elle dégage une amélioration du taux de croissance de la production agricole dans les pays en développement. Fin de la mise au point.

Le suivi régulier de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture assuré par la FAO nous a permis d'apprécier les efforts déployés par les différents pays du globe afin d'améliorer la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle des peuples. Bien que la situation se soit améliorée dans beaucoup de pays, les résultats disponibles indiquent que la production agricole n'aurait enregistré en 1990 qu'un accroissement de 1,5 pour cent, contre 3,2 pour cent en 1989, 2,1 pour cent comme moyenne de la décennie des années 80, et 1,7 pour cent comme moyenne de la période 1985-90.

Ce ralentissement de la croissance de la production agricole, qui est dû, comme mentionné dans l'un des paragraphes du document C 91/2, à un retour à un taux de croissance plus normal en Amérique du Nord et à un fléchissement des taux de croissance dans le reste des pays développés, est dû malheureusement aussi à un rythme de croissance qui reste limité dans les pays en développement. Ces derniers disposent de potentialités de production qui restent encore insuffisamment exploitées. Parmi les causes de cette sous-exploitation figurent certainement les problèmes propres à

ces pays, dont les conditions climatiques relativement difficiles, mais aussi la détérioration des termes de l'échange qui n'a pas favorisé l'expansion de la production agricole dans ces pays. En effet, si les prix à l'exportation des produits agricoles ont progressé de 2,9 pour cent dans les pays développés entre 1990 et 1989, ils ont plutôt régressé de 2,3 pour cent dans les pays en développement.

La communauté internationale se doit d'apporter les correctifs nécessaires afin de permettre aux pays en développement d'améliorer leur production agricole dans un contexte commercial international équitable. Les pays développés sont particulièrement appelés à s'abstenir de recourir à certaines pratiques commerciales qui ne favorisent guère le développement de la production agricole dans les pays en développement. Bien au contraire, nous croyons que les pays développés devraient plutôt aider les pays en développement à avoir leur part dans le commerce international des produits agricoles, dans le but de tendre vers une utilisation et une allocation optimale des ressources, meilleurs garants d'un développement durable de notre agriculture.

Manuel VARA OCHOA (Perú): Hemos tomado conocimiento, señor Presidente, del documento C 91/2 y felicitamos a la Secretaría por el excelente documento de trabajo y los atinados comentarios del Dr. Dutia. En el documento se consigna que, según las primeras indicaciones, la producción alimentaria y agrícola mundial en 1991 será inferior a la del año anterior, siendo ésta la primera vez que disminuye la producción mundial desde el año de 1983.

En el caso de nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe, se estima que la producción agrícola aumentará en una cifra que será inferior al crecimiento demográfico por tercer año consecutivo. Es decir, estas cifras son verdaderamente preocupantes cuando las referimos a la producción per capita, en la cual hay un descenso de hasta el 33 por ciento en ciertos productos básicos. La situación indicada para nuestra región en relación a la producción alimentaria y agrícola es un fiel reflejo de lo que está ocurriendo en nuestros países en vías de desarrollo. En relación al comercio agrícola, se calcula que el valor de las exportaciones de los países desarrollados ha aumentado en un 5,9 por ciento entre los años de 1988 y 1989 y sólo 2,2 por ciento en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Respectivamente, para los mismos grupos de países, entre 1989 y 1990, aumentaron en un 10 por ciento, contra un incremento de sólo 2,1 por ciento para los países en vías de desarrollo. Así, pues, las exportaciones agrícolas de los países desarrollados prosiguieron la fuerte expansión iniciada a mediados de los años 80, mientras que las relaciones de intercambio netas de trueque de los productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo se deterioraron considerablemente en el año de 1990.

En América Latina y el Caribe, el aumento del volumen de las exportaciones agrícolas apenas compensó la caída de los productos exportados, con lo que la capacidad de compra ha permanecido invariable a los niveles de 1989, es decir, un 16 por ciento menos que los de 1979-1981.

Los países en desarrollo exportan esencialmente productos primarios, como es el caso de los productos-agrícolas, cuyos precios se mantienen en niveles muy bajos, experimentando una disminución de sus ingresos de

exportación, mientras que el costo de los bienes y servicios que debemos exportar se incrementan.

Al reflexionar sobre estas cifras, y dentro del contexto de los objetivos de la FAO, tenemos que reconocer que tanto los países desarrollados como los en vías de desarrollo somos corresponsables de esta situación. Somos sinceros y creemos no equivocarnos en cuanto a que nuestras reflexiones constituyen aspectos de carácter repetitivo, y de ahí nuestra preocupación.

Somos conscientes asimismo de que el problema de la pobreza y el hambre debe abordarse en forma integral, considerando aspectos aun de carácter educativo. Un ejemplo patente es el de la demografía, consignado en los diferentes trabajos realizados por la FAO, es decir, el alto índice de natalidad. El crecimiento poblacional no ha sido controlado, hasta ahora, en nuestros países en desarrollo de manera científica. El tema, como lo dice y lo confirma la FAO en sus diferentes documentos de trabajo, creemos que merece una mayor reflexión. Muchas veces, nuestros países profesan admiración por el mundo desarrollado, por su prodigioso crecimiento económico, por su consecuente bienestar para la población; pero ocurre que no nos detenemos en analizar los ingredientes que han hecho posible esa situación económica y social. En esos países ha habido políticas integrales basadas en la planificación del crecimiento de la producción, pero también del crecimiento poblacional. No podemos imaginarnos a los países desarrollados sin previsiones en torno a la relación entre recursos materiales, población y bienestar.

En el aspecto tecnológico, rendimos un homenaje de reconocimiento a la FAO por su esfuerzo denodado, aun a pesar de las enormes limitaciones económicas, por cumplir con el objetivo de elevar los niveles de nutrición y la vida de los pueblos, mejorando el rendimiento de la producción y la eficacia de la distribución de todos los alimentos y productos alimenticios y agrícolas.

Nuestros países pueden darse el lujo de dejar de utilizar la capacidad técnica, que le ha costado muchísimos años de trabajo de producción a la FAO. En este sentido, resaltamos como ejemplo, que lo podemos arrancar de nuestra propia experiencia, lo que la FAO ha identificado en los países en desarrollo de la oferta suficiente de tecnologías adaptadas y válidas que deben ser puestas en manos de nuestros agricultores, las cuales tendrían un impacto significativo sobre la productividad.

Sin embargo, nos preocupa que esta oferta de tecnología moderna y tradicional se encuentre dispersa y que no haya logrado ser puesta con un efecto multiplicador a disposición de los usuarios. A este respecto, se han demostrado dentro de nuestros mismos países de nuestra región las enormes diferencias tecnológicas existentes, y es por ello necesario el intercambio tecnológico y humano a nivel regional y subregional, el cual es necesario potencializar, de acuerdo a los objetivos de la FAO.

Valoramos los esfuerzos de la FAO por incentivar la producción de cultivos que nuestros territorios están en condiciones de producir mejor y más económicamente, como es el caso de nuestras raíces y nuestros tubérculos. Definitivamente, una solución es que tenemos que utilizar nuestros propios alimentos, los cuales han emergido de la realidad del medio y nuestra cultura. Ante esta situación existente, debemos buscar en forma responsable

un sentido de complementariedad en la utilización de los alimentos, lo cual exige un compromiso resuelto sin vacilaciones y transparente de la comunidad internacional por intensificar la ayuda alimentaria.

La intervención multilateral, señor Presidente, desempeña obviamente una función indispensable y de carácter irrenunciable y de apoyo a usar lo que ya sabemos e investigar las nuevas posibilidades en el campo.

En nuestros países en vías de desarrollo podremos aumentar considerablemente la producción con el mismo hectariaje cultivado, debiéndose entender que la mayor inversión, señor Presidente, debe ir al agro. En líneas generales, por ejemplo con excepción de algunos sectores, la agricultura latinoamericana tiene inactivo un importante potencial productivo como lo prueba el hecho de que mientras en los países desarrollados la producción por persona activa es de 24,4 toneladas, en los países de nuestra región solamente alcanza 3,8 toneladas.

En lo concerniente a los precios agrícolas y las relaciones de intercambio, mostramos nuestra preocupación sobre el colapso ininterrumpido de los precios internacionales de los principales productos que, en comparación a los niveles medios de 1990, han descendido por ejemplo en un 24 por ciento para el caso del azúcar. Existen dificultades en mejorar las relaciones comerciales y agrícolas dentro del contexto del proteccionismo y subvenciones de los países desarrollados que suelen abarcar los cereales, las semillas y oleaginosas, el azúcar y los productos ganaderos comestibles.

Por ello instamos a que se tomen medidas correctivas a la restricción de nuestros productos de exportación y que la Ronda Uruguay cumpla con su objetivo dentro del más breve plazo, y tenemos la obligación moral de que este instrumento sirva para dignificar a la persona humana dentro del contexto del programa de desarrollo de la FAO.

Michael CARROLL (Australia): The document prepared by the Secretariat provides a good description of the current world food and agriculture situation. We also appreciate the excellent summary provided by the Assistant Director-General in his introduction of this item yesterday.

The document again highlights the difficult situation facing many developing countries, particularly those dependent predominantly on the export of their agricultural produce. Many key issues have already been identified by other delegates, and I will try not to repeat them. In that context, I mention only briefly but clearly that Australia supports the submission yesterday by the delegate of Sweden that a reappraisal of the FAO analysis of food security be based on global stock consumption ratios.

It is of concern that food production has not kept pace with population growth in many countries, and that the crisis facing sub-Saharan Africa continues to worsen. Delegates would have been moved yesterday by the intervention of the delegate of Somalia. Australia is very concerned about the plight of tens of millions of people who are suffering from the consequences of drought and civil strife in the Horn of Africa. In view of the magnitude and complexity of relief needs, we welcome the initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General in establishing a Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa.

In determining the nature, timing and location of Australia's food aid interventions, we have relied heavily on the needs assessments provided through this mechanism. We wish to acknowledge the value of reporting to donors through the World Food Programme's weekly emergency reports and the FAO's Global International Early Warning System publications. These are clear examples of the important role the United Nations can play in strengthening and coordinating large-scale emergency relief responses involving donors, non-governmental organizations and international humanitarian agencies and recipient governments.

We also note the assessment of FAO that the terms of trade for agricultural commodities have continued their downward trend, deteriorating again in 1990. The recent falls in commodity prices are in part due to subsidized over-production in the EEC and competitive subsidization of exports by the EEC and the United States of America. Fair-trading countries who do not subsidize cereal exports, such as those of the Cairns Group, are caught in the crossfire. As a result of this and other factors, the rural sector in Australia is facing a severe downturn. Farm incomes in Australia are forecast to reach historically low levels in the next year - around 40 percent of broadacre farmers in Australia will have negative farming incomes - and this situation is worsened by the fact that many parts of the country are in the grip of a severe drought. Because of the drought Australian wheat production is now estimated at 9.8 million tonnes compared with 15.1 million tonnes last year.

The document also notes the problems that the countries of Eastern Europe and the USSR are facing in trying to move to market-based economies. The governments of Eastern Europe clearly face enormous challenges in managing the unprecedented economic and political changes implicit in transforming their societies from command to market economies. In our view, it is in all our interests to encourage Eastern European governments to develop open, unsubsidized agricultural sectors which will contribute to the long-term development of their economies.

The countries of Eastern Europe are traditional agricultural producers and have the potential to become significant food exporters. This could have positive implications for the world food security situation and for the balance of world food production in the future. However, a high degree of agricultural efficiency will not be immediately attainable for Eastern Europe, but will be a progressive process entailing financial and technical assistance. Through appropriate policy advice and technical assistance FAO can assist in this process towards efficiency.

Concern has been expressed that the changes in Eastern Europe could adversely affect aid flows to the developing countries. We share this concern that the amount of assistance going to Eastern Europe should not be at the expense of other development priorities.

Paragraph 103 of the document suggests that global food aid flows in 1989-90 may have involved some displacement of North-South flows in favour of West-East flows, but the evidence for this is not clear cut.

With regard to the section on forestry, paragraph 139 mentions the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and the steps being taken by many developing countries to implement the Plan. During 1991, FAO has put considerable effort into the reformulation of the TFAP. This warrants recognition.

Section H of the Report, the regional review of Asia and the Pacific, which is of particular interest to the Australian delegation, describes the institutional reforms being undertaken in Laos and Viet Nam to facilitate implementation of market reforms. The results are encouraging in Viet Nam, which is emerging as a major rice exporter in the region.

In conclusion, Australia joins with those delegates - Indonesia, Brazil and Peru - who urged the Conference to support the many representations made by ministers in the Plenary Session that improvements in food productivity and distribution are linked with a satisfactory outcome for agriculture in the Uruguay Round of GATT. Of course, it would be necessary to take note of the concern raised by developing countries which are net food importers, and to see that their interests are accommodated in the outcome. We suggest that the Drafting Committee take account of the representations made here in this Commission and in Plenary in finding an appropriate way of bringing a strong message to GATT, put forward through the Conference process.

Antti NIKKOLA (Finland): On behalf of my delegation I would like to make some short comments on Item 6.1, the State of Food and Agriculture. Firstly, my delegation thanks the Secretariat for the excellent documents before us. In our view, the regional review part of document C 91/2 is most interesting and proper. My delegation has studied with special interest the description of Namibia's agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Namibia, which became independent I think in March last year, will be one of the major partners in the Finnish bilateral development cooperation in the future. For a very long time the people of Finland have had friendly connections and relations with the people of Namibia.

The general economic situation in the developing regions of the world has been depressing during the last several years. Indeed, the whole of the 1980s was almost a catastrophe to many poor countries in Africa. Africa's per capita gross domestic product fell from US\$854 in 1978 to US\$565 in 1988, a decline of one third. At the same time, Africa's external debt rose from US\$48 billion to US\$423 billion.

Also, the food security situation in sub-Saharan Africa is most alarming. Over half of the countries in that region suffer from food shortages which in some countries have reached emergency level. It is especially depressing that not only adverse weather conditions but also civil wars and military conflicts have contributed to the African famine. Even food aid operations have been endangered by military violence. Fortunately, it now seems likely that peace is spreading in these regions and we hope the food security situation will improve. Also, the agricultural trade performance of Africa and Latin America has been negative, as already mentioned by the delegate of Peru a moment ago.

The purchasing power of agricultural exports in Africa in 1990 was 32 percent lower than in the early 1980s. In Latin America the purchasing power in 1990 was 16 percent lower than in the early 1980s. We must admit that agricultural protection in the rich countries must be partly blamed. However, the export prices of many tropical products have also collapsed. Usually there are not great barriers for these products in the industrialized countries. No doubt the supply and demand situation has been the main reason for this unfavourable price development.

As the Director-General said in his statement in the Plenary, the sudden and breathtaking acceleration of the pace of history has taken place in Eastern Europe and in the USSR. We can all see also that the food economy in this part of Europe has rapidly deteriorated.

The Finnish Minister in the Plenary, and the Nordic countries in Commission II, have emphasized the role of FAO in this new situation. The next FAO European Regional Conference in Prague next spring will deal with the role of FAO in more detail. We must ask, however, whether the food security situation, especially in the USSR, will have worldwide consequences. Huge demands for food aid already have been presented by the Russian authorities.

The agricultural negotiations in the Uruguay Round of GATT at present are at a critical stage. In our view the extremely uncertain food security situation in many areas of the world has not been taken into account in GATT sufficiently. The GATT Round may severely tighten food supplies in the world. Food importing countries have already raised their voices of concern in GATT, as well as in the general discussion of this Conference. In any event, if the GATT Round comes to a successful conclusion, FAO has the obligation to analyse and study the global impact of the GATT results, and especially the impact on developing countries.

Finally, my delegation associates itself with other delegations in supporting the statement made by Sweden yesterday concerning an urgent and thorough re-examination of the stock indicator and its use.

Sra. Grafla SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, permítame, en primer término a nombre de mi delegación, felicitarlo a usted y a sus colaboradores por su elección para dirigir los trabajos de esta importante Comisión. Le aseguro que tendrá usted toda la colaboración de la delegación de Cuba para ayudar al éxito de nuestras labores.

También quisiera agradecer a la Secretaria de la FAO por la información que nos ha ofrecido en los documentos que nos ocupan y, en especial, al Dr. Dutia por la presentación de este tema.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación quisiera referirse a la estructura del documento principal C 91/2 y su complemento. En realidad contiene una importante información que ya hemos ido recibiendo en la publicación "Perspectivas alimentarias" y, en este sentido, coincido con lo expresado en la tarde de ayer por el colega de Dinamarca en que tal vez falten en el documento los importantes objetivos de la FAO para mitigar la difícil situación agrícola y alimentaria por la que atraviesa el mundo y en especial los países subdesarrollados.

En realidad, señor Presidente, es lamentable que nuevamente tengamos que manifestar con pesar tal como lo expresan los documentos citados, que el panorama de la agricultura y la alimentación no ha experimentado cambios que permitan siquiera avizorar que los esfuerzos que ha venido realizando la FAO por establecer políticas que se implementen de manera efectiva a fin de lograr el mejoramiento de la situación de millones de seres humanos que padecen de hambre y malnutrición, tengan perspectivas inmediatas de adoptar las soluciones que, con urgencia, tal situación demanda.

La delegación de Cuba considera que todos, ricos y pobres, debemos aunar nuestros esfuerzos para que las acciones que se derivan de la colaboración multilateral y la defensa de los principios que animan a la FAO a impulsar la asistencia técnica, la transferencia de tecnología, la plena integración de la mujer en el medio rural, la protección del medio ambiente, así como otras prioridades que en su fin nos llevan a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, encuentren respaldo seguro para su realización.

La deuda externa y el pago de sus servicios, el intercambio desigual y el proteccionismo, continúan siendo flagelos que golpean con más rudeza cada día a nuestros pueblos.

En el comercio internacional, los países en desarrollo continúan siendo discriminados mientras que los países desarrollados obtienen grandes ganancias.

Es así, señor Presidente, que las negociaciones del GATT en el marco de la Ronda Uruguay, no han tenido el avance deseado, porque se mueven activamente intereses muy poderosos que pretenden monopolizar y manipular, con fines egoístas el comercio de alimentos.

Mi delegación considera, señor Presidente, que la formación de grupos de integración económica pudiera traer nuevos aires renovadores en la esfera económica internacional pero, como dijera nuestro Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia en la tarde de ayer, cito: "este proceso también está condicionado a las reglas de participación que imponen algunos 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 estas, de la ausencia de un orden económico internacional justo".

Cuba, señor Presidente, reitera la necesidad de promover y concertar una verdadera integración económica en la región de América Latina y el Caribe ya que consideramos que esta es una vía concreta para superar entre otras cuestiones, los problemas existentes para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en nuestra región.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, usted amigo dilecto y querido, sabe cuánto complace a los representantes de Colombia verle en la presidencia de esta importante Comisión. A través de actividades comunes hemos conocido ya la inteligencia, las capacidades y la preparación que le distinguen, calidades que aseguran el buen éxito de esta reunión.

Nos agrada, también, participar en esta Comisión I, porque usted tiene a su derecha, señor Presidente, al Dr. Dutia, uno de los funcionarios más capaces, competentes y honestos que tiene esta Organización. Nos satisface, igualmente, que con el Dr. Dutia esté el Sr. Perkins, Director de la División de Productos Básicos y Comercio, el Sr. Mulherin, eficiente funcionario de esa División, y otros amigos de la Secretaría.

Señor Presidente, cada vez que en el Consejo y en la Conferencia consideramos este tema, para los representantes de Colombia resulta muy fácil preparar nuestras intervenciones, basta basarnos en las anteriores declaraciones. Se requiere tan sólo cambiar cifras, fechas, porcentajes,

porque siempre, invariablemente, el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación es preocupante y angustioso para el Tercer Mundo. Las mejoras que se realizan tienen lugar tan sólo en los estados desarrollados.

En el caso de este documento, será necesario destacar que: las dos regiones víctimas principales de este lamentable estado actual, son África y América Latina y el Caribe, como lo dijo nuestra colega y amiga, Grafila Soto, de Cuba. En nuestra región las economías de nuestros estados sufrieron tan grave deterioro en los años 80, de ingrata memoria, que se necesitarán largos periodos de crecimiento sostenido para que igualmente en los países de África y de América Latina y el Caribe comience a producirse siquiera una mínima y leve recuperación.

La coyuntura económica mundial ha sido generalmente desfavorable para la agricultura de 1990 y 1991. Disminuyó de nuevo el ritmo del crecimiento de la producción agrícola y alimentaria mundial y para un gran número de países en desarrollo el año 1990 fue un pésimo año agrícola.

En América Latina y el Caribe muchos países han proseguido en sus esfuerzos de reajuste, impuestos en numerosas ocasiones, deshaciendo inmensos costos políticos y afrontando reacciones sociales, a veces hasta peligrosas.

Desafortunadamente, ese esfuerzo de nuestros países se ha visto frustrado por el gran peso de la deuda externa, el costo elevado del servicio de esa deuda, y las altas tasas de inflación que afectan considerablemente a varios Estados de nuestra región, cuyo alto potencial se encuentra completamente vanificado.

En efecto, América Latina y el Caribe, que hasta los años 70 llegó a ser catalogada como "la gran despensa alimentaria del mundo", ha venido asistiendo, impotente, a la disminución constante de su producción de alimentos, que también en 1990 fue inferior a la ya baja cifra de 1989 y años anteriores, hasta convertirse ahora, increíblemente, en región importadora neta de alimentos.

Por otra parte, el creciente deterioro de los términos de intercambio, anula todo esfuerzo de los países de nuestra región por aumentar sus exportaciones, frente al hecho de que los bajos precios de sus principales productos de exportación en los mercados internacionales, determinan ingresos muy inferiores a los que debemos pagar por los elementos industriales indispensables para nuestro desarrollo.

Todo ese panorama desfavorable para el Tercer Mundo, en general, está enmarcado en la falta de comprensión de muchos gobiernos de Estados industrializados que se resisten a introducir cambios suficientemente significativos en las relaciones comerciales, ahora en términos tan profundamente injustos e inaceptables para los países en desarrollo.

Los pocos cambios introducidos en las políticas comerciales de la OCDE, no han correspondido al empeño de alto nivel de la Declaración Ministerial de esa OCDE, y sólo han tenido repercusiones muy limitadas, como lo afirma el párrafo 5 de este documento.

Todo ello confirma, señor Presidente, y distinguidos miembros de esta Comisión, que al infinito podemos seguir leyendo y oyendo literatura y retórica, compendio de músicas celestiales, al tiempo que los hechos confirman que nada de eso, que ninguna de esas promesas se cumplen, no obstante el alto nivel político de su proveniencia.

Confiamos en que la Comunidad Económica Europea continuará la revisión de su política agrícola común, la tristemente célebre PAC, y hará todo esfuerzo por evitar la reaparición de los grandes excedentes estructurales que tanto mal hicieron en años recientes al comercio internacional, en general y, sobre todo, a las oportunidades de exportación de los países en desarrollo.

Confiamos en que la reciente ley de 1990, de los Estados Unidos de América, sobre alimentos, agricultura, conservación y comercio, podrá cumplir los propósitos de mejorar el comercio internacional, estabilizar los precios y fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En el Grupo de Cairns, en asociación con otros países desarrollados y en desarrollo, Colombia propugna permanentemente serias y profundas reformas en favor de un comercio internacional amplio, justo y equilibrado.

Apoyamos la reciente declaración hecha por nuestro colega de Australia, país que ejerce actualmente con mucha competencia a la presidencia del Grupo de Cairns.

En cuanto a América Latina y el Caribe, el Resumen Regional que aparece a partir del párrafo 214, confirma la creciente precaria situación de nuestra región. El año 1990 fue muy adverso y nuestros países afrontaron grandes dificultades. En América Latina y el Caribe el Producto Interno Bruto bajó otra vez en un 3 por ciento para llegar a la alarmante cifra del 10 por ciento en la década desafortunada de los 80. La producción alimentaria y agrícola de la región, en su conjunto, ni siquiera alcanzó el 1 por ciento en 1990, muy por debajo del crecimiento demográfico. La producción per capita de alimentos básicos disminuyó en 1990 por tercer año consecutivo.

Todas esas cifras negativas conforman la difícil situación que atraviesa la región de América Latina y el Caribe e imponen una revisión de los índices obsoletos mediante cuyo mal uso los países latinoamericanos y del Caribe vienen siendo desplazados progresivamente de una asistencia técnica y financiera internacional consistente, sólida, en términos y condiciones que permitan a nuestros Estados iniciar el proceso de su justa y necesaria recuperación.

El grave e inquietante estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación que, clara y dramáticamente, describen estos documentos, hace más imperiosa e improrrogable la necesidad de que los Estados industrializados que han superado la reciente pasajera recesión económica, intensifiquen su asistencia en favor del mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de los países del Tercer Mundo.

Sin embargo, esa necesidad contrasta con la actitud negativa de algunos Estados desarrollados que no sólo no aumentan su asistencia, sino que, como lo demuestra la sección D, los préstamos exteriores a la agricultura siguen descendiendo.

Los compromisos totales en préstamos exteriores a la agricultura en 1989, último año sobre el cual se conocen datos, fueron inferiores en un 8 por ciento a los de 1988, y sólo ligeramente superiores a los de 1986 y 1987. o sea, que vamos siempre hacia atrás.

Destacamos la actitud positiva del Japón, citada en el párrafo 90, en relación con el aumento de la contribución japonesa a la ayuda oficial al desarrollo. Este buen ejemplo del Japón deberla ser seguido por otros países industrializados.

En este documento de la AOD los objetivos y las metas que se habían fijado, de los cuales mucho se ha hablado en el pasado, pero que nunca se han alcanzado, se trata de eso. Los préstamos de la Comunidad Económica Europea para el sector agrícola, disminuyeron en un 20 por ciento en 1989, respecto a 1988.

Los representantes de Colombia confiamos en que el ingreso de la CEE como miembro de la FAO contribuirá a que esa importante Comunidad incremente considerablemente sus préstamos al sector agrícola y haga otras valiosas contribuciones dentro del marco multilateral de una Organización universal como la nuestra.

Los representantes de Colombia somos conscientes de que nos encontramos aquí, en la Sala Verde, en la Comisión I, que usted preside con tanta eficacia; pero es evidente, a través del debate que estamos celebrando, que la situación de la alimentación y de la agricultura en el mundo aparece muy grave y preocupante. Es evidente también que la FAO viene contribuyendo a mejorar esa situación, y esos hechos establecen, a juicio nuestro, una relación directa entre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que se está discutiendo al frente, en la Sala Roja, en la Comisión II, y las dificultades que afrontamos para aprobar ese Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en condiciones de dotar a la FAO de medios y recursos suficientes para poder seguir ofreciendo su asistencia a los países en desarrollo, que son las únicas víctimas de esta situación.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que una Organización como la FAO, vital, activa, pragmática, eficiente, dinámica, con tan positivas realizaciones, no merecería haber sido sometida al tratamiento injusto que ha creado la más grave crisis financiera de toda la historia de nuestra Organización.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que los países en desarrollo, cuyos pueblos, humildes y sufridos, padecen la situación crítica que aparece en estos documentos; los campesinos honrados y trabajadores incansables del Tercer Mundo; las gentes de nuestros campos, que, con el sol de mañana hasta el caer de la sombra de la noche, doblegan sus columnas sobre el surco duro y a veces hasta hostil, para extraer los frutos de la tierra, y que todo eso lo hacen en condiciones infrahumanas; esos campesinos, que en buena parte, han sido privados de la asistencia de la FAO, esos seres humanos ciertamente no merecen el tratamiento injusto y deplorable que se ha aplicado a esta Organización.

Los representantes de Colombia proponemos, señor Presidente, que en el Informe sobre este tema destaquemos los siguientes tres puntos principales:

Primero, que la Conferencia lamenta la difícil, grave y preocupante situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo, víctimas de lo cual son únicamente los países en desarrollo.

Segundo, que la Conferencia reconoce y destaca la función esencial y significativa de la FAO como contribución al mejoramiento de la situación.

Y, tercero, que la Conferencia considera que, para que la FAO pueda cumplir de manera adecuada y eficaz esa función, nuestra Organización debe estar dotada de recursos suficientes y todos los Estados Miembros deben pagar oportunamente sus contribuciones.

Mohd. Fadzil AKRAM (Malaysia): As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor my delegation would like to warmly welcome you on your appointment as Chairman. Congratulations also go to Dr Dutia and the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive Report and the C 91/2 document on the importance of non-wood forest products, on pages 43 and 44, and environmental concerns and trade in forest products, on pages 44 and 45.

Malaysia would like to share her experience in handling food and agriculture with the member delegates.

As with the review of the state of food and agriculture, during the past Fifth Plan Period of 1986-90, the Malaysian agriculture sector grew by 4.6 percent per annum, higher than 3.1 percent growth attained during the 1981-85 period. This is in line with what is stated on page 56 of document C 91/2. The achievement was significant given the difficult years during the period, marked by fluctuating commodity prices, rising protectionism from developed countries as well as the emergence of production constraints, particularly due to the scarcity of labour and increasing pressure on wages.

Most agricultural commodities recorded significant increases in production during the 1986-90 period. The main sources of growth came from cocoa, palm oil, timber, fisheries and livestock. However, the production of paddy, coconut and rubber declined. The performance of other crops was mixed.

In line with efforts to regenerate forests under the National Forestry Policy, nearly 1 000 000 hectares of forest were silviculturally treated during the period of 1986-90. At the same time, the annual "coupe" was reduced. Fisheries production increased by 7.6 percent for marine landings and 7.9 percent for aquaculture. Total livestock value-added increased by 6.1 percent during the same period.

With regard to the prospects for the food and agricultural sector, it is targeted to grow at an average rate of 3.5 percent per annum during the Sixth Malaysian Plan of 1991-95, compared with 4.6 percent attained in the Fifth Plan period. The achievement of this target will depend on external demand for major commodities, as well as efficiency and productivity improvements.

Efforts will be made to resolve constraints in the sectors such as labour as well as to create and develop greater intersectoral linkages. Priority will be given to further reorientating the small-holding sector towards

greater commercial generation, to realize economies of scale and be internationally competitive in the long run.

Overcoming the constraints faced by the agriculture sector will also require a change of emphasis in the strategies promulgated by the National Agricultural Policy, the NAP. The low returns on agriculture were due to structural constraints affecting the efficient operation of holdings, leakages in the delivery of support programmes and relative price changes that favour other sectors of the economy. Policies will be formulated to increase the dynamism of the sector, largely through raising productivity and returns to agricultural activities. Given the constraint, in terms of availability, of potential new agricultural land, focus will be placed on in-situ development through consolidation and utilization of the land base in a more dynamic, efficient and income-maximizing manner.

Concern for the environment and the issue of sustainability of growth will necessitate efforts to sustain the level of forestry extraction. Environmental concerns also affect trade in forest products, especially in tropical exporting countries like us.

Malaysia views with great concern the increasing tendency of some major industrialized countries to link environmental protection to economic development. Concern for the environment and sustainability of growth will also require protecting fisheries resources in the inshore zones from indiscriminate trawlings.

The growth prospects of the agriculture sector will increasingly rely not only on increasing the primary level of production but also on downstream processing and marketing of agricultural produce.

Policies and strategies towards the development and promotion of the agro-based industry will be further strengthened with the objective of transforming the agricultural sector towards greater commercial orientation.

The commercial approach of the National Agricultural Policy will place a greater requirement on the supply of trained personnel, management skills as well as organizational support.

The Government will further formulate supportive policies to strengthen existing incentives through the provision of the necessary infrastructure, selective support financing for adoption of new technology, market pricing policies that can reward quality output, the provision of extension services, R&D and training. The emphasis will be on the important role of the private sector in revitalizing the agriculture sector.

Oil palm, rubber and cocoa will continue to be the mainstay of agriculture. At the same time, new sources of growth will be sought from land-intensive cultivation of high value food crops. The output of palm oil is projected to expand moderately at an annual rate of 4.5 percent. The production of rubber is expected to increase marginally at the rate of 0.1 percent per annum. Cocoa production will grow at a slower rate of 5.3 percent. With regard to other crops, horticulture will feature significantly as a new source of growth.

The growth of the forestry sector in terms of value-added is projected to decline by 6.7 percent annually. The Government realizes that it is crucial that the nation's forestry resources be strictly managed on a sustained yield basis to ensure its continuing contribution to the growth of the agriculture sector. Intensive rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded forests will be implemented with emphasis on silvicultural treatment and compensatory forest plantation programmes.

Fisheries value-added is projected to grow at a higher rate of 7.6 percent per annum. The future development of this sector will stress deep-sea fishing and aquaculture in fresh and brackish water.

The livestock value-added is projected to increase at an annual rate of 7.7 percent. As a step to diversifying sources of meat, a comprehensive programme to promote and develop the rabbit industry will be undertaken. Significant inroads are expected to be made through increasing the integration of sheep rearing in agricultural projects which can reduce cost of inputs, mainly weedicides and fertilizers.

With this statement, I end my intervention on the State of Food and Agriculture. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary): Mr Chairman, thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this important item on our agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairman upon your elections.

The head of my delegation has already referred to the document C 91/2 and its supplement in his address at the plenary last week. My delegation generally agrees with the analysis of the international agricultural situation as presented in these documents. There are two remarks we would like to make in this context referring to the agricultural and food situation in my country and to the problems arising from agricultural protectionism respectively.

It is already a commonplace that central planning as an economic expression of the overall policies, which had been pursued up to the end of the eighties in my country, proved to be a failure in both the economy as a whole and in agriculture. This may safely be stated even if Hungary, consequent on the good number of market elements introduced into its agricultural policies alleviating the adverse effects of central planning, was able to boast a relatively advanced agricultural and food sector.

The sharp drop in domestic purchasing power, the collapse of the markets of our former major COMECON partners has forced upon us a strong drive to strengthen the international competitiveness of our agricultural and food production. The reforms in the land tenure system, the privatization of a certain part of the land, still lies ahead of us, which, I have to admit, is not helping us in stabilizing the situation either.

Unfavourable external factors, like the deteriorating terms of trade, referred to by the Secretariat in document C 91/2-Sup.1, are only adding to the difficulties of Hungarian agriculture. In brief, Mr Chairman, the tasks we are facing can be summarized as follows: firstly, to cope with the transformation of land ownership in such a way that the advantages of the

Well-established large-scale production be kept; secondly, to put a heavier emphasis on environmental issues to be taken in full consideration in water and soil management as well as in plant protection; thirdly, to switch from quantitative to qualitative criteria when considering future development plans; and, last but not least, to formulate and implement new marketing principles and practices in order to increase the competitive potential of our product and to resist, as much as possible, protectionist pressure.

Mr Chairman, the second, and perhaps most important point we would like to make in speaking on this agenda item is agricultural protectionism. Hungary is exporting something like one third of her agricultural output, the major markets being now the industrialized western ones. The will and practice of all, particularly developed countries, to refrain from imposing tariff or non-tariff trade barriers are, therefore, vital questions for us.

The Uruguay Round failed to iron out disagreements on agricultural trade reforms between major participants and other trade issues. There is a substantial pressure on all parties for a compromise to be reached before the end of this year. The Hungarian agricultural trade policies to be formulated anew will have to draw on the conclusion to rely on tariffs only as a means of protecting our markets; and the new agro-marketing policies, to govern both our domestic and foreign markets, will have to adjust themselves to these conditions. Consequent to our export orientation, comparative advantages and budgetary constraints, Hungary is for the liberalization of agricultural world trade, and will remain so in the future.

The development of real demand in the USSR and independent republics could well be a determining factor in our trade relations too.

Major guidelines for us will be the meeting of higher requirements of the markets and, respectively, a higher degree of processing, freezing, packaging, etc.

T.J. RAMOTSOARI (Lesotho): The overall food and agriculture situation in the world is brought about by many factors concerning development. We consider that the holistic resource management concept should be taken into consideration when analysing and monitoring the world food and agriculture situation. We support the consideration that we take population growth as one variable, but for Lesotho's purposes we would like to endorse the variable of land resource as one of the factors which must be considered. It is the main problem which faces Lesotho now. Credit availability, technology and manpower should also be considered. The variable of natural disasters which affect the environment is another factor which must be considered in an analysis of the food and agriculture situation.

The main problem facing Lesotho's agriculture is that of drought, which we have been experiencing principally during the time of planting, which has resulted in the reduction of food production to less than 40 percent of the national requirement for the 1991-92 biennium.

Another consideration is that of the comparative advantage of food production as compared with other sectors of the economy. We consider that Lesotho has potential for livestock production, mainly small stock production, as compared to crop production. This potential needs to be

developed, with the assistance of our brothers here, and needs further development with the assistance of FAO's expertise. The contribution of agriculture to Lesotho's GNP seems to be declining but the actual fact is that other sectors of the economy are gaining momentum at the expense of agriculture. You will realize that competition for the scarce resources available to us is now very high, as compared with other sectors.

Another issue that I would like to raise is that of marketing. The delegation of Lesotho wishes to see favourable and positive results from the Uruguay Round negotiations. Agricultural trade in the world has been unfavourable in the developing countries, due to highly subsidized agricultural production in developed countries. It is really disappointing to see promotion of agricultural production in developed countries while structural adjustment programmes advocate elimination of agricultural subsidies, so that our commodities meet difficult and stiff competition in international markets against subsidized production in developed countries.

Two further issues which I would like us to consider during our discussions are: Firstly: North-South and South-South operations do not mean that we should transfer absolute technology from one country to another. This state of affairs has been experienced in other areas.

Secondly: the so-called "cold" countries should take into consideration the socio-economic issues of the recipients of their aid. By so doing, they would encourage local participation in planning and decision-making for agricultural production.

Mr Chairman, please bear with me if I read between the lines - but we consider that in future when we do an analysis of the food and agricultural situation we should include the causes of the poverty that is experienced by so many, and of the hunger and malnutrition which we see in our countries. Also, with the assistance of FAO's expertise, we should also highlight remedies which will be effective in the future.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, let me join other colleagues in congratulating you on your election to chair this Commission, and also in congratulating FAO for the excellent documents which they have presented to us.

H. OVERMEER (Netherlands): The documents under discussion, "The State of Food and Agriculture" and its supplement, give an informative and useful summary of the most important developments in world trade, agricultural production, consumption and the effects of world economic trends on the agricultural sector.

In many developing countries the role of agriculture and the rural sector is of crucial importance for the future development and improvement of their economies and the establishment of internal and external balance. Agriculture depends for an important part on external economic factors such as world market prices, currency values, world demand for agricultural products, international interest rates and inflation. In this context a number of developments are of importance.

At world level a general growth of the economy has occurred. This has been the case for the last seven years. However, this growth has taken place mainly in the developed countries. In Africa, Latin America and the

Caribbean the situation gives less reason for optimism. As concerns agriculture in 1990 the situation for a great number of developing countries was grim. This has been caused by heavy debts, difficult access to the markets of the developed countries and low world market prices of the export products of the developing countries. Hardest hit were those countries which are for their economic growth dependent on agricultural products. As concerns the agricultural production as such, this rose in the developing countries at about 3 percent; this is however not sufficient for a lot of countries in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to match the population growth.

Agricultural policy is on the move in a lot of countries. Noteworthy are the efforts of the US to liberalize their agricultural policy, the reform of the EC CAP and also the developments in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Also, a lot of developing countries are restructuring their agriculture to increase production and to improve their food security.

The year 1990 has been a favourable one for the developed countries as concerns trade in agricultural products. The opposite has been the case for the developing countries. The terms of trade of both food and agricultural non-food products has deteriorated in developed and developing countries, but is more pronounced in the latter. However, the expectations of exports for developing countries are not favourable. This causes a significant decline in the purchasing capacity of their agricultural exports as well. It is expected that this disquieting trend will continue.

As concerns the overall economic prospects, it is expected that economic activity will pick up again in 1992 after the weakness in 1990 and 1991.

Growth of world trade which slowed down pronouncedly in 1990 and 1991 is to rebound in 1992 in the developed countries. Economic growth in the developing countries is also expected to significantly recover in 1992. There is, however, an important exception to this development. For countries exporting predominantly agricultural products, the general picture is one of continuous recession with prospects for only a limited recovery in 1992.

This is a development which should be taken seriously. This situation stresses the need for a successful completion of the GATT negotiations.

In our intervention about the "International Agricultural Adjustment Progress Report" we will come back on some items which are also mentioned in the State of Food and Agriculture.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to chair the proceedings of this important Commission. I should also like to commend the FAO Secretariat for its comprehensive document, and to thank Mr Dutia for his very lucid introduction.

It is unfortunate that the negative aspects of the agricultural situation in 1990 and 1991 seem to have outweighed the positive aspects. Many developing countries face serious difficulties in the shape of low agricultural growth rates, difficult access to developed-country markets and low world prices for many of their exports, particularly agricultural

commodities. The overall economic environment has been generally unfavourable to agriculture in both 1990 and 1991. World food and agriculture production expanded at a lower rate in 1990 than in 1989 and appears to have fallen in 1991 from the previous year's level - the first global production decline since 1983. The position is particularly depressing in the case of developing countries. In 1990, per capita food production declined in two-thirds of developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa only 9 out of 45 countries had a positive gain in per capita food production. The declining trend is again expected in Africa and several other countries in 1991. The expected agricultural production growth in the Far East would be the lowest in over two decades.

The disturbing feature of the situation is in regard to fertilizer use. The global consumption of fertilizers is reported to have declined for two successive years in 1989-90 and 1990-91. Indications are that the consumption may level off in 1991-92 and resume growth only slowly in the following years. Thus, since 1989-90 the medium-term period of decreasing global use of fertilizers has begun, which has serious implications for world food and agricultural production.

Another area of equally great concern is that of agricultural trade. According to the document, agricultural trade in 1990 is estimated to have considerably expanded in developed countries but has remained depressed in developing countries. For several of the developing countries key export commodities, depressed prices combined with stagnating or declining export volumes have seriously affected export earnings. International prices of tea, coffee, cocoa and sugar have simply collapsed. The position regarding external lending to agriculture declined in 1989 compared to 1988 in both nominal and real terms.

In the fisheries sector also, the increase in world fish production slowed significantly in 1989 and actually declined in 1990. Total production of aquaculture, too, declined in 1989.

The question to be considered now is: what do we do with the gloomy picture presented by the document? I think it should lead us to constructive action. We appreciate that through its Global Information and Early Warning System FAO monitors continuously the food situation in individual countries and alerts the donor community about impending shortages in the concerned countries. Donors generally take into account the information provided by FAO in taking policy decisions on food aid to the affected countries.

In India, we have developed our own capabilities to cope with impending natural calamities. When rains are delayed, the Government takes steps to introduce mid-season corrections by preparing plans of alternative cropping practices. Further, if it becomes difficult to achieve targets in the Khariff season, which accounts for the bulk of the agricultural production, we take measures to salvage the situation to the extent possible by raising production targets for the second, i.e., Rabi season. We are of the view that FAO could consider assisting the interested parties in strengthening disaster preparedness and management strategies. India is willing to extend cooperation in this vital field.

In India, as a part of the process of economic reforms, we have withdrawn this year the subsidy on fertilizers and raised their prices. However, small and marginal farmers continue to get fertilizers at lower prices. We

have also revised support prices for crops so that farmers do not suffer because of higher fertilizer prices and other production costs. We are also continuing with the public distribution system in order that consumer interests remain protected.

We believe that purposive support to agriculture is necessary in countries like ours in the interest of production and the living conditions of the poor. Agricultural development in these countries is absolutely necessary for their economic development and to ensure food security to the people. Social security nets being crucial for the success of reform programmes, it is not always possible to leave the solution of problems solely to the care of market forces. The negative aspects of the agricultural situation highlighted in the document also seem to confirm that the State has an important leadership role to play in these economies. This is an important conclusion which deserves the attention of the entire international community. FAO and other international organizations should also be ready to help developing countries in increasing the volume of their agricultural production and exports, and ameliorating their deteriorating balance of payments and indebtedness position.¹

Mai Muhammad JIR (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, permit me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would also like to commend the Secretariat on the comprehensive documents. My Minister, who is head of the Nigerian delegation, in his statement in Plenary has mentioned the efforts Nigeria has been making and the progress recorded in agricultural development. He also spoke of the major policy instruments put in place to facilitate those developments. Therefore, we wish to comment only on the document C 91/2 and its supplement, and the situation reported in those two documents.

The picture emerging from these two documents and the prospects for the future as they affect sub-Saharan Africa and other African countries is to say the least grim. Specifically, the sub-Saharan African situation is characterized by heavy external debt, the menace of pests and diseases, difficult access to the markets of the developed countries, uncertain conclusions of the Uruguay Round negotiation in their favour, dwindling resources and higher costs of debt servicing. Although many African countries have embarked on structural adjustments, the task is very difficult, painful and complex given the enormity of the problems listed above. While African countries will continue with their efforts towards addressing their internal problems, the prospects for economic recovery, especially in the food production sector, will be bleak indeed if genuine support and assistance is not forthcoming from the global community. Paragraphs 9, 10, 32 and 33 of C 91/2 say it all.

Food, and indeed, affordable food, is the number one security. Lack of it has a greater effect than the gun. While we strongly appeal for continued and increased emergency food aid to those countries critically in need, we must search for an enduring solution. It has now become very necessary to assist countries, especially those in sub-Saharan Africa, through both multilateral and bilateral approaches. We would suggest longer-term solutions that require action, or emphasis in the following areas

¹Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

- diversification and improvement through the funding of both national and regional research efforts. Already we have the recent Dakar initiative vigorously pursued by France, which brought the ministers of West and Central Africa together to coordinate and pool their efforts in improving their agricultural production. In many developing countries, food is produced but distribution is defective. We wish to ask for assistance in improving the distribution systems, both for internal and regional distribution of food and agricultural produce. We appeal for assistance for those countries in minimizing post-harvest losses, since in many of those countries about 30 to 40 percent of crops and agricultural produce are lost to pests and diseases. We wish to appeal for assistance in the development of small-scale irrigation, as suggested by our colleague from Zambia yesterday, to mitigate the effects of drought in those countries.

We would also like to add our voice to the appeal made by several voices on relief and cancellation of debts for these developing and critically-affected countries. However, the struggle for survival is ultimately ours. We must not wait for external assistance. We should consider external assistance as supplementary or complementary to our efforts. We must mobilize our people and learn to depend on ourselves. Therefore, we must strengthen our regional organizations, foster cooperation, exchange experiences and encourage inter-regional trading. We need every support.

Lastly, the limping leg determines the journey into the future, so those who are endowed with healthy legs should help to walk straight.

Mokhtar BOUANANI MOKHTAR (Maroc): M. le Président, prenant la parole pour la première fois, je voudrais vous présenter les félicitations de la délégation marocaine pour votre élection à la tête de cette honorable Commission.

Je voudrais par la même occasion remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document que nous sommes en train d'examiner, et qui se rapporte à un sujet fondamental, à savoir "la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture".

Ce document nous présente une excellente analyse de la situation alimentaire dans le monde. Il met en exergue les contrastes existants entre les différentes régions de la planète en matière d'offres et de demandes des produits alimentaires et agricoles.

Dans ce document, il est fait mention des résultats positifs que le Maroc ne cesse d'enregistrer sur le plan du développement agricole.

Permettez-moi de rappeler que cette année, c'est-à-dire 1991, notre agriculture a connu des niveaux record de production. A titre d'exemple, la production céréalière a dépassé cette année les 8,5 millions de tonnes. Ce tonnage représente le double de la production moyenne des années 70 et le quadruple de la production du début des années 80, qui furent marquées par de grandes sécheresses.

Ces performances se retrouvent également au niveau de la production sucrière, laitière, oléagineuse et de viande.

Nous estimons que les résultats atteints en matière de production agricole sont la résultante d'un certain nombre de facteurs dont les plus importants sont, d'une part le retour de conditions climatiques normales, et d'autre part le fruit de tout un programme d'ajustement structurel entamé dès 1985 et dont le but principal était justement de dynamiser le secteur agricole par la voie de la libéralisation et par la voie de l'accroissement de l'efficience.

Etant donné le rôle moteur que joue le secteur agricole dans notre économie, nous avons enregistré des impacts très positifs au niveau des agrégats macroéconomiques. Ce qui me pousse d'ailleurs à vous affirmer que le début du paragraphe 265 du document C 91/2 ne reflète pas la réalité de l'évolution économique marocaine.

Dans ce même paragraphe, les indicateurs cités, tels que le déficit budgétaire et tel que le taux de croissance du PIB, sont actuellement largement dépassés.

Ma délégation est convaincue que des efforts d'ajustement structurel s'imposent pour les pays en développement, afin d'accroître la productivité agricole.

Néanmoins, ces efforts ne pourraient en aucun cas assurer un développement durable des agricultures de ces pays, sans un ajustement international en matière des échanges Nord-Sud des produits agricoles. Je crois que nous aurons à revenir sur cette question, lorsque nous aborderons le deuxième point de notre ordre du jour.

Ms Heather AMYS (Canada): It is a pleasure, Sir, to see you directing this Commission.

The economic slowdown in 1990-91 was experienced by the developing countries and developed countries alike. We recognize the vulnerability to these economic shocks, and the economic hardships faced by developing countries. The declining debt-servicing costs, as a share of exports, observed for the developing countries in many regions in 1990 is a welcomed sign.

The small increase in food production in developing countries in 1991 raises serious concerns despite the progress observed in the past two years. Those concerns are amplified by the first decline in world food production in almost a decade. Perhaps the most serious concern is Africa where production actually declined in 1990 and declined on a per capita basis in 1991. It is encouraging to see increased production in 1991 for some very large countries, namely Pakistan, India, Thailand, where food production per capita fell in 1990. But there can be no comfort in the fact that the annual increase in the 1991 food production in developing countries is well below that for 1989, and the 1986-88 average has declined on a per capita basis. As well, ending stocks of cereals in 1991-92 are projected to be down substantially from last year. Some countries continue to export cereals using large export subsidies despite these low stock levels. Any production shortfall in a major producing region in 1992 could seriously affect prices and food availability in developing countries.

The strong growth in agricultural trade observed in 1990, while a positive sign, occurred despite widespread restrictions on trade. However, there is a serious concern for declining commodity prices which are intensified by the increasing domestic and export subsidies for agriculture. It must be recognized that some of the increase in trade reflects exports at highly subsidized prices. World prices fell in 1990 for many agricultural commodities, especially wheat, rice, sugar, coffee and tea and this trend has escalated in 1991. Canada is well aware that subsidy and unfair trade practices have hurt the export earnings for the agriculture sector in developing countries. We share the view of many developing countries that an agreement at the GATT is imperative to improve world prices and the income levels of the agricultural sector in these developing countries.

Canada shares the concern about the drop in the commitments and disbursements of external lending to agriculture in 1989 versus 1988. While there is pressure to restrain government budget deficits in most developed countries, the problems faced by developing countries have not diminished. Canada continues to strongly support the food aid programme.

The rapid progress of the reforms toward a market-oriented economy initiated in Eastern Europe and the USSR is truly remarkable. Canada strongly encourages these developments which should vastly improve the food security of the region and the economic well-being of the agriculture and rural sector of these countries.

In summary, this report provides us with a number of important reminders.

First, it is critical to the improvement of the agricultural sectors in developing countries that there be a rapid and successful completion to the Uruguay Round of the GATT Negotiations. This will strengthen and stabilize world commodity prices. More importantly, it will complement the structural adjustment reforms now ongoing in many countries. In the way countries would be making investments, decisions based on international market prices are determined by market forces and not by national treasuries.

Second, there is an urgent need for structural adjustment in the agricultural sectors of all countries to encourage rational and sustained development. The evidence of the implications of structural adjustment policies on agriculture is timely, with the GATT Negotiations expected to conclude shortly. In order for both developing and developed countries to obtain the maximum benefits from a GATT agreement, it will be important to make production and investment decisions on the basis of the new level of international commodity prices.

Third, there is an urgent requirement for the continuation of the types of programmes sponsored by the FAO to provide economic information, planning and policy advice and technical assistance.

Despite the period of restraint in government spending, the report emphasizes the need for all countries to continue to provide assistance and develop more innovative and creative means to help overcome the problems of the world's hungry and the poor.

Finally, we would like to support the statement made yesterday by the delegate of Sweden and supported by others with regard to the need to develop alternate reserve stock indicators. We also support the very

pertinent point made by the Swedish delegate that the concept of food security should be seen to comprise more than the availability of physical stocks. As discussed in the Committee on World Food Security during the last biennium, food security must increasingly be perceived as a question of entitlements, and access to food based on purchasing power. We welcome the progress which we know the Secretariat is making in tackling these two subjects.

Canada views the report on the State of Food and Agriculture to be a very important activity of the FAO. Like the delegation of Denmark yesterday, we believe that this document could benefit from a more substantial policy orientation. In general, however, we are very supportive of the work done by the Secretariat in this regard.

Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): Mr Chairman, allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election to steer this very important Commission.

The Kenya delegation would like to register its appreciation for the detailed analysis on the State of Food and Agriculture as covered under documents C 91/2 and C 91/2-Sup.1.

We concur with the view that agriculture has been negatively affected by the economic slowdown due to a number of factors. The factors include external debt liabilities and debt servicing, which have been on the increase and are expected to continue increasing. The situation in Africa south of the Sahara regarding the debt issue has now reached alarming proportions. In our opinion, it is only through deliberate steps by the industrialized countries in rescheduling and cancellation of these debts that the problem may be resolved.

We note with concern that in paragraph 44 it is indicated that a large number of countries experienced declines in per caput food production, particularly in Africa where 80 percent of the sub-Saharan countries recorded major declines. Noting that the world's poor, who also face critical food shortages, are to be found in developing countries, it is our sincere hope that more resources will be made available to these countries to revitalize their agricultural sectors.

Concerning livestock production, 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 toward 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 a chronic constraint in terms of livestock movement to markets and exports of livestock products. While attempts have been made to eradicate livestock diseases within our borders, it is recommended that regional programmes on disease control be emphasized.

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 in improving statistical data collection and an ongoing programme aimed at introducing improved small scale fishing technology at the Kenyan Coast.

In connection with the world trade we wish to reiterate our concern regarding depressed commodity prices for major exports from developing countries which have led to a reduction of both export volumes and foreign exchange earnings. We therefore feel that early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations will go a long way in ameliorating the unfavourable world trade situation.

In conclusion it is noted that food aid requirements will continue to rise in the near future, particularly in the African Region. It is therefore a matter of great concern that current food 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. Due to this situation Kenya has had to host many refugees from these countries. We have also closely cooperated 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 importance of food aid as a development resource. There is much scope for utilizing food aid to accelerate agricultural recovery and economic development in this area.

Nahi SHIBANI (Syria) (Original language Arabic): First of all we would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission. We have listened very carefully to all previous statements by other delegations on this item, the State of Food and Agriculture for 1990-92 and the consequences for food security in the world and we have noted the efforts made by the Organization in this field in order to improve the situation and of course, my delegation has carefully studied the document C 91/2 and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the efforts they have taken to prepare this document and I would agree with previous speakers as regard the qualities of the document and since I am in agreement with most of the things that have been said I feel I can save everyone's time by not repeating it and I will merely say we support all the proposals calling for an increase in food aid, especially to the least developed countries and we also support the proposals made concerning the liberalization of trade in agricultural commodities and foodstuffs and we also stress the need to relieve the burden of the external debt of Third World countries.

The Syrian delegation would like to pay tribute to the important role played by FAO in endeavouring to help those who suffer from malnutrition all over the world and we would like to express our deep appreciation and respect for the Organization and in so doing we say that we will do our

utmost to support FAO's efforts to assist farmers, rural circles and to promote the development of agriculture, in particular, of course, in Arab countries and the occupied Arab territories and in general terms I would also like to emphasize the importance of upholding the rights of man and the two basic rights, the right to existence and the right to food and we must help the rural populations to attain these rights, in particular, the rural populations in the Golan Heights because of the impact of the occupation they are under and it makes their lives particularly difficult and because of this situation they are, in fact, prevented from using their land to develop their agriculture and produce foodstuffs. They are being denied access to water and the right to work the land and we would therefore wish to appeal urgently to this Organization, to the whole international community, to take steps to improve this state of affairs. We hope that this Commission will be able to produce a recommendation to the effect that a study should be carried out of the situation of such people, such rural populations living in conditions such as the Golan Heights to show them that the world community does not forget them and the difficulties they labour under and to show that the international community is ready to come and help them to improve their lot and this is a proposal I am putting before this Commission for consideration.

Antonio BAYAS F. (Chile): En primer lugar, quiero agradecerle por haberme dado la palabra y, al ser ésta la primera vez que hacemos uso de ella en esta Comisión, felicitarle a usted por su designación para dirigir nuestros debates.

En el marco del análisis de la economía mundial - puntos 1 al 33 del documento -, vale la pena subrayar que las transformaciones estructurales que están aplicando los países latinoamericanos, tendentes a la implementación de los principios de una economía de mercado con mayor participación del sector privado y con apertura hacia el comercio exterior, deben ser apoyadas por los países desarrollados, desarticulando las medidas para-arancelarias que dificultan el comercio.

La tendencia hacia la formación de bloques comerciales entre los países de la región latinoamericana sustentará el crecimiento del producto interno bruto hasta un cierto límite, pues la tendencia general de la política macroeconómica es la contracción de la demanda agregada para contener la inflación; luego no debe considerarse esta estrategia como único camino de crecimiento.

En relación al comercio agrícola, mi delegación quiere expresar su preocupación respecto a que se debiera hacer un análisis acerca del impacto de las donaciones de los países desarrollados, máxime cuando algunos han anunciado últimamente que aumentarán dichas donaciones, vía programas de ayuda alimentaria.

Y respecto a lo expresado en el documento en relación a la coyuntura económica mundial, mi delegación estima que debería hacerse alguna mención a la capacidad de pago al sector agrícola, especificando el destino que se les dio a los préstamos sectoriales.

N. Neil FRASER (New Zealand): I would like first of all to congratulate you on your election to chair this Commission of the Conference.

We have read with interest and concern the analysis of the food and agriculture situation outlined in document C 91/2. Yesterday in Plenary my Minister referred to the problems that developing countries face in terms of agriculture and trade policy that currently exist in the world. We have heard today of other non-policy problems and difficulties. We hear of climatic problems, pests and diseases, technology availability, political instability, population growth and education levels, to name a few. These provide a big enough burden without having to bear the distortions and low prices and closed markets that result from the agricultural support and trade policies that exist in many countries.

As well as developing countries facing these trade problems there are some developed countries, some traditional agricultural exporting countries that are also hurt by these policies. The Australian delegation has referred to the low farming income situation in his country. My own country is also affected. By affecting the agricultural producers in countries such as ours, which have a comparative advantage in agricultural production, their productive capacity is put at risk and consequently inhibiting our ability to contribute to enhancing world food security. That is why a coalition of developing and developed countries and Hungary who we heard from this afternoon, have joined together to call for the reforms that are needed.

The representative of Columbia, a member of the Cairns Group, drew attention to paragraph 5 of the document before us, namely that in OECD countries numerous changes have been made in the instruments of agricultural policies.

Mr Chairman, we must draw a distinction between intentions, actions and results, and of course we need emphasis on the latter. However, this is not enough. We do not need changes to the instruments, we need new instruments. The Uruguay Round offers an opportunity to change the instruments, and the opportunity must not be missed.

The Uruguay Round is poised at a critical stage and we agree, therefore, with the Australian view, mentioned here this afternoon, that this Conference should give a clear statement on the critical importance of obtaining a satisfactory conclusion and outcome as soon as possible. This outcome must include a comprehensive package of reform covering all the areas of agriculture, namely internal support, border protection and export competition.

Jaime Mauricio SALAZAR DIAZ (El Salvador): Permítame ante todo felicitar al señor Presidente por su acertada elección de parte del Gobierno de El Salvador. Como país que coordina en este momento durante los próximos seis meses al Grupo Centroamericano, yo quisiera expresar ante esta Asamblea que los países de la subregión centroamericana estamos todos haciendo unos esfuerzos muy grandes por trasladar todas nuestras acciones en favor de la agricultura, que es donde tenemos más ventajas comparativas. Esta tarea no es fácil ya que encontramos a los países en un estado en el cual favorecieron durante muchos años, con algunas medidas, al desarrollo del sector industrial sacrificando al sector agropecuario. Las medidas internas ponían en desventaja al sector agropecuario y el desestímulo para

las actividades agropecuarias andaba por el orden del 27 por ciento para el caso de El Salvador, cuando la industria tenía un estímulo de más del 30 por ciento. Este sesgo antiagrario, como lo llamamos nosotros, está siendo borrado por las acciones que están tomando los gobiernos centroamericanos en pro de una agricultura mejor. El sector agropecuario, además de las medidas internas, también ha sufrido mucho con la competencia desleal a todas luces, con las importaciones de alimentos producidos en países subsidiados, especialmente en el campo de los granos básicos y leche en polvo.

Ordenar las economías no es tarea fácil; todos los gobiernos de Centroamérica son muy recientes. El que está en actividad desde hace más tiempo es el Gobierno de El Salvador, con menos de dos años y medio en el poder, pero estamos interesados en poder insertar el área centroamericana dentro de la corriente mundial de economía libre de mercado. En este sentido, en cada uno de los países, en mayor o menor grado, se han estado tomando las medidas necesarias y efectuando los cambios macroeconómicos que nos permitan volver a este ordenamiento nacional que es necesario para tener acceso a la economía mundial. Es así como uno de los foros más importantes que se han desarrollado en el área de Centroamérica han sido los mandatos que se reciben y los acuerdos a que se llega a través de las reuniones cumbres de Presidentes de Centroamérica y Panamá, de las cuales la última fue la décima efectuada en San Salvador en junio del presente año.

Quiero mencionarles que el tema económico y el tema agrícola no han estado ausentes de estos acuerdos y de estos mandatos, y que uno de los principales que nosotros tenemos es el Plan Económico para Centroamérica que ha sido mandato de los Presidentes, bajo el cual, a través de la coordinación, estamos tratando de buscar la integración centroamericana en el campo agropecuario. Sabemos que existen, o han existido, muchas barreras todavía que derribar, pero sin embargo en la declaración de San Salvador ya se llegó a un acuerdo de poder tener una apertura de todos los productos agropecuarios en el mercado centroamericano a partir del 1^º de julio de 1992. Nosotros creemos que éstos son pasos muy importantes, pero a la vez solicitamos a este foro, a los países amigos, a las instituciones internacionales de asistencia técnica y financiera que nos continúen apoyando para poder llegar, al más corto plazo posible, a esta integración que todos buscamos y que pronto será realidad en El Salvador.

Debo mencionarles que, en relación al Plan Especial de Cooperación de Centroamérica, el PEC, que es una iniciativa gestada por los países de la CEE y coordinada por las Naciones Unidas, se invirtieron cerca de 20 millones de dólares en la identificación y preparación de los proyectos en el sector agropecuario para poder ayudarnos a desarrollar este sector tan importante para la región.

En el marco del PEC también estuvimos presentes en una reunión de donantes en febrero de este año, y no hemos concretizado ninguna de las medidas que nos pudieran haber ayudado financieramente a ejecutar estos proyectos que tenemos escritos y que están disponibles para llevarlos a cabo tan pronto podamos contar con la asistencia financiera necesaria.

Quisiera hacer un llamado en esta ocasión a los países miembros de la CEE y al Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo para que urgentemente puedan volver a trabajar, a dinamizar esta iniciativa que, por alguna razón, sentimos ha quedado un poco olvidada.

Ahmed Khalil GARTAA (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, first of all, I should like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this important Commission, and we wish you the greatest success in running its deliberations. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents C 91/2 and C 91/2-Sup.1 dealing with the World State of Food and Agriculture, a state which we may describe as being dangerous and worrying and accordingly requires the solidarity and assistance of the international community to the food deficit countries in order to help them increase their production.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to review, briefly, my country's efforts in the area of Food security, as we have done work in various directions towards this goal at the national, regional and bilateral levels.

At a national level, and in addition to the fact that my country's expenditure on the Agricultural Sector over the last twenty years has been 17 percent of our total expenditures on other sectors, we are implementing the project of the Great Artificial River, which will carry 6 million cubic metres of water from the heart of the Sahara to the coastal areas where most of our population lives; 86 percent of this water will be devoted to agriculture and specifically to the irrigation of 200 000 hectares of agricultural land. In this manner we will be able to increase agricultural and livestock production.

At the regional level, and particularly within the framework of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), we have close coordination with the member states in order to develop common agricultural policies for better integration of our activities and to ensure food security. This is referred to on page 78 of document C 91/2.

On the bilateral level, measures are being taken by my country and the Sudan in order to ensure integration in the areas of agriculture and industry.

I should also like to express our support to the request made by our brother from Syria to the effect that a study be undertaken of the farmers' situation in the occupied Golan Heights and that technical assistance be extended to them.

Sra. Mónica DEREGBUS (Argentina): Señor Presidente, permítame en primer lugar felicitarle por su elección para presidir los trabajos de esta importante Comisión y también que haga Ud. por favor extensivas estas felicitaciones a los Vicepresidentes que le acompañan en esta tarea. Asimismo permítame agradecer a la Secretaria la elaboración y la presentación de los documentos sobre este tema del programa. Los documentos son muy completos y contienen información de mucho interés para mi país. Coincidimos con la descripción y el diagnóstico general de los documentos. La declaración del Jefe de la Delegación Argentina en el Plenario de esta Conferencia contiene la apreciación de mi país, señor Presidente, sobre la

situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo y sobre los problemas que impiden el mejoramiento de dicha situación. Por razones de brevedad, a él me remito solicitando que sea tenido en cuenta por el Comité de Redacción al elaborar su informe sobre esta parte del programa.

Coincidimos asimismo, señor Presidente, con las apreciaciones efectuadas por varias delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, entre ellas Brasil, Australia y Nueva Zelandia. Endosamos, por consiguiente en su totalidad, las declaraciones de esos países.

Señor Presidente, el Gobierno argentino está llevando adelante un proceso de transformación económica, que cuenta con amplio consenso de la ciudadanía, con el objeto de poner fin al estancamiento en que se encontraba inmersa la economía nacional. Dicho proceso tiende a la liberalización de la economía, la apertura de los mercados, el descenso de los niveles arancelarios, la disminución del gasto público con la consecuente declinación del déficit público y la eliminación de todo tipo de trabas existentes para el libre funcionamiento de los mercados de bienes y de servicios. Ello incluye, en el campo específico que nosotros estamos considerando, la eliminación de los impuestos, de lo que llamábamos nosotros retenciones a la exportación de productos agrícolas, que durante muchos años gravaron en mi país las exportaciones de este sector.

El documento que analizamos efectúa una mención muy corta al Mercosur en la sesión dedicada a la integración andina y a la agricultura. El Mercosur no es un organismo de integración regional andino; es un organismo de integración regional de cuatro países del cono sur, y quisiéramos aclarar aquí que su implementación ocurrirá en 1995 y no 1994, como se menciona en el documento. La integración regional a la cual está abocado mi país y la apertura económica al resto del mundo son claras demostraciones de la voluntad de la República Argentina de integrar su economía a una economía que deberá ser cada vez más libre en el flujo de bienes y de servicios a nivel global. Si bien el contenido del documento es descriptivo, señor Presidente, cabe señalar aquí que, en los aspectos relacionados con el medio ambiente, se hace mención a los problemas existentes en los países en desarrollo, pero no a la degradación del medio ambiente y a la contaminación producida por los países desarrollados. Esto es algo que quisiéramos nosotros que no se repitiera en futuros documentos.

Refiriéndonos concretamente a la propuesta de reforma de la política agrícola común de la Comunidad Europea, mi país estima que si bien ella contiene ciertos aspectos positivos, tales como la disminución de los precios objetivos de ciertos productos, resulta poco satisfactorio asistir a la ausencia de propuestas relativas a las condiciones de acceso a los mercados y que no se haga referencia a la disminución de los subsidios a las exportaciones. Asimismo, y aunque no se haga mención en este documento de las recomendaciones del Panel de Soja del GATT que la Comunidad Económica debe poner en práctica, la Argentina también quisiera aquí expresar su descontento por la falta de realismo que implica la reciente aprobación del régimen oleaginoso de la Comunidad Europea. Dicho régimen no modifica la situación de menoscabo en las concesiones tarifarias planteadas en dicho panel, por la cual no conduce a ninguna modificación de importancia en relación al régimen preexistente.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, permítame apoyar muy calurosamente la sugerencia de varias delegaciones, entre ellas las de Australia y Brasil, para que esta Conferencia produzca un llamamiento para un resultado temprano y satisfactorio de las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales que se llevan a cabo en la Ronda Uruguay del GATT. Estimamos que dicho resultado no será posible sin un acuerdo substancial en el sector de la agricultura y que es deber de esta Conferencia expresar su opinión acerca de esta necesidad.

Yun Su CHANG (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of): I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission. I would also like to express deep thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of the excellent documents C 91/2 and C 91/2-Sup.1 and the comprehensive analysis of the world environment surrounding agriculture and agriculture itself.

For the last two years, since the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference, many changes have taken place in the world, but the overall economic environment was unfavourable generally for agriculture and distribution of agricultural products. In spite of international concern and efforts for the improvement of food and agriculture, there has been no radical improvement or progress in the world situation. Deteriorating agriculture and serious food crises have continued over the world and have brought great misfortunes and calamities to mankind.

It is none other than the developing countries that are suffering from the food crisis. Agricultural production and food security in the developing countries have been negatively affected by the Gulf and Civil Wars, social disputes, natural disasters, heavy burdens of debt, external environments and so on.

In order to achieve world food security, the developing countries - which account for most of the world's territory and population - should develop agriculture and increase food production. In this regard, we think that it is necessary for every developing country to set forth independent agricultural policies suitable to their specific conditions, and develop their agriculture to attain self-sufficiency in food by mobilizing and making effective use of their manpower and natural resources. We recognize that it is very important to strengthen and extend South-South cooperation in agricultural development.

If developing countries could exchange and cooperate with each other on the advanced technologies and good experiences which they have, they could develop agriculture and increase food production. In this regard, we look forward to all developing countries making joint efforts for South-South cooperation in the field of agriculture and to FAO's continued support through TCDC activities and increased allocation of budget for it during the next biennium.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that it is very important to establish a fair and equal new international economic order in agriculture for developing countries.

We wish that all developing countries will make continued efforts for establishment of a new international order in agricultural economy and trade.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation notes with deep concern the alarming trends in the situation of food security, particularly in developing countries, which are apparent from the documents before us. For example, we see in Table 1 of C 91/2-Sup. 1 that the trend of food production will go down from 3.1 to 1.1 percent, and agricultural production from 3.1 to 1 percent; also, overall world production will go down from about 2 to minus 0.5 percent and agricultural production from 2.1 to 0.1 percent, according to information available up to August 1991. This would mean a negative per capita income, and negative per capita food production for many developing countries.

We also learn from this document that food cereal stocks will, at the end of 1991-92, be at their lowest since 1983-84 and below the 17 or 18 percent which FAO considers to be the minimum requirement for food security.

The Philippine delegation wishes to express its concern about the unfavourable situation of world trade. For example, the value of agricultural trade of developing countries continues to be depressed. Prices of commodities traded in the world from developing countries have fallen by almost double the price of those exported by the developed countries. Food imports for developing countries have gone up by 14 percent from 48 billion to 61 billion. The share of developing countries in the export of agricultural products continues to be eroded, and is now down to about one quarter of all of the total exports.

Agricultural policy reforms in developing countries, required as part of the structural adjustment, have reduced the role of governments in production, pricing, and marketing of products. There is now growing evidence that this has negatively affected food production. In certain developed countries, however, the level of protection has not diminished and in fact has reached record levels.

In this connection, we, the Philippine delegation, deplore that agricultural trade protectionism has grown during the past decades, as reflected in the measures for support of production, and, while there have been few instances of significant improvements in market access conditions for some developing countries, subsidization of exports has caused even greater distortion in world agricultural trade. As the delegate of Argentina pointed out earlier, this topic has been emphasized by the delegates of Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Like those delegations, we would like to stress the need for a major reform in the agricultural sector, and the importance of achieving an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Failure of the Uruguay Round could worsen this depressing situation, but we see no signals which give us any ground for optimism.

We would also like to stress the value of the work being done by the various commodity bodies in FAO to provide us with information, and the decisions of the Executive Board of the Common Fund to designate the eight

intergovernmental groups as international commodity bodies. We hope that this will produce an improvement in the agricultural trade of developing countries.

Lindorfo ORTET (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord, M. le Président, permettez-nous malgré l'heure tardive de nous joindre aux précédents orateurs pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission chargée d'examiner les questions qui concernent l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans le monde.

C'est pour nous un motif de joie de voir le Cap-Vert cité dans le document comme un des rares pays qui a accru sensiblement sa production alimentaire par habitant. Malheureusement cette année, le Cap-Vert a été frappé encore une fois par une sécheresse qui affecte directement la production vivrière, les pâturages et l'approvisionnement en eau. Des programmes d'urgence ont été lancés, notamment pour la sauvegarde du bétail et l'approvisionnement en eau potable des populations rurales des zones les plus éloignées des points d'eau.

Les dernières missions d'évaluation conjointes FAO/CILSS sur la situation agricole et alimentaire ont recommandé la poursuite de l'aide alimentaire, car la production vivrière couvrira à peine 5 pour cent des besoins alimentaires au niveau national.

Malgré les sécheresses périodiques qui sévissent dans le pays, le peuple cap-verdien ne cesse de se battre avec insistance pour améliorer ses conditions de vie et éloigner le spectre de la faim.

Ma délégation félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis, et apporte son soutien aux déclarations de quelques pays africains en ce qui concerne le renforcement du Programme Engrais en Afrique.

Pour ce qui est de la situation phytosanitaire, notre position insulaire nous permet de bien mener la lutte contre les ennemis des cultures, notamment la lutte biologique, qui a déjà connu des résultats très satisfaisants. Cela facilite la mise en oeuvre du programme de développement pour une agriculture durable.

Emiliano GONZALES BLANCO (México): Les representantes de México, señor Presidente, hemos leído con detenimiento el documento C 91/2, y felicitamos a la Secretaría por su extraordinaria labor.

Preocupan a México las pocas expectativas de crecimiento en la producción y comercialización de los alimentos en los países en desarrollo y, particularmente, en América Latina.

Señor Presidente, los representantes de México por la limitación de tiempo a las que hace referencia, resumiremos nuestra declaración y solamente nos referiremos a un punto concreto, pero entregaremos por escrito el documento completo para que se incluya en el informe del Comité.

México se quiere adherir a las propuestas de Argentina, Australia, Nueva Zelandia, entre otros, a fin de que esta Conferencia haga un fuerte llamado a las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT para obtener un resultado pronto y significativo.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Statement of the delegation of Mexico will be duly included in the verbatim report of the proceedings, as will a written statement from the representative of the EEC on this item.

Emiliano GONZALES BLANCO (México): Los representantes de México hemos leído con detenimiento el documento C 91/2 y felicitamos a la Secretaría por su extraordinaria labor.

Preocupan a México las pocas expectativas de crecimiento en la producción y comercialización de los alimentos en los países en desarrollo, particularmente en América Latina.

Como se menciona en el documento, consideramos las difíciles situaciones económicas en los países en desarrollo y las grandes distorsiones del comercio exterior agroalimentario como las principales causas de esta preocupante situación agrícola mundial.

Sin embargo, como también se destaca en el documento, México ha logrado incrementar su producción agrícola.

Esto se debe a que nuestra economía se estabiliza y crece a casi el doble de la población.

Afortunadamente esta recuperación económica se da en casi todos los sectores. Nuestra producción agroalimentaria también se recupera.

En 1989 tuvimos una caída en la producción agrícola del 4 por ciento, para 1990 crecimos más del 3 por ciento y en el primer semestre de 1991 nuestra producción ha crecido casi 7 por ciento en términos anuales reales.

Particularmente hemos incrementado nuestra producción de productos básicos, logrando por primera vez en más de 20 años la autosuficiencia alimentaria en maíz y en frijol, elementos básicos de la dieta del mexicano.

Sin embargo, no hemos alcanzado nuestro objetivo nacional de modernización del campo y vemos al sector agroalimentario como un reto complejo y urgente.

México y otros países estamos realizando internamente lo necesario para modernizar nuestro sector agrícola, pero hemos encontrado que el comercio exterior agropecuario está fuertemente distorsionado por los altos subsidios a la producción, así como por las medidas proteccionistas en algunos países desarrollados.

Observábamos con preocupación la falta de voluntad política de algunos de estos países desarrollados para regular el comercio de productos agrícolas en el seno de las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT'.

El desarrollo de la agricultura no puede quedarse a la espera de avances en los foros comerciales multilaterales, por lo que México, ha buscado suplir esta falla del sistema multilateral de comercio mediante el establecimiento de acuerdos subregionales de libre comercio con el sur y con el norte. Somos conscientes de que estos acuerdos sólo benefician a unos pocos países, por lo que tenemos la firme convicción de que se requieren avances significativos en GATT.

Solamente con un comercio agroalimentario más libre se podrá estimular la producción y la comercialización de alimentos en los países en desarrollo dados los cambios generalizados hacia economías de mercado.

Señor Presidente, esperamos que la Conferencia de la FAO, como lo han pedido otros miembros, haga una fuerte llamada a los negociadores de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT para obtener avances significativos en el ordenamiento del comercio exterior agroalimentario. Muchas gracias.¹

Gianpaolo PAPA (CEE): Les documents C 91/2 et C 91/2-Sup.I fournissent à nouveau une description intéressante et utile des principales tendances de la production, de la consommation et des échanges de denrées alimentaires et de produits agricoles. Ils représentent donc une excellente base pour la discussion des aspects essentiels.

En ce qui concerne la situation globale de l'offre et de la demande pour les céréales, nous avons vu une légère amélioration par rapport à la période précédente. Toutefois, il nous semble que s'il y avait un problème, ce problème serait moins lié à la situation globale de l'offre et de la demande qu'à des déséquilibres qui existent dans les différentes régions du monde.

Il est en effet inquiétant que, selon des projections à moyen et long terme, une partie grandissante du commerce international consisterait en des ventes à des conditions de faveur et en de l'aide alimentaire. Une telle situation ne représente pas seulement une perspective douteuse pour les pays exportateurs mais elle devrait être alarmante pour les pays en voie de développement eux-mêmes.

En ce qui concerne la situation des pays exportateurs, il serait contradictoire de les exhorter pour qu'ils réduisent le soutien à la production et aux exportations et d'attendre d'eux en même temps le maintien du niveau actuel de stocks qui sont souvent le résultat d'une production excédentaire. Ceci est plus vrai encore pour les pays exportateurs nets en voie de développement qui souhaitent voir les prix mondiaux en augmentation et des perspectives d'exportations améliorées mais qui ne considèrent probablement pas comme une tâche principale d'entretenir des stocks pour être en mesure de répondre à des pénuries alimentaires. Des ventes à des conditions de faveur ou de l'aide alimentaire de leur part pour des pays en développement souffrant de famine apparaissent encore moins probables.

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Pour les pays en voie de développement dépendant pour une large partie des céréales importées, ceci signifie que les efforts d'ajustements structurels doivent être intensifiés substantiellement aussi bien pour des raisons de sécurité alimentaire que sous l'aspect du développement social et économique. Ceci reste vrai même si l'engagement des pays donateurs de fournir en cas de besoin de l'aide alimentaire n'est pas en question.

Au paragraphe 13 du document devant nous, il est noté: "Dans la quasi-totalité des pays un trait commun aux stratégies déterminant l'orientation de l'agriculture a été de reconnaître la nécessité d'un désengagement de l'Etat et d'une libéralisation des marchés mais aussi des mécanismes de fixation des prix et du régime du commerce extérieur". Nous espérons que ceci signifie que le secteur agricole dans les pays en voie de développement reçoit la reconnaissance et la juste compensation pour sa contribution aux économies nationales qu'il mérite.

Toutefois, si on regarde les tendances récentes de la production agricole, discutées aux paragraphes 38 et suivants du document en présence, ces tendances sont assez inquiétantes concernant l'Afrique ainsi que l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes.

La Communauté ne peut donc que reconformer sa position qu'un vigoureux ajustement structurel de l'agriculture vers un niveau plus élevé de l'autosuffisance alimentaire est le seul moyen pour les pays en voie de développement dépendant des importations alimentaires, d'assurer une évolution satisfaisante à moyen et long terme. La Communauté continuera à assister de tels efforts dans la plus grande mesure possible.

Si l'aide alimentaire ne peut et ne doit donc pas être un substitut pour l'ajustement structurel, nous reconnaissons qu'il sera dans un avenir prévisible, toujours nécessaire d'intervenir avec l'aide alimentaire pour réduire la souffrance des hommes et pour contribuer au développement économique et social. Pour cette raison, la Communauté ne maintient pas seulement le niveau existant de son aide mais, en plus du programme important déjà envisagé, une quantité additionnelle de 400 000 tonnes de céréales est en train d'être mobilisée pour l'Afrique cette année-ci.

Ceci démontre clairement que l'engagement de la Communauté pour les pays en voie de développement n'a pas diminué, même si la Communauté doit répondre simultanément aux défis apparus en Europe centrale et en Europe de l'Est. En outre, nous n'avons pas le moindre doute que le progrès dans ces pays vers la démocratie et une économie saine représentera à moyen et long terme un avantage également pour les pays en voie de développement plutôt que quelque chose à craindre.

Ceci m'amène à la question de l'intégration et coopération économiques aux niveaux régional et sous-régional qui est également mise en relief dans le document devant nous.

En ce qui concerne la Communauté européenne, elle n'est pas seulement en train de développer davantage sa cohésion et coopération intérieures mais elle a également récemment conclu des négociations avec l'Autriche, la Finlande, l'Islande, la Norvège, la Suède, la Suisse et le Liechtenstein, qui sont les membres de l'Association Européenne de Libre Echange (AELE), en vue de la création d'un Espace Economique Européen encore plus large.

En parallèle, des accords d'association sont en train d'être finalisés avec la Hongrie, la Tchécoslovaquie et la Pologne qui faciliteront beaucoup la continuation de la coopération et l'intégration économique. Enfin, des accords commerciaux de différents types sont en train d'être négociés avec d'autres pays dans la région.

Si je mentionne ces évolutions plus en détail, je le fais avec le seul objectif d'encourager des évolutions similaires dans d'autres parties du monde. Un bon nombre de questions d'équilibre entre offre et demande pourraient être résolues si la coopération régionale devenait un fait général. La Communauté est prête à assister de tels efforts régionaux de coopération et d'intégration dans la plus grande mesure possible.

Finalement, quelques mots sur le programme de réforme agricole de la Communauté elle-même et sur l'Uruguay Round. Comme l'explique plus en détail en plénière le Commissaire MAC SHARRY, nous sommes relativement optimistes concernant l'aboutissement de ces deux entreprises.

Même si des détails de la réforme de la Politique Agricole Commune sont encore en discussion, il y a une claire concordance de vues au sein du Conseil des Ministres de la Communauté européenne sur la nécessité de réforme et des éléments majeurs de celle-ci. En même temps, nous constatons que les négociations d'Uruguay ont à nouveau gagné de la vitesse et nous ferons tout ce qui nous est possible pour aboutir à leur conclusion satisfaisante. Evidemment, une telle conclusion satisfaisante ne dépend pas seulement de l'agriculture mais aussi d'autres sujets tels que les textiles, les services et les droits de propriété intellectuelle.

En ce qui concerne la négociation agricole, beaucoup seront d'accord avec moi pour dire qu'il ne s'agit à la fin pas d'une question de pourcentages de réduction du soutien ou de la protection, mais d'un problème de direction. En tous cas, ce serait une tragédie, en particulier pour les pays en voie de développement, si l'opportunité était manquée de créer la base pour une amélioration majeure du système mondial des échanges de denrées alimentaires et de produits agricoles.

J'aimerais donc encourager la FAO à assister au maximum les pays en voie de développement lors du stade final des négociations de l'Uruguay Round et ensuite avec son conseil et par l'identification de nouvelles opportunités de marché qui résulteront des réformes, pour que les pays en voie de développement puissent en bénéficier autant que possible.¹

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): It is getting late. We will be meeting not only tomorrow, but Saturday as well. We will meet from 9.30 to 12.30 and from 2.30 to 5.30. Furthermore, it is incumbent on us to complete the entire consideration of Item 6 during that period.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I would like to make an intervention at this time.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I gave you the Floor, but not to make your statement because I believe you have already done so. Did you want to move to another point or another item? I believe you have already addressed the Commission on Item 6 of the Agenda, if I am not mistaken.

Masayuki KOHATSU (Japan): Yes, Mr Chairman, as you have said, we have already taken the Floor but we missed one important part that I would like to comment on - this is fisheries. So we would like to make a statement because we think the subject of fisheries is very important, if you will allow me to do so.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The hour is late. Would you be willing to have your comments regarding fisheries included in the verbatim report? Would that satisfy you? In that way your remarks regarding fisheries in any case would appear in the published form of the verbatim record.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I appreciate your indulgence, Mr Chairman, but if you will allow me to express this view in front of our members, I would appreciate it. But I leave the final decision to you.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): If the intent is to introduce a new item for discussion on this point or for inclusion in the verbatim text without it being properly aired and discussed, that might present problems because if new material is introduced which might be reflected in the adoption of the report for which no other members have the opportunity to react, I think that is probably not a good idea. My suggestion is, given what you have said, Mr Chairman, that the best procedure to follow is to cut off debate at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I apologize to the delegate of Japan, but we have already given you the Floor on this item and we do not have any more time now.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/3

Twenty-sixth Session

Vingt-sixième session

26° período de sesiones

COMMISSION I

COMMISSION I

COMISION I

THIRD MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE TERCERA SESION

(14 November 1991)

The Third Meeting was opened at 20.00 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 20 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 20.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As you know, at the end of our previous meeting we had reached the end of our list of speakers on this item. There has been a request from Japan that we should include their intervention in the verbatim record. The Japanese intervention will be included in the verbatim record, together with the reactions and replies of Australia, Canada and the United States. We hope that those four countries will be able to hand in their respective statements to the Secretariat for inclusion in the record of our meeting. Angola and Bangladesh would also like their statements included.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): I would like to make an intervention on the fisheries issue. As it is forecasted that the world population will increase rapidly, fisheries will be the important industry that will supply the animal protein for the human beings, and it is a vitally important task for all nations of the world to ensure the sustainable development of the recyclable fisheries resources.

In order to achieve this task, it is indispensable to seek the appropriate conservation and rational utilization of the fisheries resources, harmonizing protection of the environment through the scientific evidence available.

However, when we see the current situation for worldwide fisheries and environment, we face worrying problems in order to ensure the sustainable development of fisheries in the future.

These are the problems on the large-scale driftnet fishery in the high seas, the bluefin tuna issue as well as the whaling issue.

These are the arguments used by the environmental protectionist. If we succumb to movements to ban fisheries activities through political pressures, we will face total ban or the severe restriction on all fisheries with the argument by the environmentalists that the fisheries will exert the adverse effects on the sustainabilities of the environment, and it becomes difficult to achieve the sustainable development.

Let me touch upon these specific issues.

On the large-scale driftnet issue, environmentalist groups kept condemning the large-scale driftnet because of its scale, incidental take, and waste of marine living resources.

Although it is a fact that the Japanese fisheries vessels use 50 km long driftnets, they are effectively used in the high sea areas where there is density of distribution of marine living resources, and this fishing technique is suitable to be used in the high sea areas. Furthermore, although environmentalists stress that such driftnets are used all over the North Pacific, Japanese driftnet vessels operate, even during the peak season, in the area which shares only 1.7 percent of the entire North Pacific Ocean. The fishing gears of driftnet are widely used in the areas world-wide and even the small-scale driftnet used in the coastal areas, if they are used in the aggregate number of 1 000 or 10 000 vessels, will exert the adverse effects on the stocks worse than those by the large-scale driftnet fisheries.

Concerning the incidental take, the fisheries are different from the agriculture and livestock industries which are conducted for the production of foods under the artificial surrounding and the fisheries utilizes the parts of natural ecosystem, therefore it is inevitable to cause the incidental take to some extent. Accordingly the negation of the incidental take will lead to the negation of the fisheries themselves and Japan understands that the incidental take should be allowed. Such incidental take will fall in the domain where reproduction of such marine living resources of incidental take is virtually sustained.

There is also a question on whether it is appropriate to catch only targeted species or to thinly catch all creatures belonging to the entire ecosystems.

On nature of wastefulness, I think the wastefulness attributes, more or less to all fisheries activities for example, the shrimp trawling conducted in the Gulf of Mexico dumps more than 90 percent of the catches and in the case of the Japanese squid driftnet, a major portion of the incidental take and dumping of the fisheries is pompet and the industry has launched its utilization for maximum use.

The issue of driftnet fisheries should be solved based on the scientific foundation and grounds. Japan naturally respects the UN Resolution 44/225 adopted in 1989 and, pursuant to the context of the Resolution, Japan has sincerely and wholeheartedly executed the scientific research programme and the Japanese squid driftnet vessels have accepted 74 scientific observers on board to collect the scientifically significant data, based on such data the scientific review meeting was held in June this year. At this meeting majority of the species of the incidental take was concluded at the level of the negligible input on respective stocks and some species are concluded that further research to obtain more information should be conducted.

Accordingly, Japan understands that the spirit of the UN Resolution 44/225 of 1989 is to establish effective conservation and management measures for the fisheries having the additional information obtained from the 1991 scientific observer programmes.

We are of the view that such a movement to crush the selected fisheries is allowed in the international society disregarding the scientific data, any other fisheries may face the same treatment to lead to the circumstance where any nation may suffer, from its fishing industry being crushed.

If the same approach is used, the driftnet fisheries in the Baltic Sea conducted by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland, Sweden and the USSR should be immediately ceased because of the lack of scientific information. The driftnet fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic should also be used for the same reason.

Japan is willing to find a solution on this issue based upon the scientific judgement and rational consideration with the close consultation between concerned countries and we are determined to introduce the measures to significantly reduce the incidental take and promote the effective use of an uneconomical species. Therefore we would like to seek for the understanding of the Member Nations of FAO on the principal of sustainable fisheries based upon the scientific grounds.

On bluefin tuna; one nation filed proposition to list the Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Appendix of CITES (Convention on International Trade Endangered Species). However, the Atlantic bluefin tuna has been managed by ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) for more than 20 years based on the scientific grounds. ICCAT which has the most competent knowledge on the Atlantic bluefin tuna has never presented the view that the Atlantic bluefin is being endangered. We are of the view that the fisheries resources should be managed through the Fishery Management Organization based on the principle of the conservation and rational use of the resources and it is inappropriate that CITES will intervene into the fishery resources management. At the CITES meeting in March next year, the commercial fish species will be discussed for the first time. Japan would like to urge the Member Nations to send delegates representing the fishery interest to the CITES meeting in order to reflect the views of fishery interests.

Whale stocks should also be managed on scientific grounds and we think reopening the use of whale species should take place according to the spirit of the International Whaling Convention that seeks to ensure sustainable use based on the best available scientific knowledge as far as the large cetacean is concerned.

Japan is of the view that the small cetacean should be managed through regional organizations given the fact that marine mammal distribution and catches varies from region to region. Japan would also like to urge FAO to revitalize Marine Mammal Action Plan as soon as possible.¹

Michael CARROLL (Australia): Mr Chairman, notwithstanding the view of the delegate of Japan, Australia maintains its view that large-scale driftnet fishing poses a serious threat to fishery resources and the marine environment in a number of the world's oceans.

Australia is particularly concerned at the impact of driftnet fishing in the Indian Ocean on albacore resources, the marine environment generally and on the already severely depleted stocks of southern bluefin tuna.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

We therefore urge FAO members to press for a full and timely implementation of the provisions of the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/225, namely to support a resolution of this year's Assembly which confirms the commencement of a global moratorium on large-scale high seas pelagic driftnet fishing by 1 July 1992.

Resolution 44/225 required proof that driftnetting activities could be managed to satisfy regional environmental concerns if operations were to continue beyond 1 July 1992. Australia believes that the evidence which has emerged over the last two years about the impact of driftnet fishing more than vindicates the initial concerns embodied in Resolution 44/225.

It is for these reasons that Australia believes that the moratorium on driftnet fishing should proceed on schedule and urges the endorsement of Resolution 44/225.

Please excuse me for intervening, Mr Chairman, but since a new issue has been introduced into the debate, which my delegation did not cover earlier, we would like to make only one, brief related statement. We wish to reaffirm the importance which Canada attaches to UN Resolution 44/225, endorsing a moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific by 30 June 1992.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.¹

David DRAKE (Canada): Please excuse me for intervening, Mr Chairman, but since a new issue has been introduced into the debate, which my delegation did not cover earlier, we would like to make only one, brief related statement.

We wish to re-affirm the importance which Canada attaches to UN Resolution 44/225, endorsing a moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific by June 30, 1992.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.²

Ms Carol J. KRAMER (United States of America): Large-scale pelagic driftnet fisheries expanded rapidly in high seas regions of the world since the early 1980s. The driftnets used in these fisheries are often between 20 and 50 kilometres in length and are deployed nightly in upper 10-15 metres of the water column near the sea surface. Numerous non-target living marine resources are killed indiscriminately and wastefully in high seas driftnet fisheries for squid and tuna/billfish, including various marine mammal, seabird, sea turtle and other fish species.

Over 1 000 driftnet vessels, mostly from Japan, Korea and Taiwan are currently utilizing the high seas driftnet fishing technique.

Growing international concern on the issue of driftnet fishing led to the adoption by consensus of a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution in 1989 which highlighted the adverse affects posed by the

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing technique. Among other things, the resolution called for an immediate cessation of further expansion of large-scale driftnet fishing on the high seas; a review of available scientific data on the effects of high seas driftnetting by 30 June 1991; cessation of large-scale driftnet fishing in the South Pacific by 1 July 1991; and, moratoria on all large-scale driftnet fishing by 30 June 1992, unless jointly agreed to conservation and management measures can be taken to prevent unacceptable impacts posed by the fishing method.

A second resolution reaffirming the first one was adopted in December of last year.

The scientific data collected through US negotiated scientific monitoring agreements with Korea, Japan, and Taiwan to assess the impacts such fisheries have on the North Pacific marine environment have proven conclusively the wasteful nature and deleterious impact of this fishing technique on high seas living marine resources. To suggest that discussions within the UN General Assembly are politically motivated and without scientific basis is absurd, in our view. The unacceptable environmental problems posed by this fishing method has prompted the US and the other nations of the world to table a Resolution at the Forty-sixth UNGA calling for this type of fishing to cease. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

This is a very important environmental issue to the US because of broad Congressional and public interest, and the strong conviction based on the scientific data of the very serious and permanent threat that the fishery poses to the high seas marine environment. On October 18, President Bush reported to the Congress that he fully expects all those engaged in the high seas to cease driftnetting by 30 June 1992.¹

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola): M. le Président, la délégation angolaise se félicite de votre élection à la tête de la Commission I appelée à discuter sur les principales tendances et questions de politique en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture. Grâce à votre expérience et sagesse nos assises seront couronnées de succès.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également au Secrétariat pour le document qu'il nous a soumis pour examen. La délégation angolaise, disais-je, n'oublie pas de féliciter et remercier Mr Dutia pour l'exposé qu'il nous a présenté d'une façon simple et sans ambiguïté.

Concernant le document C 91/2 soumis à notre examen, le premier chapitre nous résume déjà la situation mondiale en présentant tour à tour le panorama économique mondial selon les pays, la production alimentaire et agricole, le commerce agricole, l'assistance extérieure et l'aide alimentaire, les pêches et les forêts. Parmi les pays qui souffrent le document cite les pays en développement et l'Afrique subsaharienne en particulier:

Si vous me le permettez, je lirai quelques passages du document qui constituent pour les pays en voie de développement une situation de détresse. Je cite: L'environnement économique général a été plutôt

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

défavorable à l'agriculture, tant en 1990 qu'en 1991. La crise du Golfe a eu des effets néfastes sur l'économie de maints pays en développement. Plusieurs facteurs ont aggravé des problèmes qui sont désormais familiers aux pays en développement notamment la dette extérieure, la difficulté d'accès aux marchés des pays développés et la faiblesse des cours mondiaux des principaux produits qu'ils exportent.

Si les perspectives pour 1992 s'annoncent meilleures pour les pays industrialisés en termes de croissance en volume du commerce mondial, celle des pays en développement confrontés au protectionnisme et autres facteurs imposés par les pays développés sont décourageants.

Je voudrais maintenant parler de l'Angola. Comme la Communauté internationale le sait, mon pays a été confronté à deux problèmes majeurs: la guerre civile qui a sévit pendant presque seize ans et la sécheresse depuis quelques quatre années consécutives.

Ces deux facteurs ont désarticulé le système de production paysanne et ont affecté l'état nutritionnel des populations dans leurs zones d'origine comme dans les villes. Ceci a eu comme effet direct l'exode rural et un accroissement de la population autour des grandes villes du pays qui n'étaient pas préparées à la recevoir: l'élevage aussi a subi les effets de la sécheresse. Ainsi l'abandon de grandes zones agricoles et les médiocres résultats des entreprises d'Etat ont eu comme conséquence des grandes pénuries alimentaires comme dit le document C 91/2 à la page 21. Aujourd'hui la production alimentaire et agricole est presque inexistante: le peu de maïs et de manioc que produit le pays ne suffit pas à satisfaire les besoins internes du pays. Pour satisfaire les nécessités de la population, le pays est obligé d'allouer des fonds considérables pour l'achat des produits alimentaires. Cette situation pourra continuer d'ici quelques années à cause de la peur que ressent la population rurale à cause des mines.

Dieu merci, l'Accord de Bicesse au Portugal signé en juin 1991 a permis aux Angolais de regarder le futur avec sérénité. Ainsi je peux vous assurer que l'opération de déminage est déjà en cours.

D'autre part mon Gouvernement a pris une série de mesures économiques pour trouver des solutions aux problèmes que traverse le pays.

L'Angola qui doit d'abord compter sur ses propres forces attend aussi beaucoup de la Communauté internationale; de la coopération sud-sud comme l'a dit la délégation de la République démocratique et populaire de Corée.

Les programmes de développement qui ont été préparés en temps de guerre doivent être actualisés pour les rendre faisables en temps de paix.

L'Angola compte aussi beaucoup sur la FAO comme Chef de file en ce qui concerne l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Le Directeur général ne l'a-t-il pas dit en parlant dans sa déclaration du rôle de la FAO qui est irremplaçable.

Après avoir entendu plusieurs délégations qui nous ont précédé et surtout celles des PVD, je peux vous affirmer que c'est un cri de détresse qui a été lancé. D'ailleurs la délégation française a dit hier que trois sentiments ressortent de la lecture du document C 91/2: le découragement,

l'angoisse et l'espoir. Je profite de l'opportunité qui m'est donnée pour appuyer ses conclusions, ainsi que les déclarations de leurs Excellences les Ministres de l'Agriculture du Chili et de la Nouvelle-Zélande prononcées à la plénière hier matin.

Une fois de plus je vous remercie pour m'avoir accordé la parole.¹

K.M. RABBANI (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, we have heard the intervention of the representatives of various countries on Agenda Item 6 giving a brief outline of the state of agriculture in their respective countries.

I would like to give a brief account of the agriculture sector in Bangladesh and our policies for the future.

The contribution of agriculture to GDP in Bangladesh was 38.9 percent in 1990-91 compared to 50.4 percent in 1984-85. Nevertheless, the sector's dominating role in the economy continues to exist and undoubtedly this will remain so for a long period. Currently it employs around 60 percent of the civilian labour force. Around 74 percent of the effective land area of the country is under crop production. Crops account for almost 78 percent of the agricultural value added while livestock and poultry account for 7.6 percent, fisheries 7.5 percent and forestry 6.6 percent. In 1990-91, the agriculture growth rate was recorded at 2.4 percent. During 1977-1987 period the growth rate was around 2.1 percent. During 1977-1989 period the growth in value added of forestry, fisheries and livestock has been 3.3, 2.3 and 2.7 percent, respectively.

The crop agriculture accounts for almost 72 percent of the agricultural output and about 27 percent of the GDP and as such this sector has a direct impact on employment generation, poverty alleviation, human resources development and food security. The government policy laid stress on rapid expansion of irrigation, fertilizer, and seed technology. Such policies have contributed to certain positive results. The foodgrain production in 1990-91 is estimated at about 19 million tons compared to about 15 million tons in 1980-81, and 9 million tons in 1970-71.

The overall foodgrain production growth rate in 1990-91 was 2.6 percent as against a population growth rate of 2.2 percent while other crops like jute, tobacco, pulses and oilseeds experienced negative production trends.

The fertilizer consumption has increased considerably over the years. Recent policy changes have accelerated fertilizer distribution by private sector. By May 1991, private sector shares in the fertilizer market accounted for 77.1 percent compared to 49 percent in July-August 1989.

The policy changes regarding minor irrigation specially lifting of import ban and duties on pumps and engines and removal of the regulation on "standardized" engines resulted in substantial price decrease, boosted private sales of minor irrigation equipment and resulted in accelerated expansion of irrigated area.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Pesticide trade in Bangladesh is fully privatized and there is no subsidy on pesticide. But the pesticide price remains high and a large number of poor farmers cannot afford to buy it. With the help of FAO's regional network, we have started introduction of IPM technology in Bangladesh. A recent study shows that in a number of locations where this technology was introduced on an experimental basis, the cost of pesticide was reduced by about 70 percent with no decrease in output, rather the output increased to some extent. We acknowledge with thanks the pioneering work done by Dr Ken Moore and his colleagues in Bangladesh in this regard. We feel very happy that FAO has given due recognition to the work of Dr Ken Moore in the countries of our region and has given him the prestigious B.R. Sen award which he richly deserves. Our heartiest congratulations to Dr Ken Moore.

Fisheries in Bangladesh contribute about 6 percent to the country's GDP, more than 12 percent to the export earnings and about 80 percent to the nation's protein intake. Fisheries resources are generated both from marine and inland water bodies. The growth rate of fisheries both in terms of production and employment over the last few decades had been slow, although in the case of marine fisheries the performance has been satisfactory. In 1988-89 it contributed around 28 percent to the total catch of fish compared to 17 percent in 1977-78. Both in terms of quantity and value, the export and export earnings from fisheries experienced considerable increase over the years, mainly owing to the rapid growth of shrimp production and export.

The livestock and poultry sub-sector contributes about 6.5 percent to the country's GDP, almost 10 percent to the agricultural GDP, about 13 percent to the country's total foreign exchange earnings (hides and skins, leather) and around 20 percent to the nation's animal protein intake. The per capita availability of bovine animals has decreased considerably over the years while the same has increased to some extent in the case of goats and poultry. During the 1980s the sub-sector's annual growth rate declined and averaged around 3 percent compared to about 5 percent during the 1970s.

Despite its relatively lower contribution to the country's GDP (around 3 percent), the forestry sub-sector as one of the major renewable natural resources and as the major source of a number of natural resources like timber, fuelwood, bamboo and fruits, etc., plays an important role in the economy.

Rapid and continuous deforestation and degradation of forest resources have broadened the demand-supply gap of forest resources in Bangladesh. The loss of forests due to deforestation adversely affects land and water resources, wildlife, ecology and the environment. In many parts of Bangladesh soils have become impoverished and have lost their water-holding capacity, the succession of floods and droughts has increased.

Our main policies in the agricultural sector are as follows: attain self-sufficiency in food production and increase production of the nutritional crops by crop diversification; promote production of cash crops like jute and tea for export and of cotton and sugar cane for import substitution; changing the nature of agriculture through more emphasis on relatively low-risk irrigation-based agriculture rather than on higher risk-prone monsoon-based agriculture; encourage private sector for supply and distribution of agricultural inputs and gradual elimination of subsidies to promote free market mechanism; promote public sector

investment in rural infrastructure like roads, electricity, etc., for overall rural development including agricultural development and alleviation of poverty; promote the participation and role of women in agricultural development projects; take up special programmes for relatively backward and difficult regions; promote agricultural research and extension; ensure effective and efficient pest management without heavy dependence on application of pesticide and promote introduction of integrated pest management technology; to promote fisheries and increase fish production both for domestic consumption and export; to promote the development of livestock and poultry; and to conserve the forest resources and expand the tree cover area of the country with a view to increasing the supply of forest products and also to improve the overall environmental conditions of the country.

Mr Chairman, we strongly feel that developing countries like Bangladesh which have a favourable agro-ecological condition for agricultural production should be given all out support and assistance by the international agencies and bilateral development partners for accelerated growth of agricultural development and for increasing production of food and other nutritional crops. This will not only lead to alleviation of rural poverty and promotion of income and employment in the developing countries but this will also ensure global food security which is so vital in view of the increasing world population. Regional and international cooperation need to be strengthened for agricultural development in the developing countries through training, research, development, institutional framework, appropriate policy adjustments and introduction of new proven farm management and production technologies for sustained and accelerated growth.

I thank you Mr Chairman.¹

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As we have reached the end of our list of speakers on this item, I will now call upon Mr Dutia, the representative of the Secretariat, who will answer the various queries which have been raised during our discussion this afternoon.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): This was a substantive and rich debate in which some fifty delegations made important interventions. We are on the whole gratified by the satisfaction that the delegates generally expressed on the analysis of the food and agricultural situation as contained in the two documents presented to the Conference.

We also gratefully acknowledge the valuable information that distinguished delegates have provided to us on the food and agricultural situation in their own countries and regions.

We acknowledge also the corrections that have been made and the updating of the information contained in the documents. I can assure distinguished delegates that when the document is finalized for publication, all these corrections and updated information will be included by the Secretariat.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

We also have taken careful note of the various suggestions that have been made by distinguished delegates for future improvements of the SOFA documents. We will try to follow them up as much as possible.

Some distinguished delegates also referred to the late receipt of the Supplementary Document under this Agenda Item. We regret this, but I would like to mention that in order that the supplementary document on this Agenda Item includes as up-to-date information as possible, we have to make sure that this is published at a time which would still be in time for the translation and dispatch. We are especially constrained by the fact that the information on trade comes in rather late, but we shall indeed try to improve on this situation to the maximum extent possible in the future.

I would now like to turn to some of the questions and observations that have been made by the distinguished delegates during their interventions.

Firstly, I would like to refer to the remarks and dissertations made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark concerning the lack of policy discussions in this document so far.

We have taken careful note of the view that the SOFA document as presented does not bring out policy aspects and implications, and thus does not help delegates to discuss the policy issues and implications under this Agenda Item. We have also noted the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark on how this situation could be improved, including his specific suggestion to consider the items on the State of Food and Agriculture and on the Progress Report on the International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines together.

We shall consider these suggestions seriously, and also possibly other ways of highlighting policy issues arising from the Review of the World Food and Agricultural Situation. We shall also try to put them, as he desired, in the context of the longer term trends.

I may, nevertheless, add that there may be some advantage in having a document which reports on the factual developments and the situation, as distinct from a full discussion of all the policy issues.

I may also mention that there are several other documents which are submitted to the Conference in which policy issues are discussed in a longer term perspective, and they indeed allow the debate on this document to focus on the policy implications and the needed actions. For example, as delegates will recall, at the last Conference in 1989 there was a document on long-term strategy for the food and agricultural sector. This year, there are two such documents. One is the Medium-Term Plan, which is being discussed in Commission II, and the other is the Progress Report on the International Agricultural Adjustment - the item which we are about to discuss. At the next Session of the Conference there will be the revised Agriculture: Towards 2000, which will look ahead to the year 2010, and which will also highlight policy issues and action needs. Nonetheless, as I mentioned before, we shall give serious consideration to the suggestions made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark to include and highlight policy issues and implications which are also in the SOFA document.

Let me now turn to the questions and concerns raised by a number of delegates concerning the use of stock data and also the estimation methods used for supply/demand balances, including consumption and stock-to-consumption ratios.

Firstly, in response to the question posed by the distinguished delegate from the United States, I would like to point out that we do already provide aggregate supply and utilization balances for different major cereals - that is, wheat, coarse grains and rice - in the Annual Report on the Assessment of the Food Security Situation to the Committee on World Food Security. There would therefore be no difficulty in updating this information for inclusion in the SOFA document as well in the future. In fact, updating of the several elements in these balances is a continuing function that we do undertake in relation to the monthly Food Outlook Reports which are issued under the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System.

The distinguished delegate of the United States also asked whether we could give information on methods and technicalities of the calculations of trend levels and cereal utilization and ratios of stocks to utilizations. I shall give the information briefly here, and suggest that if further details are needed my staff will be very happy to discuss them with the distinguished delegate, as well as with any other delegates who might be interested. In brief, what I would like to state here is that utilization is extrapolated from time series data using the 14 most recent years' information. In the case referred to in paragraph 21 of document C 91/2-Sup.I, I can confirm that the extrapolation is up to the marketing year 1992-93, and the level of projected utilization is then compared with the forecast of global closing stocks at the end of the current marketing year - that is, 1991-92.

The distinguished delegate of Sweden and also several other delegates questioned the usefulness of using the stock-to-consumption ratio as an indicator of global food security. First, I would like to emphasize that the assessments of the world food security situation by the FAO Secretariat are not based fully on the monitoring of the global stock level. In fact, we use a wide range of indicators which are continuously monitored by our staff. We shall indeed make all efforts in our future documentation, including SOFA, to ensure that the food security assessments are increasingly based on the consideration of this wider set of data and indicators. The Secretariat is aware, as much as are the distinguished delegates who have spoken on this subject, that the stock indicator has several limitations. We recognize that this aggregation of stocks of all cereals, whether held by developing or developed countries, whether importing or exporting countries, it is based on carryover stock levels at different times of the year, depending on the cropping calendars of different countries, and thus this indicator does not capture variations in distribution of stocks over time by country or by specific type of cereal. It therefore needs to be viewed as a rather rough indicator which, again, should be used in conjunction with other available information.

However, despite these limitations, our experience over many years confirms that when global cereal stocks remain below the level of 17 percent to 18 percent of utilization for a prolonged period, there is usually a tightening of cereals markets and pressure on cereal prices, which adversely affects the capacity of low-income food-deficit countries to import the foods that they need. It is true that in recent years we have on

occasions witnessed low international prices, even at times when global cereal stocks are also relatively low. However, this has reflected to a large degree the export competition between certain major exporters, using high levels of subsidies, as well as the inability of many countries to finance the imports that they need. In itself, this does not invalidate the stock-to-utilization indicator.

However, I am informed that we reviewed the stock-to-consumption indicator with the help of a high-level analyst some time ago. His conclusions reaffirmed the validity of using this ratio in conjunction with other indicators in assessment of the food security situation.

Of course, a number of structural changes have taken place in the world grain markets, and they are constantly taking place. We also expect that further major changes will occur in the wake of the outcome of the Uruguay Round. There may therefore be a need to look at this whole issue afresh, as was requested by the Intergovernmental Group on Grains at its last Session, and we shall certainly pursue this.

The distinguished delegate from Sweden also mentioned the view of a knowledgeable and respected expert from the International Wheat Council that the world grain market could operate with a lower level of stocks in the major exporting countries than had once been thought safe. I would agree that this may well be true, from a strictly trading standpoint. However, to evaluate the situation in the world food security, such a reduction in the stocks of exporting countries would need to be offset by a much bigger increase in the holding of stocks in vulnerable importing countries. This is because stocks of exporting countries can be used to meet unforeseen shortfalls in supplies anywhere in the world, whereas the stocks of the importing countries are not usually available for that purpose. The adequacy of stocks from a food security viewpoint may also depend to some extent on their composition as between public-held stocks and private holdings.

We would agree with the distinguished delegate of Sweden on the need to strengthen the Secretariat's assessment of the demand side of the food security equation in order to more effectively monitor access to food. This subject, as some delegates will recall, was discussed at some length at the last Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and I would like to assure delegates that a specific item on this subject is planned to be included in the Agenda of the forthcoming Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and I would like to assure delegates that a specific item on this subject is planned to be included in the Agenda of the forthcoming Session of the Committee on World Food Security, in line with that Committee's request. We shall look forward to the views of Member Governments on that occasion.

I should mention, moreover, that through the Global Information and Early Warning System, we do monitor a number of demand-side indicators at national and sub-national levels, to the extent that data are available. These include prices of cereals and other staple foods, held by traders and farmers, market arrivals, wage rates in rural and urban areas, sales and slaughter rates of livestock, petrol prices, population movements, cases of malnutrition and starvation-related deaths. Further, with the help of the EEC and the Save the Children Fund, a UK-based Non-Governmental Organization, we are also embarking on a risk-mapping exercise. This will

aim for identifying, for a number of selected vulnerable countries, populations most at risk of food insecurity and what these risks are. The next step would be to determine the most cost-effective ways of monitoring these risks. We also plan to examine during the next biennium the feasibility of a standardized methodology for this purpose.

Finally, I regret that the distinguished delegate of Sweden was unable to find reference in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 to our plans to intensify work in this important area of access to food.

In this context, I would invite the attention of the delegate of Sweden to paragraph 456 of the Programme of Work and Budget document, under Sub-Programme 2.1.7.3, Food Information and Early Warning System. There we refer explicitly to our intention to undertake "improved monitoring of socio-economic indicators", and note that "Special attention will be given to enhancing indicators of access to food". The reason for putting the subject matter there in that sub-programme is that we wish to operationalize such indicators in the context of early warning and potential breakdowns of food security states. I would also add that in paragraph 482, under Sub-Programme 2.1.8.4 World Food Security, another priority will be to deepen the analysis of food security issues at household level in support of the International Conference on Nutrition and as a contribution to programme work at national level. I can assure the delegate of Sweden that in both sets of activities access to food is one of the three important components of the food security concept adopted by FAO. Access to food is of primary consideration in line with that concept of food security. In recognizing this, one should not, however, ignore or underestimate the importance of availability and stability of supplies. The availability of food in most developing countries, as delegates will recognize, depends to a large extent on their own food production. A fall in production reduces incomes of producers and also reduces the income-earning opportunities of rural workers, thereby reducing the entitlements of access to food; thus, access to food in most developing countries is also linked to the availability of food.

The delegate of Tanzania requested the Secretariat to highlight our experience on the cassava mealybug issue - how is it being observed as an issue in some cassava-producing countries. This complex and serious threat causing excessive losses of some US\$2 billion in thirty African countries. I would add that the IITA has completed a feasibility study for controlling these pests biologically. The results obtained to date are very promising and in Africa, while a biological control project for this pest is being organized by the IITA with the collaboration of the Scientific and Technical Research Commission of OAU. FAO collaborates in this project, and we have responsibility for its training components.

The delegate of Germany referred to the figures on cocoa. Here, I would confirm that the delegate of Germany was correct in noting that in 1990 both the export volume and value of cocoa and cocoa products were at about the 1989 level. The Secretariat regrets this, and we will put it right before the document is published.

Now I turn to the question raised by the delegate of Brazil, who requested whether we could provide some guidance on the relative impact of interest rates and trade barriers on the international prices of commodities. We doubt that a uniform conclusion on the relative impacts of these two

factors would be generally applicable to all commodities. Rather, the conclusion would be commodity specific dependent upon the characteristics of the demand and supply situation when changes in interest rates and/or trade barriers occur, and dependent on such factors as whether a commodity is storable or not. Moreover, the relative impacts may differ as between the short-term and long-term effects. While I would not wish to deliver a treatise to delegates on these aspects, I would only suggest we would be happy to give more information on this aspect to the delegate of Brazil or to any other delegate who would be interested in this.

I think I have replied to most of the questions raised, but if still there is something that has missed my attention, I would be very happy to respond.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): If there are no comments on what Mr Dutia has said, I shall read out a brief summary of the main points discussed on this agenda item.

Certain questions were raised by some delegations in the following manner. First, the economic situation in Third World or developing countries has not improved. On the other hand, these countries have experienced many difficulties and economic problems because of indebtedness and the increase in production prices; also the fall in exports due to tariff and other barriers. Weather conditions had their part to play in what occurred in these countries as far as food production is concerned. Therefore, some countries experienced famine, civil and other wars, and floods. All these factors have had an influence and impact which differed from one country to another. The major and most negative influence was on the continent of Africa.

Secondly, the question of improving the economies of developing countries was discussed. This could take place thanks to an increase in food production and by encouraging subsidies to farmers in developing countries in order to make it possible to export and therefore increase incomes.

Thirdly, during the discussion some delegations expressed a wish to increase cooperation between North-South and also South-South in order to improve the quality of the environment and so improve agriculture and yields which in turn would improve results. All delegations called for negotiations in the Uruguay Round to help achieve better results, respecting the laws and rights of both developed and developing countries. I can say that, in general, most delegations stressed the importance of this Agenda Item because it is one of the most basic and important of the items alongside the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan.

Some delegates asked that a study should be carried out concerning the situation in agriculture at the same time as the International Agricultural Adjustment Report. Others asked for consideration of the 17 percent rate for stocks. Some delegates suggested that Commission I should send a mission representing the Director-General which would enquire into matters concerning the situation for farmers in the Syrian occupied Golan in order to try and improve their situation and evaluate their needs. Others mentioned the changes which- have occurred in Central and Eastern Europe and

asked the Organization to help these countries. At the same time, of course, this help should not be given to the detriment of developing countries.

Therefore, delegates, we have now finished this Agenda Item.

6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report

6.2 Ajustement agricole international: Rapport intérimaire

6.2 Reajuste agrícola internacional: Informe parcial

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Document C 91/18 is the seventh full progress report on the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment. This is a report submitted every four years to the Conference. As delegates will recall, the Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment, which were adopted by the Conference in 1975 and were revised in 1983, are intended to assist and facilitate policy harmonization. They represent a statement of goals and policy approaches at both the national and international levels, which Member Governments of FAO have agreed to take into account in formulating their policies.

Continued monitoring of progress in relation to the guidelines remains important since the guidelines bring together in a comprehensive framework many aspects of food and agricultural development that often are considered only separately. The progress reports could also contribute to monitoring progress in relation to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade and of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries. Both of these were adopted in 1990 by the UN General Assembly and on which FAO will be required to report at regular intervals on progress in relation to the food and agricultural sector.

Agricultural production performance and the overall policy environment have been reviewed during the discussion under the previous Agenda Item on the World Food and Agriculture Situation, so I will make only a very brief reference to those aspects of international agricultural adjustment.

During the 1980s food and agricultural production in the developing countries increased at an average annual rate of 3.3 percent, compared with a target of 4 percent indicated in Guideline 1 which is under consideration. Excluding China and India, the annual average growth of the rest of the developing countries is only 2.7 percent, while for the group of least developed countries, singled out in the guideline, annual growth was only 1.4 percent. This led to a persistent fall of production in per caput terms in this group of countries. Overall, growth performance shows a wide variation among country groups and individual countries.

In recent years, many developing countries have adopted far-reaching changes in their agricultural policies as part of structural adjustment programmes. Also, Eastern European countries and the USSR have recently started to introduce major reforms in their agricultural policies as part of the overall transformation of their economies toward being more market-

oriented. Reform of agricultural policies in most developed market economies however remains limited and it tends to be more inspired by domestic needs.

Guideline 2 calls for increased resource allocation to the agricultural sector of the developing countries. Physical resources to agriculture (land, irrigation, fertilizers, machinery, and so on) all continued to grow through the 1980s but at rates considerably lower than in earlier decades. Regarding financial resources, investment in agriculture remained in the 1980s about constant in relative terms. External assistance to agricultural research, extension and training, however, declined in real terms.

Guidelines 3 and 4 are concerned with policy issues which are covered in the WCARRD Programme of Action. Progress in this area will be reviewed in detail under Agenda Item 8 on the basis of the Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action (C 81/19). I will not therefore anticipate the discussion on these policy issues, but limit myself to observe that on the whole progress in the fields covered by the WCARRD Programme of Action has been rather modest.

Guidelines 5 and 6 are concerned with nutritional policies, food consumption and food self-sufficiency. The importance of incorporating nutrition considerations into agricultural development strategies, programmes and activities is increasingly recognized as an effective way in which the agricultural sector may contribute to multi-sectoral efforts to eliminate malnutrition. Greater awareness of nutrition problems in many countries and of the need to identify effective ways and means to tackle these problems is also the subject of the International Conference on Nutrition to be held in Rome in December next year. The Conference will have an opportunity to discuss progress in the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition under Agenda Item 20.

Many countries continue to implement economic austerity measures as part of structural adjustment programmes. It is now recognized that the reduction or removal of food subsidies and related schemes as well as other effects of structural adjustment programmes can have in the short term adverse effects on access to food by the poor. Various initiatives have therefore been undertaken at the national and international levels to analyse the social dimensions of adjustment programmes with a view to mitigating their negative effects on the poor.

Guideline 7 addresses issues in international agricultural trade and protectionism. A number of countries have introduced changes in their agricultural policies which led to reduced support for their agricultural sector and improved market access. Overall, however, the international markets for agricultural products still remain characterized by serious and widespread distortions as a direct consequence of agricultural policies. Largely due to the commitment by developed countries in the Uruguay Round to a standstill in protectionism, the general level of tariff and non-tariff barriers to imports of agricultural and agro-based products has not increased, but the average level of agricultural protection still remains high. The multilateral trade negotiations under the Uruguay Round have yet to achieve agreement on specific reductions in export subsidies and domestic support and on market access, although recently there are signs of increased flexibility in the position of some of the major actors in these negotiations.

As regards the greater stability of world markets, which is the subject of Guideline 8, the 1980s have been a particularly unfavourable period, with falling and unstable prices for most of the agricultural commodities exported by developing countries. Reliance on international commodity agreements to stabilize prices and market conditions has tended to diminish so that natural rubber is at present the only commodity which has an internationally agreed stabilization mechanism in operation. Given the present economic climate which favours market-oriented policies over price-and-supply-management agreements, it is unlikely that the negotiating climate for new commodity agreements with economic provisions will improve, at least in the near future. A positive development is that the Common Fund for Commodities, which entered into force in June 1989, has begun to designate International Commodity Bodies, including many of the FAO Intergovernmental Groups, which are eligible to sponsor commodity development projects for financing under the Fund's Second Account.

Guideline 9 advocates greater economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in food and agriculture. Economic cooperation arrangements among developing countries appear to have had limited impact on their agricultural intra-trade. Technical cooperation among developing countries, however, has been expanding and has been successful in attracting support from developed countries as well as from the developing countries themselves.

In the area of food security and food aid (Guidelines 10 and 11), recent years have witnessed a tightening of world cereal markets. Although food aid in cereals has exceeded for six consecutive years the annual minimum target of 10 million tons, it remains considerably below the estimate of requirements indicated in Guideline 11. Access to food supplies remains the most important food security problem in many countries and regions mainly because of lack of income-earning opportunities. Factors such as civil strife, logistical problems, inappropriate policies, as well as severe foreign exchange constraints also contribute to food insecurity. A positive development in many developing countries has been the establishment and strengthening of national early warning systems and preparedness plans.

External assistance to the agricultural sector of developing countries remained grossly inadequate at a level 34 percent below target in 1989 and far below the estimates for requirements by 1990 which are mentioned in Guideline 12. Also, the share of agriculture in official commitments to all sectors declined recently. The share of concessional commitments in total commitments to agriculture, however, reached 75 percent in recent years, which is close to the target indicated in the same guideline.

In conclusion, progress in nearly all areas covered by the guidelines has been slow, uneven and on the whole unsatisfactory. Major adjustments in many policy areas are needed in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the new International Development Strategy and the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, to which I referred earlier.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to the comments and views of the delegates on the issues covered in this document.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you Mr Dutia for the very complete introduction to this Agenda Item, the International Agricultural Adjustment. The debate is now open on this subject.

H. OVERMEER (Netherlands): On behalf of the Dutch Government allow me to congratulate the FAO on this Seventh Progress Report. We highly appreciate the kind of information surveys brought together here.

However, if we compare the guidelines to the results actually achieved, we must draw the conclusion that a lot of work still has to be done.

Our delegation supports the FAO concerning the conclusions about the importance of market access on the western markets and the necessity of the less developed countries to improve their real productivity. We support the FAO as concerns the importance of creating credit facilities to small farmers, help for artificial fertilizers and access to research. FAO's activities concerning nutrition must be continued.

A special compliment to the FAO must be made for her great knowledge concerning trade barriers and tariffs in the framework of the GATT negotiations. We should like to activate the FAO to use this knowledge in the framework of Guideline 7. We strongly support the FAO in her conclusions about food security.

Food security can be integrated into structural adjustment programmes by adoption of measures to accommodate the needs of especially nutritionally vulnerable population groups. Food security strategies are by their nature complex and should not be confined solely to the growing group of undernourished but should relate to all people in developing countries. In this respect diverse economic and social circumstances in these countries and also the position of women are factors to be taken into account. We strongly support the FAO in her conclusions about food security.

We can highly appreciate the content of the progress report about the People's Participation, Guideline 4, which is further elaborated in the plan of action of People's Participation. Our Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Mr Bukman, stressed in this respect the need of strengthening the role of rural organizations. In that case people are in a better position to have control over their own position, and can press for participation in decision making in a dialogue with their governments.

In relation to the rural cooperatives we want to make a remark as is stated in the progress report "that while cooperatives are highly useful as instruments to promote rural development, they are less effective than less formal organizations in tackling the problems of the poorest of the poor". We are of the opinion that cooperatives are economic organizations which must be economically viable. The members of the cooperatives are financially responsible for the functioning and the continuity of the cooperatives. In this respect you cannot expect the poorest of the poor to be the first members of the cooperatives. Our experience has shown that if cooperatives become too much a social organization, whether or not influenced by government policies, they are not economically viable in the long run and cannot give an effective contribution to rural development.

The problem of the stabilization of prices of world market products is studied by several working groups of the FAO. This certainly contributes to the analysis of the problem and to recommendations to solve it. In practice however, the results of these studies seem to be less effective. Our delegation should like to get more information on this important issue.

Economic cooperation between developing countries should be intensified. We feel that FAO can play a role in this matter, as she already does in the field of technical cooperation.

In spite of progress made in the field of agriculture and rural development, food aid and emergency aid remain important supportive instruments in the cooperation with developing countries. Both types of aid should be tuned to the policies improving food security of the recipient countries and their traditional food patterns, at the same time encouraging production of local foods. Our delegation stresses the importance of triangular food aid activities at the regional level. These transactions need more support of donor countries, also in the field of technical assistance in bettering the transport and distribution facilities and improving the quality of the food delivered.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation appreciates FAO Secretariat's efforts for producing a comprehensive Progress Report on the subject as embodied in document C 91/18. Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 were discussed by the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference as well: brief comments are being offered on some of the guidelines.

The First Guideline pertains to the expansion of food and agriculture in the developing countries. It calls for a growth target of four percent per annum during the Third UN Development Decade. At page 8, para 1.2, it has been indicated that the two countries which jointly constitute one half of the total population of the developing world, i.e. China and India, reflected an annual growth rate of 4.1 percent during this period. While in some of the developing countries, the growth rate fell in the 1980's. However, the growth rate during this period in my country, Pakistan, was satisfactory: the average growth rate worked-out to be slightly over 4 percent with oscillations between -4.8 percent to +10.9 percent. For the current year, 1991, the growth rate in my country has been 5.2 percent. As rightly pointed out at page 9, para 1.7, of the document, this guideline further refers to the need to "redress growing imbalances in world production"; a call has been made to check population growth so as not to upset the growth in food and agriculture production in the developing countries. While this may be done, we feel that more and concerted efforts must be made to increase production in this sector, at the same time. While results may or may not be achieved at the desired levels to check the population growth for a host of socio-religious and cultural factors in the developing countries, this should not deter efforts to increase production in the food and agriculture sector; so as not only to achieve sustainable development but to surpass the laid out targets - we feel this could lay the basis for Guideline 9, which calls on the developing countries to promote and expand trade amongst themselves in the food and agriculture sector.

Guideline 2 asks for the expansion of production and diversification of financial resources towards this end. It also calls upon the international community to support measures to provide agricultural inputs especially like fertilizers, pesticides, etc., to prevent post-harvest losses. In this respect, three observations are made: firstly, post-harvest losses in the developing countries need careful study. Certain developing countries tend to lose a significant percentage of their post-harvest production. In Pakistan, for instance, after a careful study, "rodents" have been identified as one of the major problems in this respect (See Naqué, Riaz H. Report, Tariff Commission 1991). This results in heavy post-harvest losses. Careful studies on the subject are called-for, and FAO could assist the developing countries overcome this problem, where, at times, almost ten to forty percent of the post-harvest produce is lost.

Secondly, inputs like seeds are available in the developing countries - but the system of distribution and marketing may not be available. This sector needs to be organized: a system for the production, multiplication and delivery to the end user has to be developed. FAO and other developed countries should come forward to assist the developing countries in this respect.

Thirdly, inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides are, by and large, imported by the developing countries - unfortunately, the quality of such inputs is "highly suspect" at times. It is submitted that at least the developing countries and their farmers must get their money's worth. In this connection, FAO could play an important and objective role, and provide updated information with regard to fertilizers and pesticides to the developing countries.

Guideline 3 calls for the creation of institutional frameworks and farming structures which allow wider equitable access to the vast majority of the rural masses. The practical manifestation of this concept is to develop such frameworks in the rural setup of the developing countries. At page 25 of document C 91/18, examples of different countries have been cited. As Mr Dutia pointed-out progress in this respect has been modest: However, amongst others, two examples of success could be mentioned: the most successful one where the concept of formation of 'groups of borrowers with joint liabilities' for a loan at the village level is the "Grameen Bank" in Bangladesh: its operations are directed towards the less fortunate of the society in a village-level-setup. Unfortunately, in most developing countries, loans, etc., are generally extended to the established strata of the society - where the default-rate is very high. The "Grameen Bank" caters for the needs of the rural poor - and interestingly, the recovery-rate is more than 97 percent. At the same time, as has been rightly pointed out, there have been sustained gains for the borrowers. As compared to other examples, the concept of the Grameen Bank deserves careful study.

It may be pointed-out that Pakistan has also taken policy initiatives in institutionalizing rural development and for the effective participation of the rural population in the development process - success, however, has been achieved in the private sector: the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) serves as the best example in this respect. The success of the said programme is evident from the development process that the AKRSP has initiated in the northern areas of Pakistan, especially in Gilgit, Skardu, Hunza and other adjoining areas including Chitral. This concept too calls

for a careful study as it directly involves the rural poor at the grassroots levels; and must find place in the FAO documents for further study.

Guideline 7 (and 8 and it is more or less related): This relates to the imposition of tariffs and the non-tariff barriers by the developed countries, thus restricting access to their markets for the products of the developing countries.

Unfortunately, trade protectionism along with the different subsidies given by the developed countries for the production and export of their agriculture (and other) products, is a serious problem for the developing countries. In this situation, the main issue for the developing countries has been, and is: how to gain access to the international markets controlled by the developed countries. At the same time, the food-importing developing countries are faced with a paradox: they have to import food to feed their people, and this very import of food by these countries constitutes a constant drain on their limited foreign exchange reserves which, already depleted, cannot be balanced through normal trade practices because of the disadvantageous position that the developing countries find themselves in. As pointed out earlier, it is here that the developing countries are vulnerable to external pressures.

Finally, we join the FAO in urging the developed countries to display the necessary political will by not only refraining from imposing any new tariffs and non-tariffs barriers, but to do away with the existing ones and to pursue such trade practices which are beneficial to all.

Mirza Tasadduq BEG (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, before I take the floor for the first time, I would like to take this opportunity to extend warm felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of Commission I and wish you every success in conducting and bringing the deliberations of the Commission to a successful conclusion.

Mr Chairman, I will confine my brief comments to some key issues addressed in the document which, as previous distinguished speakers have already mentioned, is an excellent, informative and analytical paper prepared with painstaking efforts. I congratulate Mr Dutia on his excellent introduction of the subject.

The subject of world food and agricultural policy issues is vitally important not only to the developing countries and the LDCs but also to the developed world. The Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment, which were originally adopted by FAO in 1975, provide a broad framework for bringing about far-reaching policy reforms in the FAO member countries. FAO has a crucial role to play in closely monitoring the progress of implementation of these guidelines.

It is disturbing to note that in spite of bold and sometimes difficult agricultural policy reforms adopted by many developing countries and LDCs as part of World Bank and IMF-sponsored structural adjustment programmes, by and large no appreciable improvement in per capita food availability has taken place. The rising production is neutralized by higher population growth. Unless the population growth rate is contained, no policy measures would be able to stop the trend towards deteriorating food self-sufficiency.

The situation in the developed countries is different. As such, the imbalance of world production continues to persist.

Mr Chairman, in this connection I would like to mention the prevailing situation in Bangladesh. Radical agricultural policy reforms, together with improved technology and adoption of high-yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers, food grain (particularly cereal) production has been outstripping population growth in recent years. However, as pointed out by the leader of the Bangladesh delegation in his statement in the Plenary, that the green revolution technology using high-yielding variety seeds and other modern inputs has so far proved useful in raising productivity, it also has its 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. Development of biotechnology 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.

Mr Chairman, flow of resources, both material and financial, to the food and agriculture sector in the developing countries is far from adequate. The OECD countries must be aware of the need to provide increased commodity assistance to the developing countries to reduce their balance of payment difficulties. Flow of bilateral and multilateral fertilizer assistance from the developed country to the developing countries falls much short of actual needs. We feel that FAO's International Fertilizer Supply Scheme should have a larger allocation so that it has a wider coverage.

Mr Chairman, peoples' participation is a crucial element in sustainable agricultural development. It is heartening to note that many developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have taken commendable initiatives towards ensuring active participation of rural people in promoting agricultural growth.

I am happy to say that Bangladesh has accorded topmost priority in involving people at the grass-roots level in the implementation of rural development programmes. Cooperatives as an institution have been a tremendous success in augmenting agricultural production and creating rural employment opportunities.

In Bangladesh the role of women in development, particularly agricultural development, is growing rapidly. More than 40 percent of our women folk are involved in primary agricultural production. Involvement and active participation of women in the mainstream of our development process is one of the key objectives of our fourth five-year plan. In this connection, we commend FAO's support in funding participatory rural development projects. We hope FAO would find it possible to finance more of such projects which would reach larger rural populations in the developing world.

We have a long way to go towards fulfilment of Guideline 6 of the document which calls for equitable distribution of income, special measures like food subsidies or income supplementation for the undernourished and disadvantaged groups of the population, and better utilization of food. The progress report has adequately highlighted the implications of subsidy

reduction or elimination in the developing countries, particularly in the LDCs. As we are all aware, supported by evidence, the agricultural policy reforms adopted by many LDCs have had negative effects on the poor and the disadvantaged groups of the population. The developed countries and multilateral funding agencies like IMF and IDA must appreciate the fact that subsidy reduction would have to be gradual and should be monitored carefully so that, should there be any adverse impact on the poorer sections of the population, adequate corrective measures could be initiated.

Many countries of the world, including the developed countries, have in the past achieved great success in boosting agricultural production through government intervention in the form of heavy subsidies to the farmers. Bangladesh also pursued a similar policy in previous years to encourage farmers to use fertilizers, irrigation water and improved seed. But in recent years we have been pursuing the policy of gradual withdrawal of subsidy to achieve the goals of a free market economy. We believe however that the process should continue slowly in a phased manner so that the efforts do not prove counterproductive.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, I once again thank the FAO for doing an excellent job in preparing this analytical report. My delegation hopes that FAO will continue to accord priority in monitoring the progress of implementation of the guidelines on a regular basis.

Pascal BRIODIN (France): Le document préparé par le Secrétariat dresse un tableau de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale dans les années 80, ainsi que des moyens qui ont été mis en oeuvre par les gouvernements pour atteindre les objectifs fixés par les lignes d'orientation adoptées par notre Conférence en 1975 et révisées en 1983.

Ces lignes d'orientation demeurent certes de la plus grande actualité et il est intéressant que le Secrétariat s'emploie à cet exercice d'analyse, mais ma délégation observe que les sujets traités figurent déjà pour l'essentiel sous d'autres points de l'ordre du jour. C'est pourquoi ma délégation appuie la suggestion faite par d'autres délégations au cours des débats précédents de traiter simultanément des points 6.1 et 6.2. Cependant, je vous ferai part des réflexions principales que m'inspire ce document.

Des multiples sujets traités, j'en retiendrai trois principaux.

Premier sujet: celui des politiques agricoles. Des réformes profondes des politiques agricoles ont été entreprises dans de nombreux pays en développement qui ont permis souvent un rééquilibrage entre le secteur agricole et le reste de l'économie, et encouragé une croissance soutenue de la production, mais elles ont eu des conséquences néfastes parfois pour les pays les plus pauvres. D'importants obstacles subsistent néanmoins, notamment ceux de l'accès à la terre, de l'accès au crédit et aux services de vulgarisation, ainsi que de la sécurité foncière.

Deuxième sujet: celui de la croissance de la productivité en agriculture. D'importants progrès ont été réalisés, ce qui en moyenne a amélioré la disponibilité en produits alimentaires. Malheureusement, de graves déficits subsistent: l'autosuffisance des pays les moins avancés a diminué au cours de la décennie. De plus, une menace pèse sur l'avenir: la surface agricole

par actif a diminué, ce qui signifie que les effets des gains de productivité peuvent être anéantis par une trop forte poussée démographique. L'attention plus grande portée par les gouvernements sur l'environnement législatif et économique des producteurs agricoles, et les progrès induits par les techniques de production nouvelles ne suffisent donc pas. Ils butent sur deux obstacles: d'une part, la croissance démographique mal contrôlée, et le maintien d'un différentiel de productivité en faveur des agricultures des pays développés d'autre part.

Troisième thème: celui des marchés internationaux. J'observe qu'une grande attention est portée dans ce document aux négociations multinationales.

Pourtant, notre Conférence n'est pas le lieu pour poursuivre des débats qui ont lieu dans une autre enceinte.

Evidemment, personne ne peut observer sans réagir le déséquilibre persistant entre des agricultures, au nord, qui souffrent d'excédents chroniques, et des agricultures, au sud, qui ne parviennent pas à satisfaire les besoins nationaux.

Comment corriger ce déséquilibre? Faut-il préconiser une levée de tous les dispositifs de soutien à l'agriculture? Mais sait-on alors quelle serait l'évolution des prix et des productions si la libéralisation des échanges au niveau mondial était appliquée à l'ensemble des économies nationales? Quelles seraient les conséquences d'un libéralisme pur et dur sur la situation particulière de chaque pays en développement?

Les économistes ne s'accordent pas sur les réponses à toutes ces questions.

Pour notre part, nous pensons que les perturbations qui résulteraient de l'application sans nuance de ces principes mettraient en danger la production agricole de nombreux pays, tant dans les pays en développement que dans les pays développés.

Quelles sont les caractéristiques des marchés agricoles?

Ces marchés sont divers et segmentés, et des problèmes différents se posent à chaque catégorie de produits. Le fait est que souvent les produits tropicaux ne se trouvent pas en concurrence véritable avec les produits tempérés sur un même marché. A produits différents, marchés différents. Donc, à produits différents, traitements différents.

Aux pays en voie de développement, il faut délivrer un message clair. De ce point de vue, je veux rappeler le soutien de mon pays aux accords internationaux de produits, et l'ouverture large des frontières de la Communauté européenne aux produits agricoles de pays associés, ouverture qui s'est concrétisée non seulement dans la quatrième Convention de Lomé, mais aussi dans l'amélioration du Système généralisé de préférences, ainsi que dans les propositions faites par la Communauté au sein du GATT.

Le document que nous examinons a le mérite de broser un tableau assez large de la situation de l'agriculture, comme des moyens mis en oeuvre pour améliorer cette situation.

Je veux en retenir une réflexion principale: des décisions de politique agricole courageuses ont été prises, des décisions courageuses sont à prendre en matière de politique agricole. Elles seront le moteur principal des transformations que nous attendons tous.

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Le document C 91/18 que le Secrétariat a préparé contient un ensemble de points essentiels pour le développement équilibré des pays, en incluant l'autosuffisance alimentaire des pays qui ne l'ont pas encore atteinte et le commerce international des pays agricoles.

A la Conférence de 1989, on a examiné les progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne les lignes d'orientation: politiques ayant une incidence sur le commerce international des produits agricoles mondiaux et sur l'accès aux marchés; stabilité des marchés agricoles mondiaux et accès des pays en développement importateurs de vivres aux approvisionnements alimentaires à des conditions raisonnables; aide aux pays en développement dans le secteur de l'agriculture.

La délégation portugaise a déjà exprimé son point de vue sur les lignes d'orientation numéro 1 lors de son intervention sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Cette orientation prévoit une croissance annuelle moyenne de 4 pour cent de la production alimentaire et agricole dans les pays en développement au cours de la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement.

Le taux de croissance annuelle, en moyenne de 3,3 pour cent, enregistré dans la décennie 1980 représente une accélération par rapport au taux des années 1970.

Bien que n'ayant pas encore atteint les objectifs fixés par les lignes d'orientation, nous reconnaissons avec joie qu'il y a eu des progrès en ce qui concerne la production globale.

Cependant, malgré l'augmentation de la production, une grande partie des pays en développement n'ont pas encore amélioré de manière significative leur production per capita, notamment en Afrique, où les disponibilités en aliments de production locale n'ont en général pas augmenté. Cela nous amène à recommander un effort plus important pour que la production agricole augmente dans ces pays.

Pour que cela devienne une réalité, il est nécessaire d'augmenter le flux total des ressources financières et autres, et notamment les investissements, ainsi que l'assistance extérieure à la recherche, à la formation et à la vulgarisation agricole. Dans ces domaines, le Portugal a investi et continue à investir des ressources matérielles et humaines très importantes. Nous avons donné une réponse positive à toutes les sollicitations que nous avons reçues dans le domaine de la formation des cadres des pays en développement.

Nous considérons qu'il est décisif d'augmenter la production agricole dans les pays mais nous ne pouvons pas oublier le bon fonctionnement des marchés, l'existence des moyens de communication appropriés et la réduction des pertes après les récoltes. Ces récoltes atteignent parfois 40 pour cent

du total et ont aussi une grande importance en ce qui concerne les disponibilités alimentaires.

La délégation portugaise se félicite des progrès déjà accomplis dans les domaines des lignes d'orientation No. 3 en reconnaissant que les nouvelles technologies devront être adaptées aux conditions de travail et devront être accompagnées d'investissements bien forts pour ce qui est de la formation professionnelle, de façon à ce qu'il soit possible de mettre en marche les nouveaux systèmes introduits.

L'on arrive parfois à de meilleurs résultats avec l'introduction de technologies intérimaires adaptées aux possibilités locales. Ces résultats sont également meilleurs lorsque nous utilisons des équipements fort bien sophistiqués.

Dans le domaine de la ligne d'orientation No. 5, le Secrétariat fait ressortir, entre autres aspects, la réalisation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui se tiendra à Rome en décembre 1992.

Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec cette perspective et nous interviendrons sur ce sujet lorsqu'il sera traité spécifiquement. Ainsi que nous le savons, il existe des aspects de faims qualitatives et quantitatives qui provoquent des effets défavorables sur l'activité des populations et parfois même, lorsque les conditions sont très graves, la mort peut être le résultat final.

Une alimentation rationnelle pourra contribuer à une utilisation plus appropriée des ressources disponibles et pourra se traduire par de grandes économies d'importations de biens alimentaires.

Les carences en protéines, en vitamines du complexe B, E et A sont encore aujourd'hui fréquentes dans certaines régions et atteignent plusieurs centaines de milliers d'êtres humains. Le Kwashiorkor, l'aveuglement, les glocités, le bocio endémique et l'anémie sont les maladies qui sont pour la plupart le résultat de situations provoquées par une alimentation déséquilibrée.

Le type de l'alimentation peut influencer la survie alimentaire des populations. Dans certaines régions, ce sont les céréales et les produits secs qui sont la base de l'alimentation, ainsi qu'on l'a constaté dans le sud-est asiatique et en Amérique latine. Ce sont des produits de conservation facile qui permettent une certaine stabilité en ce qui concerne l'approvisionnement d'aliments.

On vérifie des situations assez différentes dans des régions où la base de l'alimentation sont les racines et les tubercules, riches en eau, de production saisonnière, ce qui donne lieu à des périodes ayant des excédents alimentaires et d'autres périodes de pénuries.

Les résultats déjà atteints pour ce qui est de l'ajustement agricole international adopté par la Conférence de 1975 nous transmettent l'espoir que les objectifs fixés seront atteints bien que les progrès ne soient pas semblables dans les diverses régions. Tout cela ne peut pas nous éloigner des orientations tracées.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): The extensive and thorough progress report prepared for this item is very much in line with what we Members collectively have been asking for. There may be a few exceptions, for example, regarding Guidelines 4 and 5 where the country coverage is not universal, but on the whole we find that the report well covers developments relevant for the twelve guidelines. In fact the report is a very good example of the kind of analytical macro-oriented work with global policy relevance that is one of our top priorities for the FAO. This demonstrates once again that the Organization has an excellent capacity in that respect. Let me also say that we generally agree with Mr Dutia's conclusion that progress overall has been slow, uneven and unsatisfactory.

But we still feel somewhat uneasy about this exercise. I think the main reason is that the guidelines basically were developed and adopted at a time when prevailing opinions and philosophies in some respects were different from these of present times. While for example Guideline 8 on Stability of Markets and International Commodity Agreements, and Guideline 10 on World Food Security and Global Cereal Stocks, were not only relevant but also considered important aspects at their time of formulation or re-formulation, it is more than likely that they would be formulated differently or perhaps left out altogether were they considered from scratch today. And that is valid also for some of the other guidelines.

Another reason for our uneasiness is the lack of universal coverage and balance. While we certainly do not advocate that equal importance is paid to all regions and countries, and certainly recognize that agriculture plays a greater role in the economies of developing countries than in developed ones, it looks a bit odd to us that out of the twelve guidelines, nine refer exclusively or primarily to agriculture in developing countries, while - as far as we can see - not a single one refers only to developed country agriculture. And the remaining three guidelines, while covering both groups, are formulated mainly from a developing country perspective.

A third reason stems from the fact that international events are about to take place which are likely to markedly affect the guidelines and the basic pre-conditions for them. I have in mind particularly the result of the Uruguay Round, but other events, such as the UNCED next year in Rio and perhaps the ICN may also be relevant.

Finally, it seems to us that some of the principal objectives of the guidelines, such as the precise figure for growth of agricultural production, are based on a view of the economic system that is no longer shared by a large number of governments. This change in perceptions also means that present and future agricultural problems of the economies in transition in East and Central Europe and the USSR cannot be adequately covered by the guidelines. That is a subject which is likely to remain a top priority of the international agricultural agenda for a long time since it has clear global repercussions.

For these reasons, we find the time may be approaching for a reconsideration of this activity: a reconsideration with an open mind where all possible alternative ways of achieving the objectives are taken up. If it is found useful to continue with this kind of guideline - and we have no firm opinion in that respect since obviously it depends on the content - then the Danish suggestion that monitoring takes place in connection with a more policy-oriented discussion of the State of Food and Agriculture is an

attractive one to us. But I am very anxious to stress that we are not putting into question this kind of analytical macro-economic work which we regard very highly, but rather to see whether the impressive resources available for this purpose could be used even better.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): The Thai delegation would like to make a short comment on the expected average annual growth rate of food and agricultural production, and to comment on the activities of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries or TCDC.

The average annual growth rate of food and agricultural production of developing countries as shown in Table 1.1 of the document C 91/18 was lower than expected and tended to decrease from 1988-90, with fluctuation of rates from year to year. My delegation is concerned about how we can reach the annual growth rate at 4 percent because the expected rate seems to be very high. The fluctuation of growth rate from year to year would suggest that agricultural production in developing countries was largely dependent on weather conditions and the outbreak of diseases and insect pests. So how can we expect output from food crop production? Several guidelines as recommended in the document are very good guidance for increasing food production. So we thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document.

My delegation recognizes the beneficial activities of TCDC that were organized by FAO, but we would like FAO to strengthen the TCDC to coordinate the precise activities with related activities in terms of food production so that the developing countries can help each other in the future.

David DRAKE (Canada): The Canadian delegation welcomes this item and commends the Secretariat for preparing document C 91/18, which is well written and contains a wealth of information and analysis on agricultural development in the 1980s.

The Canadian delegation would like to join with other delegations in expressing Canada's deep concern over the relative decline in agriculture in the developing world during the 1980s. A decade now commonly referred to as "lost to development". Although the situation remains serious, particularly in Africa, Canada maintains a cautious optimism about the potential for real recovery in the agricultural sector in the developing world, thanks to the recent trends of more participatory forms of government and increased attention to market forces and reformed macro-economic policy in developing nations.

The report is extensive and all of the guidelines remain basically valid. In the interest of time, we will not comment at length. Nevertheless, we would like to highlight the following few issues raised in the report.

Guideline 2 urges that the total flow of financial and other resources to the agriculture sector should be greatly increased in the developing countries. While my delegation would not disagree with this in principle, we would point out that circumstances have changed somewhat as far as external funding is concerned. Since the guidelines were first established in 1975, both donors and developing nations alike have found themselves

faced with severely restricted budgets which to a large extent rule out any significantly increased infusion of external funding to the developing nations for the foreseeable future.

What the report does not adequately highlight in our view is the requirement for all concerned to concentrate on efficient use of resources. In some cases, this means tough structural adjustment measures involving some temporary hardships. Often, what is required is a reorientation of the economy to recognize the primacy of agriculture. There is also a strong connection with Guideline 7, which stresses the need for developed countries to refrain from restraining the trade of the developing nations. Internal attempts to restructure developing economies to respond more freely to market structures will fail if access to export markets is blocked by restrictive trade practices of developed nations. While support for structural adjustment programmes remains one of the main policy pillars for the Canadian International Development Assistance Programme, I should point out that it is my country's view that any structural adjustment programmes should be accompanied by special measures to protect the interests of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, and that these measures should be integral parts of the design of adjustment programmes from the outset.

My delegation, like the delegate of the Netherlands, would also like to underline the importance of Guideline 4, which states that national policies should encourage fuller participation of rural people in planning, implementing and evaluating policies and projects which affect their well-being. This includes the full participation of women in the development process. A strong link is needed between people's participation and people's organizations. Active participation can only be brought about through local community and membership-based self-help organizations the whose primary aim is the pursuit of their members' economic, social and cultural prosperity. Much work remains to be done to organize rural populations in the developing world to benefit from such dynamics. We strongly support this guideline and believe that it deserves much stronger emphasis in the future.

In conclusion, although much of the information imparted in the document is already well-known, this report does make a special contribution to the body of knowledge on the subject because it addresses the issues of agricultural adjustment in the 1990s in an integrated and intellectually disciplined form, thanks to the reference to the twelve guidelines established in 1975.

Therefore we agree with the delegate of Sweden in what he said for the reasons that he specified.¹

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark) : At this late hour I promise to be brief. The Secretariat has given us a very thorough and comprehensive report, with much interesting information. However, as I mentioned under Agenda Item 6.1, Denmark considers the time to be ripe for integration of this policy paper into a more comprehensive policy-oriented version of the

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

State of Food and Agriculture. I am grateful for the support I have received from several countries on this proposal, and also for the very constructive and comprehensive comments I have already received from the Secretariat.

Consistent with this attitude, I have not prepared a detailed statement on this agenda item. However, I will repeat what I said on the earlier item -that is, I question whether experience from a few success stories in a few developing countries can be transferred to other countries. I am here particularly thinking of China and India.

Finally, I associate myself with the statement made by the delegation of Sweden.

Ms Carol J. KRAMER (United States of America): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity to present the views of the United States delegation. Thanks also to Mr Dutia for the overview at the beginning and to the Secretariat for carrying out their mandate.

The paper presents a factual assessment of recent trends in relation to the established guidelines. These international agricultural adjustment guidelines were established in 1975 and revised in 1983. In many respects, as some other countries have suggested, they appear out of line with current realities, especially Guideline 8 which calls for reliance on international commodity agreements to stabilize global agricultural markets. In addition, the guidelines do not focus explicitly on some important features of current adjustment programmes, most particularly the commitments to creating policies and institutions which make a transition to more market-oriented agricultural systems.

The current review is in large measure an attempt to look at the 1990s through 1970s glasses. The United States questions whether continuing this type of review is the best use of FAO resources. In future, reports should include an examination of whether this is an item that could be dropped from FAO agendas, or at minimum whether these guidelines are appropriate to the current situation. There are several areas in which such a review might be particularly helpful, including eliminating the call for the use of international commodity agreements as the primary vehicle for stabilizing international markets - Guideline 8; secondly, reviewing the guidelines to make them more consistent with the widespread emphasis on making a transition from more State-controlled to more market-oriented agricultural systems, and finally, increasing the emphasis on individual participation through institutions such as open competitive markets to complement the heavy emphasis on organizations in Guideline 4.

My delegation would now like to make some additional brief points. First, Guideline 1 refers to achieving a target of an annual increase in developing country food production of 4 percent to enable developing countries to become more self-reliant in the production of basic foodstuffs. "Self-reliance" is generally interpreted to mean that countries are able to produce or purchase on the international market an adequate supply of basic food-stuffs. The paper discusses the estimate as one of food self-sufficiency and of food self-reliance.

Secondly, we agree the discussion of policies under Guideline 1 correctly identifies the major thrust of policy change in developing countries and in East and Central Europe as progress is made in the transition of market-oriented economies. We also note, as has the World Bank, that this adjustment is a long-term process that they initially envisioned.

Thirdly, the discussion of progress under Guideline 2 correctly identifies both the extension of developing country agricultural research programmes and the decline in real level of external assistance supporting agricultural research in the second half of the 1980s.

Other assessments of agricultural research point now to the need to make newly acquired agricultural research facilities and workers more productive and efficient and sustainable.

Fourthly, Guidelines 7 and 8 are not wholly consistent with the position of the United States taken in the Uruguay Round. Guideline 7 uses the terminology "refraining to the maximum extent possible" to suggest that exporters should not use export subsidies and importers should not impose new tariffs or non-tariff barriers for agricultural and agro-based products. The Government of the United States holds that countries should reduce or eliminate trade distorting policies such as export subsidies and should improve market access by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Fifthly, we believe that the reference to Japan's improvement of market accessibility is perhaps too generous a statement. While the Government of Japan has increased its beef and citrus import quotas, and abolished quotas for processed cheese, tomato products and certain non-citrus products, Tokyo has continued to maintain relatively to completely closed markets for other commodities such as wheat, barley and rice. The United States believes that the Government of Japan can do more to improve its market access.

Sixth, as a note of clarification the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement was signed in January 1988 and not 1989.

Seventh, the United States Government does not endorse international commodity agreements as outlined in Guideline 8. The United States does, however, recognize legitimate food aid needs and its obligations to such crises.

Eighth, we suggest that the phrase "greater stability in" in Guideline 8.3 be replaced with "additional downward pressure on".

Ninth, we believe that Guideline 8.5 should be modified to reflect the recent development in the GATT talks.

Tenth, the United States Government commends the FAO for its efforts to incorporate better monitoring of local market conditions into its assessments of food needs in developing countries, as described on pages 67 and 68 of the Report.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My comment is very brief. My Government would like to commend the role, as described in the Guidelines of International Agricultural Support, to improve the agricultural imbalance between

developed and developing countries. Also, we appreciate the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the agricultural situation from the viewpoint of these guidelines. Considering these guidelines, my Government has been executing international technical and financial cooperation for developing countries to support the promotion of their agriculture, as well as to try to improve our agricultural markets as much as we can. Actually, our self-sufficient rate is 48 percent in energy-based, and if you calculate it in cereal crop-base, it is only 30 percent. We consider it to be a worldwide exceptional case.

My Government would like to support these guidelines continuously in order to realize better results in the next progress report.

Ali ERYILMAZ (Turkey): The Seventh Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment, confirmed to you once again that developing countries cannot achieve agricultural development objectives without the appropriate and timely support of the industrialized world. A more favourable external environment for developing countries means solutions corresponding to their needs for higher level of exports, improved terms of trade, more access to external capital resources, lower net resource outflow and increased food aid and external assistance to agriculture.

We should also take into consideration that the increase of the external debts together with the augmentation in the prices of the fertilizers, machinery and other important agricultural inputs, have created bottlenecks in many developing countries along with inadequate institutional infrastructure and environmental conditions.

Within this framework a lasting solution to the problem can only be reached through the development of production and import capabilities of developing countries. Here, needless to mention the elimination of international trade barriers which was brought up by several distinguished delegates during the discussion of previous item of State of Food and Agriculture is the critical issue to deal with.

Realization of the policies and goals stated in Guideline 4 full and effective participation of rural people in decision-making is very much related to the existence of democracy and to the full utilization of democratic processes and institutions. Therefore, it is in the interest of all developing countries to take this point into consideration in their approach to development and prosperity.

My delegation fully support the objective stated in Guideline 11. "Current targets for food aid should be fully met by the international community. Every effort should be made both to enlist new contributors and to increase the commitments of existing ones." In line with this guideline, Turkey contributes to the efforts of the international community to assist the developing countries. For instance, Turkey has been implementing since 1985 a food and technical assistance programme for the drought-stricken Sub-Saharan countries. This contribution which was mainly based on food and medical aid has now been converted to technical assistance programmes so as to enable these countries to increase their products.

Mr Chairman, Turkey with suitable ecology, rich soil and water resources has a high agricultural potential and will continue to share her knowledge and experience with the countries which are in need of this.¹

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): We would like to support the line taken by the delegate of the United States to the effect that guidelines may no longer be appropriate to economic and political situations of the 1990s. Perhaps FAO should consider revamping or withdrawing this item from the Agenda in the future. Apart from that, I would like to make a very brief point on specific guidelines.

On Guideline 4 on the full and effective participation of rural people, the United Kingdom delegation would like to underline the importance of this in any developmental process, as has already been stressed by the delegate of Pakistan.

On Guideline 11 on food aid, the United Kingdom delegation feels that the general thrust is that there is not enough food aid. We are disappointed that no attention is given to negative impact of food aid on agricultural production in recipient countries, and that food aid should be used sparingly and carefully.

Finally, we wish to agree with the comment made by the delegate from Bangladesh on population growth and the difficulty of increasing agricultural production so as to maintain per capita food consumption in a situation of rapid population growth.

Apart from that, Mr Chairman, I think that most of our comments are made under Agenda Item 6.1.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): Could I begin by congratulating the Secretariat for producing this document. It is an interesting communication of their assessment of the situation and of trends.

In contradistinction to the view of the delegation of the United States and the United Kingdom, I think it is very good in describing the challenges of the 1990s and is very open to them.

Unfortunately, as Mr Dutia said at the start of this debate, the process or adjustment is much more difficult than had originally been anticipated. Many more sacrifices still have to be made, particularly by the industrialized states.

Might I be permitted to address myself to one point. A number of delegations, more particularly the French and Canadian ones, leveled criticism at the fact that many of the points broached feature again under another agenda item where they are dealt with at greater length. If this report is to be continued, perhaps there should be appropriate reference to those agenda items here.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

May I comment on one or two elements in the guidelines that we regard as being of importance. Guideline 1. We believe that increasing agricultural production in developing countries by an annual figure of 4 percent is a priority aim, in particular as far as the production of basic foodstuffs is concerned. How such a goal can be achieved is impressively demonstrated by the growth rate of 4.4 percent achieved by the People's Republic of China. However, agricultural production increases must be flanked by responsible family planning in order to counter the increasing demographic pressure, which is increasing very much indeed. We are very much concerned that, particularly in Africa south of the Sahara, no increase was achieved in production rates. We hope that in the context of political restructuring and the progressive process of democratization the right policy choices will be taken for the introduction of a free market economy, and the strengthening of agricultural production.

As far as Guideline 2 is concerned, we agree with this guideline, more particularly with the call to diversify agricultural production. We would emphasize that achieving the goal of Guideline 1, the 4 percent production increase, is not possible without greater increase in research and extension.

These fields must, more than hitherto, include protection of natural resources so that possible risks attendant on intensification of agriculture may be countered.

The long-term aim of persistent sustainable agricultural development depends essentially on the application of research and advisory capacity. Extra efforts are necessary in order to ensure that basic foodstuffs are produced instead of export crops. Also, greater efforts are needed to protect against post-harvest losses.

As far as Guideline 5 is concerned, it is absolutely necessary for agricultural production and food strategies to be geared to each other more than in the past. Attention should be paid to local crops since they are generally most appropriate. They represent an important component of the daily diet of the agricultural population.

It would be desirable if, in the light of increasing environmental problems, the relationship between forests and food security could be emphasized more strongly. Proper foodstuffs are also determining as far as the spread of disease is concerned. Once again, extension programmes and information are very important here.

As far as Guideline 8 is concerned, in recent years there was experience on implementation of commodity agreements with market intervention mechanism. In particular as far as the level of price was concerned.

In the past a mistake was made that price levels were set too high instead of gearing them to a medium or long-term trend where unrealistically high prices were striven for, these were exacerbated by structural, not only seasonal, surpluses as experience has shown. In those circumstances any commodity agreement is bound to fail where major structural surpluses which exist over a longer period adjustment to consumption to production is the only long-term solution.

It is our belief that the Cocoa Agreement has not been frozen since 1988 but paralyzed, since there was no agreement on price range and therefore no market withholding scheme could be implemented. It should be mentioned that because of this was the failure or the absence of financial commitments on the part of the producers. At present the debts of the producer countries towards the compensatory stock are about US\$150 million. That represents a major obstacle in the way of future cooperation in the cocoa sector for any new Cocoa Agreement.

The projects for research and development programmes for cocoa, nuts, oil palms and other products have been drawn up by the FAO Secretariat and are passed on the Intergovernmental Group on Oil Seed, Oils and Fats.

The Secretariat submits as comprehensive a project offer as possible for all areas. A pre-selection of a limited number of projects would have meant less work for the Organization and thus less costs and the inter-state group would not have yielded to the temptation of including too many in the fund. The problem is there were too many projects that were accepted with too high financing needs. The reaction of the Joint Fund still remains to be seen and apart from that the Joint Fund should not be given the burden of setting priorities.

We hope that in the future, and this applies to all inter-state commodity groups, more realism will return to the deliberations.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): The scope of this excellent document is so wide that it would be impossible to cover all aspects. I will therefore concentrate on a few selected issues referring to a limited number of guidelines.

Guideline 1 sums up the situation. Its target of an annual rate of growth for food and agriculture production in developing countries provides a quick reference yardstick against which we can measure progress in the international implementation of the international agreements mentioned in paragraph 3 of document C 91/18 but also towards the achievement of FAO's goals themselves.

In this context, the picture seen from Latin America and the Caribbean is somewhat disappointing. In particular, the reduction in growth rate from the '70s to the '80s cannot be accepted with indifference. Several internal and external factors contributed to these meagre results. Let me however stress one point. Over the last 20 years, the fertility rate of women in Brazil was cut in half, with a steep corresponding reduction in the growth rate of population. As this decline in demographic growth coincided with a decline in the rate of economic growth, it is difficult for my delegation to accept the claim that demographic growth lies at the root of development problems.

If you allow me to highlight one more point in this section, I would like to bring your attention to paragraph 1.17. It is clear that the growth of agricultural production in the developing countries can hardly happen as it continues to be squeezed out of the market by the subsidized production of the developed countries.

This brings me to Guideline 7. Paragraph 7.1 describes in a nutshell the dilemmas that we face. The patchy attempts to compensate for the high level of protection in most OECD countries by means of preferential arrangements has had mixed results at best. Moreover, they tend to shift the burden of adjustment to other developing countries through frequent recourse to discriminatory measures. Some of these are mentioned in the document. Of particular interest to Brazil are the restrictions in the markets for meat, tropical beverages and processed natural products such as paper and sisal harvest twine. As you can see, we are quite safe from the dangers of liberalism "à outrance".

Turning now to Guideline 9, I believe it is important to recognize that south-south trade has suffered markedly from the financial crisis of the 1980s. The lack of adequate supportive financial mechanisms undoubtedly hindered trade among developing countries. We are encouraged, however, by the reversal in trend which occurred in the latter part of the decade, thanks to imaginative schemes and the renewed determination to foster ECDC.

Finally, allow me to refer briefly to the paragraphs on TCDC. We are fully in agreement with the main thrust of those paragraphs and call upon FAO to pursue and strengthen its contribution to this fundamental line of international cooperation.

Rudolph de POURTALES (Suisse): M. le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission.

J'aimerais me référer à quelques points qui ont attiré mon attention pendant ce débat. Je n'avais pas l'intention de prendre la parole au départ. Mais l'introduction très intéressante de M. Dutia m'a fait penser que probablement cet exercice n'est plus tout à fait d'actualité.

M. Dutia a fait un constat d'échecs sur toute la ligne. Il a dit que les progrès sont lents et peu satisfaisants. Est-ce que les progrès sont peu satisfaisants et lents par rapport aux lignes directrices, ou est-ce que les lignes directrices ne sont plus tout à fait d'actualité? Je crois que cette question mérite d'être étudiée, comme d'autres délégués l'ont fait remarquer, et il faudrait peut-être revoir ces lignes directrices et les adapter à de nouvelles situations.

Permettez-moi maintenant de faire quelques réflexions tout à fait spontanées sur le document très intéressant, très fourni et très analytique et d'essayer d'identifier un fil conducteur.

Il m'a semblé que le fil conducteur est la stabilisation et la sécurité alimentaire. Malheureusement, dans le document, la sécurité alimentaire est un peu trop identifiée avec le stockage et pas suffisamment avec les mesures de politique agricole. Je crois que c'est un tournant qu'il faudra absolument prendre. Les politiques agricoles sont essentielles pour la sécurité alimentaire, et nous ne pouvons pas nous contenter de simples stockages, qu'ils soient locaux ou internationaux.

D'autre part, le document fait état de la libéralisation nécessaire dans les marchés agricoles. Comme l'a dit le chef de ma délégation dans son intervention en séance plénière, la libéralisation n'est pas une recette pour assurer le développement de l'agriculture des pays en développement.

Elle peut être également très dangereuse pour le développement de l'agriculture de ces pays, puisque l'avantage comparatif n'est pas absolument garanti, comme d'autres observations l'ont fait remarquer.

Un autre point qu'il me semble important de soulever, c'est le flux des ressources vers l'agriculture. Le document remarque qu'il y a un manque de flux de ressources vers l'agriculture, d'investissements dans l'agriculture. Mais le document a tendance à poser le problème sur les ressources gouvernementales, en disant que les gouvernements n'ont pas suffisamment de ressources budgétaires pour investir dans l'agriculture, et sur les apports externes.

A mon avis, le document aurait dû analyser davantage les raisons pour lesquelles il n'y a pas plus d'épargne interne investie dans l'agriculture. Je crois que c'est un facteur extrêmement important. Si les politiques des pays favorisaient un tel investissement vers l'agriculture, les choses pourraient évoluer différemment.

Enfin, quelques mots au sujet de la participation des populations. C'est un des facteurs extrêmement importants du développement de l'agriculture. De récentes expériences ont montré en Afrique et en Asie qu'avec une participation active à tous les niveaux - c'est-à-dire depuis la conception, la prise de décision jusqu'à la mise en oeuvre - des populations intéressées, les programmes de développement agricole et les autres programmes de développement en général peuvent fonctionner de façon beaucoup plus rationnelle avec moins de ressources et avec moins de pertes de ressources.

The meeting rose at 22.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 22 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 22.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/4

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION IVingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I26° período de sesiones
COMISION IFOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(16 November 1991)

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.30 hoursMr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Chairman of Commission I, presidingLa quatrième séance est ouverte à 10 h 30sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Président de la Commission ISe abre la cuarta sesión a las 10.30 horasbajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agricola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report (continued)
- 6.2 Ajustement agricole international: Rapport intérimaire (suite)
- 6.2 Reajuste agrícola internacional: Informe parcial (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I will give the floor to the first speaker on Item 6.2, International Agricultural Adjustment, the delegate of China.

GONG JIANCHUN (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, firstly I should like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the excellent C 91/18, as well as to thank Mr Dutia for the Introduction two days ago.

This document reveals the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for Agricultural Adjustment for the last four years. This is necessary for our review of the Programme now, and let me offer a few opinions on this item.

Firstly, Guideline 1. In the 1980s, the annual average growth rate for agricultural development in developing countries was 3.3 percent, but such development was not balanced. The per capita food production actually declined; poverty is widespread; the population suffering from malnutrition is on the rise. The gap between the North and South did not narrow, but actually widened. We would think that it is virtually impossible to maintain stable and sustained world economic development under such circumstances. We would urge that the international community adopt positive measures to eliminate all actions and factors not conducive for development. Only in such a way can we implement the Guidelines and Targets for the Adjustment.

Over the years the international community and governments have done great work in eliminating protectionism in the trade of farm produce but the situation is still very serious. Negotiations in the Uruguay Round have not achieved anything, resulting in the worsening of the terms of trade in farm produce from the developing countries. The development of agricultural development is still confronted by such constraints. We would urge that the world community should establish a just and rational market for farm produce.

As for Guidelines 11 and 12, we taken note with concern that actual assistance for agricultural development has declined. The ODA rate is far below the target set in the Guidelines, and it is not enough to respond to the actual needs of the developing countries.

We would urge the international community, as well as the developed countries especially, to pay more attention to the needs of these countries. Thank you.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, I wish to make a short statement to add our support to those who have suggested that the time is ripe for some form of reassessment of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment. This is not to say that members have not been well served by the information that the discipline of these Guidelines has provided. It is to say that the world has changed, the way we perceive it has changed, and the way we describe it should therefore change. I suspect that the original drafters of these Guidelines did not believe they were being written on stone tablets, never to be changed, when they were originally formulated in 1975. Indeed, the very first paragraph of document C 91/18 reminds us that eight years later, in 1983, they were revised and updated. I am not proposing there is a natural cycle for these things but I would note that we are a further eight years on from that revision. That is not in itself a sufficient reason to reconsider them. Rather, we believe that a close scrutiny of the guidelines indicates that they are not fully in tune with current perceptions of the world, and that a reappraisal of how they are used is now due. Some guidelines remain relevant while some have seen world development overtake them. In the first category I would place Guideline 7 concerning trade barriers, and in the second category I would place Guideline 8 (on price stability and commodity agreements) and Guideline 10 (on food security). You have heard suggestions from other delegates on some other guidelines.

We would look forward, Mr Chairman, to the views of the Secretariat on a procedure that might be followed in undertaking another review of these guidelines, such as would lead to a more flexible use of Secretariat resources in this exercise.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the delegate of New Zealand and I would like to record that many things have changed in the world today, and we should perhaps try to reassess and review these guidelines.

Mrs Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Austria) (Original language German): The Seventh Progress Report in document C 91/18 gives a good overview of the international agricultural adjustment. The overview at the beginning of the report is certainly very valuable for someone who wants to read quickly, and here might I refer particularly to paragraphs 6 and 13 with respect to changes in agricultural policy.

It should be pointed out for Austria that with respect to extensive agricultural production, ecological requirements must be taken ever more into account in order at the same time to achieve proper market adaptations. Alternative requirements in the plant area, particularly for programmes to produce production intensity was reinforced in 1992 with respect to mountainous and green areas, the reduction of the milk market promotion of dairy cow holdings was improved in 1992, and voluntary reductions in milk production was continued. Ecological efforts are further supported in that the use of fertilizers of a given extent and concentration in the holding of agricultural animals was subject to

authorization and given values for pesticides and nitrates cannot be exceeded. With respect to calorie demand for foodstuffs we are now at 3 044 calories in Austria per capita. This was covered to a 99 percent level by domestic production. There was of course a great diversity in coverage for individual products, for example, self-sufficiency for wheat was 145 percent and for oilseeds 44 percent. The volume of agricultural foreign trade is relatively limited. In 1990 there was a further increase to 32.59 thousand million Austrian schillings (of which products worth some 8.95 thousand million schillings were not produced domestically), where exports went down to some 16.27 thousand million schillings. About 50 percent of the agricultural exports went to the states of the European Economic Community, and 57 percent of the imports came from the EEC.

With respect to the individual guidelines, I would like to limit myself only to the essential problems. It is to be welcomed that, on average, progress has been made in food security in developing countries, as can be seen from the overview given in Guideline 1. But of course a large share of the population is faced with problems, and here I am talking about that group which has only 2 000 calories per capita per day which covers some 6 percent of the overall population. This can be seen in Table 1.4. Concentration of efforts will be necessary for this group. It is essential that help to self help is given by training, education, counseling and research. Here I am referring to III-2.13, 3.12 to 3.17. Better training and education for women (4.9-19) is particularly necessary. The Uruguay Round is dealt with in Guidelines, 7, 8 and 9. Whether and to what extent trade liberalization, which is being sought in the Uruguay Round, will give advantages to the developing countries as laid out in the document, remains to be seen. Perhaps the presentation is a bit too optimistic if one considers that liberalization goals are to be taken into account, but no account is taken of social, regional and ecological criteria. In the negotiation documents for the end-phase of the Uruguay Round, the right of exception for developing countries is considerably limited. This right of waiver was and has been already accepted by Austria. Moreover, a Commonwealth study shows that only some specific developing countries would profit from liberalization. The developing countries seem more to be net losers because additional income of producers should not compete with losses for consumers. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): It appears that no one else wishes to take the floor on this item. I have been told that India and Argentina have submitted their statements in writing. They will be included in the minutes of our meeting.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Mr Chairman, the Seventh Progress Report of International Agricultural Adjustment is informative and sets the tone for discussion of various agricultural policy issues. Information given on guideline one which concerns mainly agricultural production indicates that growth rate in the developing countries in the '80s was 3.3 percent but the performance was much poorer when two countries China and India are excluded. The poor rates of growth of production are a matter of concern although we feel satisfied that my country continued to perform well. Yesterday, the distinguished delegate of Denmark requested to know about the factors which have contributed to satisfactory growth rates in China and India. I shall like to respond to his request briefly by saying that

the achievement in agricultural production in India is largely due to the policies, strategies and programmes adopted by the Government as also the intensive efforts of scientists and the dynamic response of the farmers.

Agricultural inputs have particularly played an important role in accelerating the growth of production and productivity. Irrigation support through major and medium irrigation projects, command area development, tank irrigation and use of ground- water has been the main element of strategy of raising the agricultural production. During the 7th Five-Year Plan period ending 1989-90, a potential of 12 million hectares of irrigated area was created.

The high-yielding varieties programme introduced in 1966-67 covers at present 63 million hectares under foodgrains. Certified and quality seeds of suitable varieties are made available to farmers in adequate quantity, in time and at reasonable prices. Consumption of fertilizers has more than doubled over the last ten years reaching a level of over 12 million tons of nutrients in 1991. To enable farmers to use large quantities of agricultural inputs, the disbursement of agricultural credit has also almost doubled during the last five years.

Mr Chairman, the Government policies in the development of effective input supply services have evolved over a period of time. Public sector companies like the National Seeds Corporation and credit institutions like the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development together with cooperatives have become very important instruments in India for enabling small farmers to adopt new technologies. The mass media particularly the radio, TV, local language newspapers have become powerful communication tools. Extension service including the Training and Visit System of structured knowledge transfer have grown in capacity and effectiveness. India also has excellent network of agricultural research institutes and universities which are manned by dedicated and high quality personnel.

Mr Chairman, the production programmes in India have the support of effective price support, marketing and scientific storage policies. Procurement and support for important crops are fixed by Government on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. To ensure that procurement prices actually reach the farmer, the Government operates a procurement system. The FCI and the state agencies have been assigned the responsibility of making purchases at prices fixed by the Government with the objective of remunerative returns to the farmers and enabling the government to maintain adequate buffer stocks to achieve food security in food supply.

Mr Chairman, let me conclude by saying that the performance of Indian agriculture which has shown resilience in recent years still remains largely dependent on monsoons. The influence of monsoons, however, has been moderated by initiation of various development programmes. Thus, even during the severe drought of 1987-88 the decline in agricultural production was only 0.8 percent when compared with the previous year. Having already spoken at length on guideline one, I do not propose to dwell in detail on other guidelines. In fact, I have already covered the Guidelines 3 and 10. As regards Guideline 2, our efforts to increase the flow of resources to agriculture need to be adequately supported by international community. Guidelines 4 and 5 will come up for detailed discussion under Agenda

Items 8 and 12. Guideline 8 concerning trade is of crucial importance to us and we are looking forward to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.¹

Marcelo REGUNAGA (Argentina): Mi delegación quisiera formular breves comentarios puntuales acerca del documento C 91/18 que estamos debatiendo. En tal sentido, quisiéramos destacar lo expresado en el párrafo 6 del documento y resaltar la necesidad de que los países desarrollados acompañen los esfuerzos de los países en desarrollo en sus programas de liberalización agrícola.

Respecto de la Orientación 1, párrafo 1.6, la delegación argentina desea señalar que la seguridad alimentaria mundial no puede depender de la producción y acumulación de excedentes de los países desarrollados. El libre comercio permitirá que los países en desarrollo aumenten su producción y su productividad como resultado de explotaciones rentables y muchos países en desarrollo podrán reducir las necesidades de importar alimentos.

En lo que hace a la Orientación 3, creemos señor Presidente, que debería tomarse en cuenta la posibilidad de desarrollar programas tendientes a fomentar el empleo no agrícola en áreas rurales, dada la importancia que este tipo de empleo tiene, según lo manifestado en el párrafo 3.5

Acerca de la Orientación 7, reafirmamos, señor Presidente, la importancia de que se logre una reducción generalizada del proteccionismo agrícola y de las barreras al comercio, ya que tal como lo afirmara antes, no ha habido un esfuerzo manifiesto por parte de los países desarrollados en ese sentido.

Si bien, señor Presidente, en casos puntuales (Convención de Lomé y SGP) existen algunos progresos, enfatizamos que es necesario generalizar y profundizar esa tendencia.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, la delegación argentina quiere apoyar la necesidad señalada en la Orientación 11, párrafos 11.8 y 11.9, de que se incrementen las operaciones trianguladas.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.²

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I now give the floor to Mr Dutia to reply to the comments and questions raised.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): There have not been any discussion on this item. However, with your permission I should like to make a few points. The first concerns the remarks made by the delegate of the Netherlands the day before yesterday on the results of the studies that have been made by the Secretariat on stabilization of international market prices. The number of studies made is

1 Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

2 Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

quite considerable and it would be very difficult for me to summarize them all in this meeting. All that I can suggest is that we would be very happy to share the thinking on this subject with the delegate of the Netherlands and also to provide him with the studies that we have undertaken on the matter.

The other point on which I should like to comment is the observations made by a number of delegates about the fact that the Guidelines as they stand today, which were revised in 1983, do not take into account the new policy development, perceptions, and so on. We generally agree with this observation. It is true that that is the case and we should very much welcome clear guidance from the Conference as to how you would like us to go about reporting the progress that has been made under the Guidelines in the future; and also, in a broader sense, on the policy developments as they occur in respect of the food and agriculture sector.

It is my understanding that the general feeling is that such an exercise is valuable and should be continued, but your guidance on how the Secretariat should go about understanding such an exercise and reporting on it to you would be very useful and essential in order that we may prepare a report which would meet with your expectations.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : At the end of this debate we can now summarize the issues. The policy review is considered by the Conference as a valuable exercise which should be continued. There is also a general consensus that FAO is eminently suited to carry out such an exercise for the food and agriculture sector. There is also a general feeling that the Guidelines which were revised in 1983 have in some respects become outdated. They also do not reflect new consensus on policy issues or change in policy perceptions. As such, a review of the Guidelines suffers from certain limitations. There is also a desire on the part of all concerned, including the Secretariat I believe, that this could and should be improved.

Bearing this in mind and in order to give clear guidance to the Secretariat for the future, I suggest the following for your consideration.

An in-depth review of the policy issue and development should be undertaken at the four-year cycle as at present using the IAA Guidelines as a broad framework, and with flexibility. However, in doing so the Secretariat should also take into account the consensus reached on policy issues as reflected in the document, such as international development strategy for the fourth development decade, FAO's long-term strategy for food and agriculture; and also conclusions reached at major international conferences such as UNCED, and the International Conference on Nutrition. The Uruguay Round should also be taken into account in such policy reviews.

Some Member Nations have also expressed the view that the Conference should consider together the SOFA document and the Review of the IAA Guidelines along the lines described above.

If those suggestions meet with your agreement, we can instruct the Secretariat accordingly.

Ms Carol J. KRAMER (United States of America): I should like to raise a question of clarification. Can you again summarize how this Conference feeds in suggestions regarding the revision of these Guidelines?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): By putting forward my proposal I did not wish to speak of the need for totally modifying the Guidelines. I simply suggested that the modalities be changed which had been adopted concerning the way the Guidelines were revised.

J.M SCOTT (United Kingdom): I think the United States question still remains whether we are talking of changing or revising. Will there be a procedure by which individual members of this Commission can feed in their ideas as to how this revision should take place?

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): First of all, I should like to make it clear that we are totally in the hands of the delegates here and we will carry out their wishes as they are agreed. However, the question of how the Secretariat reports on the progress that has been made in the policy developments on issues are covered by the Guidelines. If the Guidelines were to be revised, and if that is the wish of the Member Governments, this could be done, but I should point out that such an exercise, again judging from experience in the past, would require a lot of resources and efforts. Then even after the revision has been made, as the world is developing these Guidelines may soon become outdated. There will be new policy developments, new policy perceptions, etc, and there will still be need for looking at the problem in a broader framework.

Keeping this in mind, the Secretariat feels - this is, of course, for approval by the Member Governments - that instead of embarking on an exercise of a full revision of the Guidelines the Secretariat could be instructed by Member Governments to adopt a certain degree of flexibility in reporting on the policy developments concerning the food and agriculture sector.

Of course, in doing so, the Secretariat would try its best to reflect the changing scene on the policy side with a new policy consensus as might have emerged through other documents, conferences, etc. This is one way of going about meeting the lacuna that many delegates have pointed out. As I said before, we are of course totally in your hands, but we need clear guidance. If you want us to embark on a total revision of the Guidelines it must be stated clearly and we will do it. I would like to point out however that certain exercises may soon become outdated as policy changes continue to occur.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark) : I will quite frankly admit that I feel embarrassed in this situation and I think it is the same for many other delegations. First of all, I welcome very much the openness and invitation to dialogue from the Secretariat on how we can try together to adapt these Guidelines on the International Agricultural Adjustment, but we may not yet be well enough prepared to enter into a dialogue to provide guidance to the Secretariat. The approach suggested by Mr Dutia, that you should in the

first instance be allowed flexibility in following policy developments as they are evolving in this rather turbulent period, would be a good one to start with, but in future the Membership should be confined to its role of governance vis-a-vis the Secretariat and be more aware of where we could suggest amendments and maybe new guidelines, because a total revision would be very time-consuming indeed and we would not be prepared to suggest that yet. If I were to suggest anything, I would support what has been said by the United States delegate that on, for instance, developments in privatization and market economies there could be new guidelines and, in the hope that we have a successful agreement in the GATT Uruguay Round, there may be some development that could be monitored by the FAO.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Secretariat will do everything this Commission requests it to do. The Secretariat has of course taken note of all your comments, particularly changes experienced by certain countries moving to adopt new systems for opening their markets.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): Mr Chairman, your suggestion means that the decision taken by the Twenty-fourth Assembly is maintained over four years, and we are interested in the decision of the Twenty-fifth Session. We said that only some Guidelines, numbers 7, 8 and 12, should be revised every two years and I think this is justified. Change in the world agricultural and economic situation is so swift that we find we have to review these Guidelines in order to adapt them to current situations and, as the delegate of Denmark said, for certain sectors it might be necessary to supplement some of the guidelines, particularly as concerns ecological and social aspects. I think we have to carry out this review in the light of the reform of the European Common Agricultural Policy, in the light of developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and also in the light of the results of the Uruguay Round. We owe this reviews to the developing countries. As has already been said under Item 6.1, we have a duty to help developing countries, that is to say, to identify the repercussions and to help them if the effects were to become negative.

Rudolph DE POURTALES (Suisse): Le délégué de l'Allemagne a déjà couvert une partie des idées que je voulais présenter. Il ne s'agit pas, je crois, d'une refonte totale des lignes directrices à court terme, mais d'une adaptation progressive à l'évolution du monde. Et je crois qu'il est important de voir ces lignes directrices évoluer avec l'évolution du monde pour avoir un point de référence. M. Dutia a très justement dit: Il faut une certaine souplesse dans l'analyse et dans l'information des pays membres. Mais pour les pays membres, il est important d'avoir un point de référence, et les lignes d'orientation sont un point de référence important.

IL conviendrait d'adapter ces lignes d'orientation sans faire un travail de refonte totale, mais en tenant compte des nouveaux éléments de la politique mondiale, de l'évolution des politiques agricoles, et en laissant peut-être de côté des éléments qui ne sont plus importants actuellement.

Donc il s'agit simplement de faire un tri entre ce qui est important et ce qui n'est pas important, pour permettre ensuite aux délégations de juger du rapport d'évolution avec des critères assez sérieux.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden) : We very much appreciate your summary and your proposal on how to proceed on this very tricky issue. We especially like the emphasis placed on flexibility in this regard, which we think is very much needed. Perhaps it would also be possible to ask the Secretariat to comment very briefly at the next review four years from now on the relevance of the existing Guidelines, and then we could decide whether to undertake a revision, which could be a rather lengthy and difficult process, or we may find a better, more flexible way out of this.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): If there are no further speakers wishing to take the floor, in light of the discussion which has just taken place, it seems everyone is requesting that these Guidelines be adapted to changes as they take place in the world. The Secretariat has taken note of your wishes and we can therefore now wind up this item.

It was so decided.

Il en fut ainsi décidé.

Así ha sido decidido.

6.3 Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People

6.3 Assistance technique au peuple palestinien

6.3 Asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of this Commission, we will now discuss Item 6.3 of our Agenda, which is the Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of Resolution 1/89, Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People. I now give the floor to Mr Walton to introduce this item of the Agenda.

Declan J. WALTON (Special Adviser to the Director - General) : Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I shall make a rather brief introduction of this item, divided into three parts: procedural aspects, the central findings of our mission, and the question of follow-up.

First, the procedural aspects. Our mission took place from 23 August to 6 September. It was formally approved by the Government of Israel, and the relevant correspondence is included in the document before the Conference. Apart from myself, the mission consisted of Mr Adel Cortas, Assistant to the ADG, Economic and Social Policy Department, and Dr René Brackaert, Livestock Production Officer.

We received considerable advance briefing, as described in our report. This was useful preparation, but our findings are based on direct observations, and discussions on the spot. We were able to visit all the main agricultural areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We talked with many organizations and individuals: Palestinian, Israeli, and international. I

would like to pay tribute to the very forthcoming manner in which we were received by all parties concerned.

As we say in the report, we have tried to give a balanced account, without glossing over the political aspects, but also without focusing on political aspects as such. Our objective has been to give an overview that is technical, objective and rounded.

I may add at this point that, in line with Conference Resolution 1/89, a Symposium on the Palestinian Agricultural Sector took place in Rome from 9 to 11 October last. It was attended by consultants and experts selected from the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza in their personal, technical capacity, and also by representatives of the UN Office of Political and General Assembly Affairs (Division for Palestinian Rights), UNDP, UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre, IFAD, WFP, UNRWA, ESCWA, the League of Arab States, the Al-Quds Open University and the Palestine Liberation Organization, as well as by FAO technical staff.

Papers were presented on the current situation of the agricultural sector, on present agricultural policies and their impact on agricultural development in the territories, and on institutional support for agricultural development. A full and constructive discussion took place in the Symposium, which identified a series of measures necessary to improve agricultural development in the territories. I would say that there is a full convergence between the conclusions of the Symposium and the findings of the mission. The proceedings of the Symposium will be published in due course.

I would like now to give a highly condensed summary of the central findings of the mission. This, I hope, will assist the Commission to consider our suggested approach to possible technical interventions by FAO. The full list of possible interventions is contained in paragraph 12 of C 91/10.

Quite apart from the difficult political and institutional context in which they live, the Palestinian farmers face a number of very severe problems indeed.

The most extreme difficulties are found in the Gaza Strip. Citrus production has long been the keystone of Gazan agriculture. Water shortages, and the increasing salinization of wells, threaten the physical ability of the citrus sub-sector to continue producing. At the same time, weak international markets and falling prices threaten the economic ability of the Gazan producers even to cover their costs. Our most urgent recommendation is for a detailed study of the options for citrus producers in the Gaza Strip.

Biological problems are a major threat to another very important sub-sector: grape production in the West Bank. Phylloxera, which devastated almost all European vineyards in the nineteenth century, is a serious and immediate threat. In the principal producing area, around Hebron, only 5 percent of the vines have been replanted with phylloxera-resistant root stocks.

The largest crop area in the West Bank is under olives. Here again, there are both physical and economic problems. The physical problem relates to the enormous swings in yield between one year and another. The economic

problem derives from the weakness of international markets, combined with relatively high production costs in the West Bank.

Markets are the most immediate problem facing many agricultural sub-sectors, including vegetables. Traditional markets in the Gulf area are difficult or even impossible of access as a result of the closing of frontiers during the Gulf war. Sales to Eastern Europe have declined with the mounting economic difficulties of the region. Access to the highly protected Israeli market is extremely limited. The European Community has made a very promising trade agreement governing access by Palestinian products to Western Europe, but the quantities actually traded are still far short of the objective.

The one sub-sector that has been doing relatively well is livestock production for the domestic market. This has been stimulated by Intifada, and accounts for about half the value of agricultural GDP in the West Bank, and some 30 percent in the Gaza Strip. Among our suggestions, I would particularly emphasize the idea of developing the use of agricultural by-products for animal feed.

The three most emotive, controversial and important areas dealt with in our report are probably water problems, land issues, and institutions. I shall not attempt to summarize these complex groups of problems, but would like simply to draw attention to one or two of our suggestions.

With regard to water we feel, rightly or wrongly, that a study of the long-term water problems of West Bank and Gazan agriculture could clarify some issues in the interest of all parties. On the land problem, we urge an examination of the possibilities of strengthening rainfed production afforestation and range management. In the domain of institutions, we were struck by the need for strengthening in a number of areas. I would cite specifically agricultural research and extension, as well as education and training. We would also advocate an advisory service on farm management and investment, and the development of a monitoring system for programmes and projects.

We have set out a small number of other proposals regarding fisheries, agro-industries, promoting the role of women, and protecting the environment, all of which I hope are self-explanatory.

Mr Chairman, it only remains for me to say something about follow-up. In the view of the mission members, the most useful thing we could do was to identify areas in which FAO, or the international community in general, could provide practical support of genuine value in the context of Palestinian agriculture. The list of our recommendations may appear long, but we felt we should cover all sub-sectors of Palestinian agriculture. Furthermore, I would point out that some of our recommendations are quite simple in scope, although others are more complex. We felt we could not reasonably undertake project identification or formulation in the technical sense. This would be the next stage following our mission.

Apart from the study of citrus in Ghaza, which we saw as especially urgent, we have not suggested priorities. These should emerge in the course of further discussions with all parties concerned, including potential donors. The Organization has no significant amount of funds available for these activities within its own resources. Consequently, we shall be almost

entirely dependent on extra-budgetary funding for activities to be carried out by FAO. I hope that our recommendations will be seriously considered by all donors interested in Palestinian agriculture, irrespective of whether they wish to work through FAO or prefer to use other channels. The main thing, surely, is that the work should get done. Whether it is done by FAO or someone else is quite secondary, as long as it is done well.

Internally, I suggest that we shall have no particular problems in handling the follow-up. At Headquarters, Mr Cortas could be the focal point, working in close cooperation with DDF and the technical departments. We also have some technical capacity in the Regional Office for the Near East and in our Joint Agriculture Division with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Particular skills that may be available in any of these offices could be drawn upon as necessary, subject to proper planning. We would work in the closest cooperation with the UNDP Office in Jerusalem.

Mr Chairman, in paragraph 14 of document C 91/10 the Conference is invited to express itself on the suggested approach to possible technical interventions by FAO. If the approach is acceptable, the Conference may wish to invite the Director-General to provide technical assistance along the lines proposed and to bring funding needs to the attention of potential donors. We look forward to hearing the reactions of the Commission.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) I would like to thank Mr Walton for that introduction. This was a very comprehensive introduction dealing with various points and I do not think there are any comments that we need to make on the introduction itself. I think it would be a good idea now to hear the comments of representatives of various countries in order to give the Commission some guidance with respect to future activities of the Organization in favour of farmers in the West Bank and Ghaza. Might I ask who would like to take the floor on this matter? I give the floor to the Representative of Yemen.

Anwar M. KHALED (Yemen) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I do go along with what was said with respect to the clear and comprehensive nature of Mr Walton's introduction. At the same time the introduction was a very concise one. Might I now make a statement on behalf of the group of Arab States on the implementation of Resolution 189: Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People.

The Group of Arab States, members of FAO and the delegation of Palestine had a meeting on 13 November to review the Director-General's report contained in document C 91/10. I wish on behalf of the group of Arab States and the representatives of the Palestinian people to express first of all our thanks and appreciation to the Member Nations which voted in favour of the Resolution for providing technical assistance to the Palestinian people adopted by the 25th FAO Conference, thus upholding international legitimacy by implementing United Nations resolutions and assisting the Palestinian people in accordance with the Geneva Conventions that provide for the protection of peoples under occupation.

We also thank them for their deep understanding of the tragedy and the economic and social suffering of the Palestinian people who have been living under occupation for more than 25 years. The Arab Group also wishes

to thank the Director-General for his efficient and effective implementation of the Resolution on the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people, particularly through the fielding of the mission and the organization of the Symposium. His choice of the experts charged with the implementation of the various provisions of that Resolution has been most appropriate as reflected in the outcome and conclusions of the above-mentioned Symposium and Mission.

The Symposium on the Palestinian agricultural sector has achieved its objectives, namely :

1. To prepare three working papers analyzing the present situation of the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian sector, highlighting problems and constraints as well as solutions, potentials and opportunities and ways and means to utilize them in order that the Palestinian agricultural sector may play its role in the economic and social development of the Palestinian people.
2. To invite agricultural specialists from occupied territories with practical experience with the various aspects of the Palestinian agriculture in order to enrich the symposium with their expert knowledge.
3. To invite international organizations sponsoring programmes to support agriculture in the occupied Palestinian territories, such as UNDP, UNCTAD, WFP, UNRWA, ESCWA, to enlighten the symposium on the problems, needs and potentials of the Palestinian agricultural sector and the nature of ongoing external programmes with a view to ensuring more effective coordination of the actions taken by the various agencies.
4. To make practical recommendations for solving the problems and making use of the potentials of the Palestinian agricultural sector, thus making it possible, together with the conclusions of the symposium, to compile a kind of guide to the programmes, projects, policies and measures needed to develop that sector.

As regards the Mission sent to study and evaluate the situation of the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian territories, we feel duty-bound to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Head of that Mission, Mr Declan Walton, former Deputy Director-General of FAO, and its members, Dr Adel Cortas, Assistant to the ADG, Economic and Social Policy Department, and Dr René Branckaert, Livestock Production Officer, Animal Production and Health Division, for the efficient and able manner in which they carried out their task in an area that suffers not only from the typical problems of Third World development, but also from a military occupation that has continued for more than 25 years.

The Mission has managed to evaluate the situation of Palestinian agriculture and was able to identify with a high degree of accuracy, problems and constraints as well as possibilities for development and technical interventions and assistance that could be provided by FAO to improve the lot of farmers.

The points underlined by that mission may be summarized as follows:

1. The Palestinian agricultural sector is confronted with serious problems that need to be tackled through urgent measures. These include irrigation water salinity, persistent shortage of water for irrigation by Palestinian farmers, widespread infestation by a number of insects and diseases that now threaten the production of major crops on which farmers depend for their living, a worsening of the problem of soil erosion as farmers are unable, because of their material conditions, to take the necessary preventive measures, and the deterioration of irrigation projects because of the inability of farmers to ensure maintenance and to replace irrigation pumps and equipment.
2. Deteriorating levels of essential agricultural services in the areas of production and marketing particularly for small farmers, as well as in the fields of research, extension, technology transfer, training and marketing services, including domestic and external marketing intelligence and the services pertaining to grading, packaging, transport, storage and processing.
3. A lack of active national institutions in Palestinian territories for agricultural planning and guidance and the supervision of agricultural development projects and the inability of existing grass-roots organizations, such as cooperatives farmers unions and development associations to perform such tasks for multiple and various reasons.
4. An acute shortage of agricultural credit facilities and inability of the majority of farmers, especially small farmers, to obtain the necessary funding in the form of seasonal operating loans or medium-and long-term lending for investment.
5. The promising areas for investment in the various sectors do not receive adequate attention in terms of economic and technical feasibility studies, and in terms of execution regarding, for instance, the use of plant and animal farm residues as feed, farm input manufacturing and aquaculture.
6. It is against the background of these realities and deteriorating conditions of the Palestinian agricultural sector that the group of Arabic States considers it necessary that FAO in cooperation with UNDP and other international institutions, allocate adequate resources and take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the mission, particularly in the following priority areas.
 1. Investigating the problem of irrigation waters in the occupied Palestinian territories with a view to formulating a comprehensive strategy to check the depletion of water resources and the deterioration of water quality and to develop additional sources of water to ensure the sustainability of the irrigated farming sector which represents an important source of agriculture agricultural income and employment in the West Bank and Gaza and to design programmes and projects for that purpose.
 2. Investigating the present deteriorating situation of citrus production in Gaza as a result of increased water salinity and decreased water availability for agriculture, and formulating

specific practical recommendations and projects to solve this problem.

3. Preparing a comprehensive study on the building of national Palestinian agricultural institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, particularly in the areas of integrated agricultural development planning, agricultural credit and marketing, all of which currently suffer from serious shortages.

4. FAO should prepare detailed studies on the issues highlighted in the Mission's report concerning the control of pests and diseases threatening key crops, protecting soil from erosion, using animal and plant by-products as feed, and maintenance and repair of pumps and farm equipment and measures and arrangements to develop natural grazing lands.

While reiterating its thanks to FAO for the actions already taken, the Arab Group should like to see practical measures initiated to implement the recommendations of the mission and the symposium, and to build on the major efforts made by FAO in implementing the resolution on the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people, and attaining the objectives of that resolution, namely promoting agricultural development in the occupied Palestinian territories, and improving the situation of farmers, especially small farmers, who make up the great majority of Palestinian farmers.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the representative of Yemen for his comprehensive and very clear statement which sets out priorities for the Organization to move towards implementation of the resolution on provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. I would now give the floor to Angola.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola) : Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation angolaise, remercier Monsieur Walton pour la présentation du document C 91/10. Nulle autre personne mieux que lui ne saurait présenter ce rapport. Il a vécu pendant une quinzaine de jours la différence entre les territoires israéliens et palestiniens, les difficultés des Palestiniens et leurs espoirs après le passage de la mission.

Les yeux de ces Palestiniens sont tournés vers le monde et attendent beaucoup de cette Conférence.

Comme sollicité dans la Résolution 1/89 de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO en 1989, le Directeur général a envoyé une mission chargée d'étudier et d'évaluer la situation du secteur agricole dans le territoire palestinien occupé. Cette mission s'est déroulée du 23 août au 6 septembre 1991, conduite par M. Declan J. Walton, après un échange de correspondance entre la FAO et l'Etat israélien.

Le document C 91/10 nous présente la situation réelle qui existe dans ces territoires. Nous ne pouvons que féliciter et remercier d'une part la

mission pour le travail accompli et d'autre part le Secrétariat pour le document qui nous a été présenté.

Compte tenu des résultats positifs que la communauté internationale attend de la Conférence de paix sur le Moyen-Orient, la délégation angolaise qui joint sa voix à d'autres demande à Israël d'abandonner les territoires qui ne lui appartiennent pas et sa politique de colonisation.

Tout au long du rapport la mission a formulé un certain nombre de propositions réalistes et que je ne voudrais pas citer ici mais que la délégation angolaise ne fait qu'appuyer.

Grâce à l'expérience accumulée pendant plus de quatre décennies, la FAO est le chef de file des institutions du système des Nations Unies qui peut accorder l'assistance technique et réaliser des projets agricoles pour essayer de permettre à ces territoires de récupérer le retard qu'ils ont connu et de résoudre les problèmes de l'agriculture auxquels ils sont confrontés.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the representative of Angola for his statement, and I hope speakers taking the floor will concentrate solely on the subject dealt with in our document. This is a technical matter, perfectly technical matter, and the political aspects should be discussed in other fora and not in this Commission.

I would now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Sra. Grafla SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Muchas gracias señor Presidente. La delegación de Cuba apoyó en el 25^o periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia el hecho de que la FAO enviase una misión que evaluara la situación agrícola en los territorios palestinos ocupados y ha seguido con interés las acciones que ha realizado la FAO en cumplimiento de esa solicitud hecha al Director General y contenida en la Resolución 1/89.

En tal sentido, mi delegación ha prestado especial atención al informe sobre el sector agrícola palestino que se basa en los resultados de la misión enviada por el Director General y que fue presidida por el Sr. Walton, que se contiene en el documento C 91/10.

Señor Presidente, por lo expresado en el citado informe, hemos entendido que la situación agrícola y alimentaria en los territorios palestinos ocupados es sumamente difícil y desafortunadamente no se han visto ahora cambios positivos inmediatos. Si bien el informe nos da a entender que existe en esos territorios un potencial considerable de desarrollo agrícola, éste sólo podría materializarse si se encuentran soluciones a los problemas de mercados y el de las limitaciones del acceso a los recursos de tierras y aguas que impone la ocupación y que se contienen en el propio documento.

Consideramos que la labor de la FAO recientemente ha comenzado con las acciones hasta ahora desplegadas. Hacen falta acciones concretas que se deriven directamente de lo planteado en el estudio que hoy se nos presenta.

La solución del problema del agua y su salinidad es indispensable para garantizar el desarrollo de la agricultura y la vida en esos territorios, y nos parece que en estos aspectos la FAO pudiera jugar un rol fundamental.

También es necesario incrementar las acciones de extensión, enseñanza y capacitación agrícola, y como un aspecto fundamental es imprescindible aumentar el crédito agrícola.

También la delegación de Cuba considera un paso importantísimo el hecho de que se promueva, estimule y apoye la incorporación de la mujer palestina a la agricultura y al desarrollo rural.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, la delegación de Cuba apoya las posibles intervenciones técnicas de la FAO para el desarrollo agrícola y social del pueblo palestino. Quisiera que se analizara la posibilidad de incrementar el sistema de crédito y también los fondos extrapresupuestarios para el desarrollo de la agricultura palestina.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): Thank you Mr Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its Member States. The nature of my intervention will be very general due to the fact that document C 91/10 was received in the capitals of the Twelve only recently.

Document C 91/10 gives an important insight into the present situation of the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestine territories. Therefore we welcome the document as an appropriate technical input in order to identify the various bottlenecks and structural problems of the agricultural sector in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The proceedings of the symposium that FAO organized from 9 to 11 October 1991 with the participation of several UN agencies, funds and programmes, would also provide valuable additional information concerning this issue. Thus we are looking forward to receiving the proceedings of this symposium.

Mr Chairman, now I would like to make a few brief remarks about the interesting findings of the mission sent by the Director-General to Israel and the territories. The mission report provides a wealth of technical information on the Palestine agricultural sector that shows us that there is a need for further research on a number of topics given the complexity of the problems. We agree with FAO that political problems of the region are certainly not within the competence of FAO. That is why we welcome the approach FAO has followed in trying to achieve a technical objective and rounded account of the agricultural situation.

Statements in paras 119 and 120 on the direct access of agricultural produce of the territories to the European Community on Most Favoured Nation terms are correct. We also believe that this arrangement is excellent and could bring great advantages to these territories' exporters. We do realize, however, that in view of the constraints described in the report it will indeed be very difficult for exporters in the region to compete with other existing exporters to the European Community. Furthermore, the document makes careful analysis and in-depth study so that a sound judgement on possible solutions for the agricultural problems of this complex region can be formed. We take notice with great interest of the suggestions for possible FAO interventions in the future for several

valuable contributions to the development of the agricultural sector of this region.

Mr Chairman, technical and political problems in the region concerned are certainly interwoven, as the mission reports so adequately analyse. I would like to remind you, Mr Chairman, that the Director-General quoted the Chinese proverb in his opening speech "one should walk on both legs". This applies very well to FAO's role in combining theoretical work with the practical work of the field programme.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation to all participants, the Israelis as well as the Palestinians, for their cooperation with the FAO mission, thus enabling them to write this report. I would furthermore encourage all parties to continue this cooperative attitude towards FAO so as to bring about fruitful technical assistance to the Palestinian people.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mohd. Fadzil AKRAM (Malaysia): First of all, the Malaysian delegation would like to thank and congratulate FAO, specifically Mr Walton and his mission, for the very successful study done and satisfactory report prepared as contained in document C 91/10. This comprehensive report gives us a clear picture on the agricultural situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Malaysian delegation fully supports any efforts by FAO to assist Palestinian farmers in this territory as listed on pages C34-C35 of the document. The Malaysian delegation supports the mission's opinion to take further action on the areas listed including the possibility of programme funding through UNDP particularly. Thank you Mr Chairman.

Mian Riaz SAMEE (Pakistan) : The delegation of Pakistan would like to compliment the FAO and the mission for an excellent report submitted by them in consequence of the decision of the 25th Conference.

Sir, the just and deserving economic needs and rights of the Palestinian people require recognition, sympathy and support. The basic needs of the Palestinian people which are proposed to be met in the Technical Assistance Report are deserving of adoption.

The Pakistan delegation supports the mission's findings and recommendations as summarized in paras 180-183 of the report presented by them.

Arising from para 183 of the report, Pakistan also proposes that this Commission recommend to the Conference the provision of necessary funds for the implementation of this Technical Assistance Programme.

Mahmoud Ahmed Samir SAMY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, as I am taking the floor for the first time in this Commission, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. Mr Chairman, the thanks which we would like to express to the Secretariat on the preparation of this document C 91/10 do not come under the traditional thanks we

express to the Secretariat on the quality of documents, but it is a very special, exceptional one because of the worth and importance of this document. This document in fact is excellent and is a result of great efforts reflected in the big quantity and high level information extremely supplied therein.

The reading of the document shows that the West Bank and Gaza are experiencing serious and urgent problems in agriculture, so, Sir, without going into details as to the direct or indirect reasons which caused this worrying situation, I would like to say that this document has very precisely defined the problems and identified the key factors which could help solve this serious situation.

The document has also outlined the means which will help put an end to the worsening agricultural situation and improve, therefore, the farmers' situation. I think that the factual and objective nature of the document makes it possible for us to have a very clear idea of the present situation in that region. Our view of the situation will enable us, no doubt, to predict the future and choose the best means of solving the problems and overcoming obstacles in order to achieve a better future for agriculture in the region. This will have an effect on the present economic situation where agriculture constitutes 32 percent of GNP in the West Bank and 28 percent in Gaza, as is mentioned in the document.

I should also like to refer to paragraph 28 of the document which says that if the current obstacles had not existed, greater agriculture development would have been possible because of the very considerable potential of these territories.

Among the problems covered in the document we should like to state that the problem of water resources is something on which we should dwell because, apart from the fact that the agricultural sector uses two-thirds of the total water consumption, the level of water consumption will have an effect not only on the agricultural sector but on other human activities, and also not only on the future of the region but also that of neighbouring countries and regions. We consider that the problem of water resources is the first priority which has to be covered in the interests of all.

The very complex situation in the region concerning the distribution of water resources, as is noted in paragraphs 56, 88 and 94, requires urgent solutions to improve the use of water and to increase the volume available. We must say here that the proposals made in the report on a future study of water requirements for agriculture in the region and the need to apply advanced technology for the use of water (para 98), the use of new methods for using saline water for agriculture (para 86), could be extremely helpful proposals for these regions.

One of the points which is made very clear in the document concerns the role played by a certain number of organizations and specialized agencies, and by the EEC which is playing a pioneering role in assistance to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Another point in the document concerns its complementarity. It in fact covers all aspects of agricultural activity and related activities. This description of the agricultural sector has covered the problems, the most

urgent ones and others, which need short-term and long-term plans, i.e. technical interventions by FAO (paragraphs 182 and 183).

We noted that, given the very large number of problems experienced by the region, we shall have to set an order of priority in consultation with the populations of the occupied territories and related institutions in order to prepare a list of priorities and projects which could improve the agricultural situation in the region. We hope that FAO will join all organizations and specialized agencies which are working and active in the occupied territories and which, through their technical potentiality and projects, can improve the situation for agriculture in the region. We hope that this very valuable study will be supplemented by such projects in the interests of farmers in the occupied territories.

We are confident that with considerable efforts and more fairness, these territories will have a better chance of experiencing a happier future and a better tomorrow full of hope.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I should like to thank the delegate of Egypt for his statement which was moderate and poetic at the same time.

Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America) : The United States delegation welcomes completion of this study, and compliments the FAO Secretariat on the technical quality of document C 91/10. We also wish to recognize the effective and constructive cooperation of all the many UN agencies involved, including FAO, and the concerned parties, Israelis and Palestinians, who made the technical study possible.

At the same time, we should appreciate more information on how such an ambitious programme of work would be funded and implemented. Such implementation will require further research and review, although we note the constructive introductory comments of the Secretariat in this regard.

We also welcome the Secretariat's intent to reinforce its close cooperation with UNDP in this effort. We understand that UNDP may already have some resources allocated for such purposes.

The United States delegation further notes that the general content of this report is entirely consistent with USG policy.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): M. le Président, ma délégation voudrait elle aussi féliciter M. Walton pour la présentation très claire de ce sujet important de notre ordre du jour.

Je me permettrai d'être bref, M. le Président, car ma délégation appuie les déclarations et propositions faites par les délégations du Yémen, de l'Angola, de Cuba, du Pakistan, et de l'Égypte.

Je voudrais, M. le Président, apprécier vivement le fait que la mission a rencontré les représentants des coopératives et associations d'agriculteurs de la Zone.

Je pense à ce sujet, M. le Président, (et en cela je partage l'avis du délégué de l'Egypte) que justement il faudra tenir dûment compte des souhaits de ces agriculteurs, quant aux opérations et actions techniques à promouvoir dans le futur, et bien entendu la priorité à y accorder.

Enfin, M. le Président, ma délégation souhaite que les problèmes soulevés aux paragraphes 100 à 110 du document trouvent des solutions au plus vite, car ils constituent sans nul doute des goulets d'étranglement très sérieux.

Je vous remercie.

Gamal Mohd. AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, as I am taking the floor for the first time in this Commission, it is an honour to have the opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this meeting.

My delegation would first of all like to thank and congratulate FAO and the Director-General for having thus responded to the wishes expressed by the Twenty-sixth Conference of the FAO concerning the need to help the Palestinian people. We should also like to pay tribute to document C 91/10 which is a real scientific study and very full report of the situation of food and agriculture in the occupied territories. We should like to thank Mr Declan Walton for doing this work. We should also like to thank FAO for the technical actions it intends to carry out in this sector.

The Conference on the Agricultural Sector in Palestine which was held in Rome in October 1991 made it possible to have a great deal more very interesting information which will be of help to FAO in the technical activities planned for the Palestinian people in this important sector. We also consider that these actions should take into account the very complex problems of the use of water and also the management of the territories, the role of women and ecological problems.

We should also like to express our support for FAO and the Director-General concerning the efforts which he wishes to deploy in order to help the Palestinian farmers find a solution to the worsening situation concerning food in this area. This type of work requires the necessary resources in order for them to be properly carried out.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): I wish to start my intervention by expressing our thanks to the Secretariat: for the preparation of document C 91/10 and for the introductory remarks.

We welcome the information contained in the document. We appreciate the Director-General's efforts in fulfilling Resolution 1/89 and the directive of the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council. When my delegation expressed support for the approval of Resolution 1/89 in 1989 it was done with full solidarity and sympathy to the situation in Palestine.

It is our earnest hope that FAO will, step by step, make the utmost efforts to help the farmers in Palestine to improve and enhance agricultural development activities. Today the Director-General has sent his report to

us on the symposium held in Rome in October 1991. We would appreciate receiving the report of the proceedings of the symposium so that we can have a complete picture of the requests and suggestions of the participants on this important agenda item. We would like to express our full support for possible follow-up action on these important activities based on the available report of this mission as well as the results of the symposium. We welcome the specific activities the Secretariat may advise this Conference of and we wish to assure the Conference that we will cooperate with the FAO in their implementation as per paragraph 183 of the mission report. We, therefore, support the allocation of funds for activities and support the close cooperation of FAO and UNDP for the provision of sufficient funds to smoothly implement the agreed activities.

Ms Tzipora RIMON (Israel): My delegation would first of all like to thank Mr Walton for his introduction. Further to a request by the Director-General of FAO, the Government of Israel agreed in July of this year to the visit of his representatives to study the situation of the agricultural sector in the territories of Judea and Sumerian Gaza. The Israeli authorities extended to the Mission the assistance required both for the arrangements prior to the visit and during the same. Senior officers and officials from different ministries and institutions in Israel met with the representatives and discussed openly the various aspects involved.

My delegation would like to confine itself to general remarks concerning the report. As the report in its Appendix C dealt at some length with the question of water users in agriculture, I shall refer mainly to this matter. In semi-arid areas suffering from increasing desertification, as is the case in many parts of the Middle East, water cannot be regarded as a God-given resource which one might use carelessly. Shortage of water in the region has forced us to seek new methods and techniques of reducing water consumption and to change to more water-efficient crops. As we approach the end of the twentieth century neither water nor land can be considered fixed resources. However, if managed intelligently and with the application of modern technologies, they may yield a vastly increased and diversified product. Land and water should be at the head of our priorities for regional cooperation and the guarantee of a better future; joint desalination projects, recycling of waste water and more efficient use of water for irrigation can play a central role in the region.

The Report of the Director-General contains a list of suggestions for possible technical intervention by FAO. The Civil Administration favours this activity and in fact is encouraging technical assistance and interventions by international organizations in the territories with good coordination in order to avoid overlapping, duplication or waste of resources, it is the hope of my delegation that funds for carrying out the various suggestions mentioned will be allocated.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): I wish very briefly to express the support of my delegation for FAO activities providing technical and advisory assistance to the Palestinian people. We are in full agreement with and support the suggestions of the FAO mission as described in paragraphs 100 to 110 in document C 91/10. In view of the urgency of certain problems,

plant protection issues and water management, we believe that the follow-up action by FAO should be intensified in order to prevent any further damage to natural resources.

Mokhtar BOUANANI (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe): M. le Président, j'essaierai d'être aussi bref que possible. M. le Président, la délégation du Maroc a pris connaissance des résultats de la mission de la FAO à l'issue de la visite qu'elle a rendu aux territoires palestiniens occupés. La délégation marocaine aimerait, en cette occasion, exprimer ses remerciements à M. le Directeur Général de la FAO pour l'application de la résolution concernant l'assistance au peuple palestinien.

Nous aimerions également remercier tous les membres de la mission pour le travail qu'elle a accompli et les propositions et conclusions qu'elle a avancé.

M. le Président, nous soutenons ce qu'a dit M. le chef de la délégation yemenite à ce propos et surtout en ce qui concerne les priorités à considérer, dont le problème de l'eau.

M. le Président, il nous faut, ceci étant, nous assurer des moyens de financer le programme proposé que nous soutenons totalement et qui doit être appliqué aussi rapidement que possible.

En cette occasion, j'aimerais au nom de la délégation du Maroc demander que ce programme de travail proposé soit inclus dans le budget de l'Organisation, ce budget que nous sommes en train de discuter, afin que son financement et son exécution soient assurés et garantis aussi rapidement que possible.

Merci M. le Président.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): M. le Président, je ne peux pas ne pas répondre à votre appel de brièveté. Je vais donc être très brève. J'avais préparé une longue intervention pour éclaircir différents points, pour rappeler l'attention sur l'eau dans une région aride, et du fait qu'elle peut tout changer dans cette région. Je m'en abstiendrai ici. Vous me permettrez tout de même et avant tout de vous féliciter pour votre élection et la façon dont vous menez les débats.

Je ne peux m'abstenir également de remercier M. le Directeur général et toute son équipe, la mission, toute les personnes qui y ont participé, pour ce qu'ils ont fait, pour ce qu'ils proposent, pour tous leurs efforts.

Je voudrais rappeler que l'Algérie, en tant que pays arabe, non seulement s'associe, mais a été à l'origine de la déclaration du représentant du Yemen, qu'elle soutient également toutes les déclarations qui ont été faites en faveur de l'application de la Résolution 1/89, et qu'elle soutient plus particulièrement les déclarations des représentants malgaches en ce qui concerne les paragraphes 100 à 110 et les propositions du représentant de l'Angola.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): As it is the first time I am taking the floor in this Commission, on behalf of my delegation and myself I would like to express my very warm congratulations to you on your election to the Chair of Commission I of our Conference. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the highly organized and informative document concerning technical assistance to the Palestinian people.

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to inform you and all distinguished delegations of the Member Nations of FAO that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in our country in 1979, support and assistance to the Palestinian people was one of the main foreign policies of our revolution. Following that, in 1990 last year, the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran approved a law concerning assistance to the Palestinian people. Accordingly, support and assistance to the Palestinian Muslim people is one of the legal mandates of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hence our delegation is very happy to see this item being considered in the Agenda of Commission I of our Conference.

As regards Item 6.3, our present discussion, technical assistance to the Palestinian people, our delegation has examined the document concerned very carefully. We would like to support the project mentioned in paragraph 182, and in order to achieve effective and efficient assistance to the Palestinian people, the advance study which has been mentioned in paragraph 183 is fully supported.

Ale NDIAYE (Sénégal): Puisque je viens de prendre la parole au niveau de la Commission I, je voudrais, M. le Président, vous adresser mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses.

Ces remerciements et ces félicitations s'adressent également au Secrétariat qui a produit un travail de très haute qualité. Nous avons lu avec beaucoup d'attention le document C 91/10 portant rapport du Directeur général sur l'application de la Résolution 1/89, Assistance technique au peuple palestinien.

La délégation sénégalaise approuve entièrement les conclusions contenues dans ce rapport et estime que les moyens les plus adéquats devraient être rapidement dégagés pour sa mise en oeuvre.

Ma délégation appuie particulièrement les recommandations de la Commission qui concernent la pêche et la forestation. Le projet d'aquaculture doit être encouragé car il contribue sans aucun doute à combler l'insuffisance de l'agriculture et à assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire de la zone.

Le reboisement et la forestation doivent également retenir l'attention, quel que soit le statut foncier en vigueur dans les territoires palestiniens occupés, car ils constituent des actions qui sous-tendent et complètent l'agriculture.

Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): M. le Président, la délégation tunisienne voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction de vous voir à la présidence de cette Commission. C'est également avec une profonde

satisfaction que nous désirons remercier le Secrétariat pour toutes les modalités qu'il a adoptées concernant l'application de la résolution relative à l'assistance technique à fournir aux agriculteurs palestiniens.

Nous appuyons également l'intervention de Messieurs les Ambassadeurs du Yémen et du Pakistan ainsi que l'intervention des honorables délégués de l'Angola et du Maroc.

Nous aimerions exprimer notre appréciation pour le rapport contenu dans le document C 91/10 et nous présentons nos remerciements à Monsieur le Directeur général, à M. Walton et à ses adjoints. Nous considérons que ce rapport est extrêmement positif et constructif.

A cette occasion nous aimerions lancer un appel à l'Organisation pour qu'elle poursuive l'application des recommandations formulées par la mission envoyée dans les territoires occupés pour évaluer la situation du secteur agricole et de l'alimentation dans cette région. Nous espérons que tous les efforts s'uniront en vue de prendre les mesures pratiques susceptibles de permettre l'exécution des recommandations de cette mission ainsi que des recommandations du séminaire qui s'est tenu au mois d'octobre à ce sujet. C'est ainsi que le secteur de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation pourra jouer le rôle qui lui est dévolu afin d'améliorer le niveau de vie des citoyens palestiniens et d'alléger la conjoncture cruelle que ceux-ci vivent quotidiennement du fait de l'occupation.

En conclusion, permettez-moi d'appuyer la proposition de Monsieur le délégué du Maroc concernant la nécessité de veiller à ce que toutes les recommandations de ce Programme puissent être financées dans le cadre du budget ordinaire de l'Organisation et afin qu'elles fassent l'objet d'une rubrique de ce budget.

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): Thank you very much. Very briefly, Mr Chairman, the delegation of Poland wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for the document reference C 91/10, and particularly the FAO mission which prepared an excellent report attached to the same document. We wish particularly to refer to those paragraphs of the report which elaborate on the role of international organizations, and precisely on the role of the United Nations Development Programme, which has had a programme of assistance to the Palestinian people since 1980. It was particularly encouraging to read that the delivery of assistance in 1990 came to almost US\$12 million, and like many other delegations we welcome the constructive cooperation of the UN agencies in the said programme and FAO active presence in its presentation.

Mousa SAMMAN (Observer for Palestine Liberation Organization) Thank you Mr Chairman. It is an honour for me on behalf of the Palestinian delegation to express our thanks to those countries which voted in favour of the Resolution on Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People adopted at the last session of the Conference in 1989. My particular thanks go to the countries of the Third World, of Asia, Africa and Latin America, with whom we have a common heritage of struggle against foreign occupation and subordination.

My thanks go as well to the countries of the EEC, Sweden and Japan, for the humanitarian aid and development assistance given to our people under occupation, and for their just, equitable and scrupulous positions with respect to the Palestinian cause. I should also like to thank those countries for their support in the implementation of the recommendations and proposals of the mission and the symposium in order to achieve the objectives of Resolution 1/89 with respect to agriculture in the occupied Palestinian territory and the improvement of the situation of farmers in that region.

Once again we can but express our thanks and great esteem for the Director-General of the Organization, Mr Edouard Saouma, his colleagues, the Secretariat and all the experts, and particularly the Chairman and members of the mission who made sustained efforts to learn of the sufferings of the Palestinian farmers. They have achieved excellent results and recommendations.

Mr Chairman, at a time when we are knocking very hard on the door of peace in the Middle East, and thanks to the historic initiative taken by the Palestinian National Council at its meeting in 1988 and reaffirmed in its meeting in September 1991, we do hope that after the Palestinian people took a courageous and historic decision to participate, with the best of wills, in the peace conference, that success will be assured.

The Palestinian people would call upon you to enable the FAO to implement the recommendations and proposals of the mission and the symposium with respect to agricultural development in the occupied territories and the improvement of the situation of farmers in that region. This, not only to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian farmers and to develop a Palestinian agricultural sector, but also in particular at this very critical moment in our history, to facilitate and give greater impetus to the peace process and development cooperation and stability in the Middle East.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, representative of PLO, for that statement. Ladies and Gentlemen, that was indeed the last speaker on my list, and I would now like to adjourn.

I will give the floor to the Secretariat when we resume this afternoon, so that the representative of the Secretariat can react to the various statements that were made, for example the statement made by the United States of America. I myself will make a summary of our discussion before adjourning this afternoon. I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat for some announcements.

I would ask you to remain silent just for a few minutes. We will be discussing Item 6.4 this afternoon so that we will be able to conclude our discussion of Agenda Item 6. The delegate of Egypt has asked for the floor.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would simply like to propose the following. Could we not extend this morning's session for 10 or 15 minutes so that the Secretariat can answer questions and so that we can conclude our discussion of this particular item? That could be quite useful, particularly since we started a bit late this morning.

CHAIRMAN: Well, you have heard the proposal by the delegate of Egypt. We would like to give the Secretariat some time to prepare a reply properly for this afternoon's session. Now if anyone would like to support the proposal made by the delegate of Egypt we could follow that proposal? I am not sure there is any support; therefore the meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/5

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION

(16 November 1991)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 14.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agricola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.3 Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People (continued)
- 6.3 Assistance technique au peuple palestinien (suite)
- 6.3 Asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate and merciful, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen. If you agree, I suggest we return to our work for this afternoon, and what we will do is continue with the item which we had left pending from this morning's session, and that is Item 6.3 which deals with technical assistance to the Palestinian people.

I would now like to give the floor to Mr Walton so that he may reply to the various questions for clarification and the details that have been requested by various delegations when they took the floor on this item.

Declan J. WALTON (Special Adviser to the Director-General): Mr Chairman, I would like to start, if I may, by expressing thanks on behalf of the Director-General and the Secretariat for the many kind remarks that were made during the course of the debate about the work that has been carried out on this item.

I believe that there is only one question on which I need to say something more and that is the funding of the suggested technical interventions proposed in our report. I need only expand a little bit on the observations I made in introducing the item this morning. I would suggest that we should have a threefold approach. First of all the Director-General will see how far he can get within the framework of the Regular Programme in implementing the recommendations which we have advanced. Secondly, I would suggest that the Conference request the Director-General to circulate the conclusions of FAO on this matter, including the conclusions of the Conference itself, to all potential donors who might be willing to assist the agricultural development of the Palestinian farmers. As I said this morning, they do not need absolutely to use FAO as an executing agency to carry out these recommendations. They may find it useful to have the information and suggestions that we have put together for possible use in their own programmes which they may prefer to carry out directly.

So my number 1 and number 2 suggestions are of a very general nature, of what you might call a one time nature.

In third place I would suggest that as specific ad hoc activities develop, insofar as we cannot find the necessary funding within FAO itself, the Director-General would approach multilateral or bilateral donors for funding to carry out such activities. One of the most obvious sources of

funds would, of course, be our friends in UNDP, who, as pointed out by the distinguished representative of the United States, have an allocation of money in their programming cycle for this purpose. However, there are many other organizations interested in implementing programmes of support to Palestinian agriculture, so I believe that if the Director-General has a general understanding that he can approach potential sources of funding on an ad hoc basis, this may help us to carry out specific activities as they emerge and as their necessity is established in the course of further consultations.

Mr Chairman, I do not think I need to add anything more at this stage. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much Mr Walton.

If there are any further requests from the floor, if there are any comments from any of the delegations, now would be the time to make them. I do not see anyone requesting the floor, however, and therefore allow me to sum up our debate.

Let me begin by thanking all those countries who have taken part in the debate on this item. I think I can say that our discussion has been a very constructive one and I think it has been quite eloquent as well. I must say that I have listened with great interest to the various statements that have been made. There have been many statements made by the Arab countries who have asked that we concentrate our efforts on four priority areas, and in my opinion these four priorities do represent the most substantial items that are covered by the document that has been prepared for us on this item. On the one hand we have the problems of environmental deterioration and degradation, and the Organization, I think, could give further attention to problems related to this question, for example the question of increasing agriculture being undertaken in forestry areas.

Some delegations have also proposed that the financing for such activities could be established on an extra-budgetary basis, whereas others preferred that the financing be found from within the regular budget of the Organization. Now I have my own personal opinion, and if I may I would like to suggest to you a possible compromise. That would be that the Organization participate through its budget on the preparation of studies and reviews, which would be most useful, I think, because all delegations congratulated the Organization and the Secretariat on the excellence of the document which has been prepared on this question. As you know, there is a Technical Assistance Division which exists within the Organization, and it would therefore be possible to integrate into their activities, areas such as these. However, I think it might be best, to assure the greatest possible flexibility, that the final position be left to the governing bodies of the Organization.

There is also the other point of the extra-budgetary financing and I am certain that many countries would wish to help Palestinian farmers in the Arab occupied territories. Therefore I hope that this summary would be satisfactory to all. I think that we can therefore declare the discussion closed on Item 6.3 of our Agenda.

- 6.4 Forestry (Tenth World Forestry Congress)
- 6.4 Forêts (Dixième Congrès forestier mondial)
- 6.4 Silvicultura (Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial)

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): This item is dealt with in document C 91/29, and with your agreement, Sir, I would only dwell on the more salient features.

As distinguished delegates know, the Tenth World Forestry Congress was hosted by the Government of France. It was inaugurated by Mr François Mitterand, President of the Republic of France in the presence of Mr Louis Mermaz, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of France, Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Economic Commission, and Mr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, all of whom delivered keynote addresses.

The Congress also heard keynote speeches from His Royal Highness Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, who is also Honorary President of the Worldwide Fund for Nature, and also from Mr Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, as well as a number of other eminent personalities.

World Forestry Congresses are convened every six years and represent the most important gatherings of the international forestry community. Participation in the Paris Congress was the highest ever, with some 2 700 participants from 136 countries. There were in attendance 30 Ministers and 12 Vice-Ministers; and representatives from many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

As is customary, the host Government, France, through the various Ministries and institutions involved, was responsible for all the physical and logistic arrangements which were coordinated by a specially established Congress Organizing Committee. FAO provided professional and technical inputs through an associate secretariat located in and supported by the Forestry Department.

The arrangements for the Tenth Congress were marked by an exceptionally close relationship between the French technical secretaries and their FAO counterparts throughout the preparatory stages, and during the Congress itself.

The Congress was held in a most serious and positive atmosphere. Preparations had included the review of some 1 200 invited and voluntary papers, some 400 of which had been edited and published as a set of eight volumes and distributed to participants on registration at the Congress in Paris. It was the first time in the history of these meetings that the Congress documentation was available at the commencement of the meeting. This innovation was highly commended by all and helped to enrich the discussions. The final volume of the proceedings of the Congress itself will be available early in 1992.

The overall Congress organization and arrangements could be described only in superlatives. The extensive use of audio visuals enlivened the sessions. Press coverage was especially good in France and in Europe generally, and contributed significantly to the achievement of one of the goals of the

Congress, that of dissemination of information to the general public. A wide range of satellite meetings served to extend the scope of the topics covered at the Congress and also provided opportunities for the gathering of a diversity of interest groups, including NGOs.

The theme of the Congress was: Forests, a Heritage for the Future. Deliberations were organized according to six discussion areas broken down into 25 themes and some 104 topics.

The Congress addressed the major challenges facing the forestry profession and forestry practice today: deforestation and degradation of forests; desertification; the sustainable management of forests - including their interactions with climate change and air pollution. The fundamental issue with which the Congress was confronted was how forests could contribute to development and socio-economic progress, while also ensuring their conservation. The sustainable management of forests and better utilization of forest products, both wood and non-wood, in order to respond to the growing and diversified needs of society received endorsement.

The need for reliable and timely information on the state of forests and of global forest cover was stressed. The Congress underlined the need for continuous monitoring of the resources and specially recognized FAO's work on the global forest resources assessment.

The deliberations of the Congress, according to the discussion areas and technical topics, resulted in a series of conclusions and recommendations primarily directed to forestry practitioners and professionals.

In addition, the Congress endorsed, by acclamation, the Paris Declaration which is reproduced as Appendix A of the document before us C 91/29. The Declaration solemnly calls on decision-makers to commit themselves to greening the world through afforestation, reforestation and sustainable forest management.

Policy-makers were also exhorted to limit all emissions of pollutants that damage forests, and contain emission of greenhouse gasses; secondly, to strengthen international cooperation particularly in the framework of the Tropical Forests Action Programme, the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme or other programmes; thirdly, to work toward harmonious development of international trade in forest products through the prohibition of any unilateral restriction not in conformity with GATT; fourthly, to integrate its conclusions and recommendations into the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development scheduled for Brazil in 1992; and finally, to raise the awareness of and inform the public, particularly the young generation, on forest issues so that they will be better informed and the issues will be appreciated by all.

It was gratifying for the Secretariat to note the specific recognition given by the Paris Congress to FAO's work on forest resources assessment which represented international endorsement of the Organization's efforts in this field.

The Congress also recognized FAO's central role in forestry and invited the Organization to monitor the follow-up to its recommendations; and in this connection, the Secretariat is encouraged by the remarks made by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Forests of France who, when

he addressed the Plenary, indicated willingness to collaborate with FAO in following up the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress.

At the closing session, three countries offered to host the next, Eleventh, Congress, namely Chile, Senegal and Turkey.

Before closing, I should like, on behalf of the Director-General and the Secretariat to pay special tribute to the host country, France, and to all those institutions and individuals which contributed to the success of this considerable undertaking. Special appreciation goes to the Organizing Committee, to the French Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, to its Office national des forêts, and more generally to the many other national institutions which were involved. Due cognizance must also be taken of the efforts and contributions of foresters from practically all countries of the world without whose participation the Congress would have been hollow.

The Secretariat is ready to answer any questions or clarify any points which members may have with respect to the Congress.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank Mr Murray, the Assistant Director-General and the Director of the Forestry Division, for his introduction to this item. Now I should like to open the floor for any comments on this item.

Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe) : Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier Monsieur Murray pour sa présentation de ce point de l'ordre du jour. C'est une occasion propice pour notre délégation d'exprimer notre considération pour les efforts positifs déployés par la FAO afin de préparer le dixième Congrès forestier mondial réuni à Paris.

Nous exprimons également notre considération au Gouvernement français qui a accordé à cette question toute son attention et a mobilisé au service de ce Congrès toutes les possibilités humaines et matérielles faisant ainsi de cette réunion une manifestation internationale qui rend honneur à la République française à laquelle nous devons exprimer notre respect et notre considération.

Le Président Ben Ali, Président de la République tunisienne, avait abordé la question des forêts dans son allocution prononcée à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation sur le thème: "L'arbre, source de vie", le 16 octobre 1991, invitant à la préparation d'un pacte de coopération en tant que moyen pour cette génération de préserver les forêts en tant que source naturelle vitale pour les générations futures.

La communauté internationale devra fournir les assistances financières et techniques nécessaires afin de consolider le développement forestier, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement.

Le dixième Congrès forestier mondial a abouti à une série de recommandations et de résultats qui ont été inclus dans la Déclaration de Paris, qui nous impose à tous la nécessité de demander à la FAO de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour son suivi et pour informer les différentes organisations gouvernementales ainsi que notre Conférence des résultats de ce Congrès.

Cela nous pousse à inviter le Secrétariat à rechercher des sources de financement budgétaire et extrabudgétaire à cet effet.

Convaincue de l'importance de cette question, la Tunisie a parrainé une résolution, en coopération avec l'Allemagne et le Malawi au sujet de l'approbation de la Déclaration de Paris et demande au Secrétariat de mettre au point le texte d'une résolution et de le soumettre aux membres de cette Commission, espérant que cette résolution trouvera un appui de tous nos collègues pour servir au mieux les intérêts de notre humanité.

Si vous le désirez, je suis prêt à vous donner lecture de ce projet de résolution.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the delegate of Tunisia. You may, if you wish, read to us the Draft Resolution and we will pass it on to the Resolutions Committee for them to consider it further.

Amor BEN ROMDHANE (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): Projet de résolution en appui de la Déclaration de Paris du dixième Congrès forestier mondial, présenté par l'Allemagne, la Tunisie et le Malawi:

La Conférence,

Prenant en considération l'importance du dixième Congrès forestier mondial qui s'est tenu à Paris, en France, en septembre 1991, ayant pour sujet: la forêt, patrimoine de l'avenir, de manière à préserver ce patrimoine,

Rappelant qu'elle avait attiré l'attention sur les dangers de la déforestation et qu'il est devenu nécessaire de préserver les forêts et de les exploiter de manière rationnelle,

Exprimant sa conviction que cette génération se devra en tant que responsable de préserver les forêts ayant une importance vitale pour les générations futures,

Constatant avec satisfaction la reconnaissance par le dixième Congrès du rôle de la FAO dans le domaine forestier,

1) Exprime son appui entier à la Déclaration de Paris.

2).Exhorte les pays membres ainsi que les organisations et les individus à répondre à l'appel du dixième Congrès forestier mondial en prenant les mesures nécessaires pour répondre au renouvellement des forêts et en tenant compte des services rendus par les forêts d'une manière susceptible de préserver ces forêts et de prendre les mesures nécessaires compatibles avec les décisions du dixième Congrès forestier mondial.

3) La communauté internationale devra donc fournir les assistances financières et techniques aux pays en voie de développement ainsi qu'aux pays qui traversent une période de transition économique afin de les aider à préserver leurs forêts.

4) Exhorte tous les pays à encourager l'utilisation rationnelle des produits forestiers et à développer le commerce international de ces produits sans aucune restriction.

5) Demande à l'Organisation de prendre les mesures nécessaires concernant les informations telles que mentionnées dans la résolution du dixième Congrès forestier mondial et de participer au suivi de l'exécution des décisions de ce Congrès dans les limites de ses ressources.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Tunisia. We would like to have a copy of the text of your Resolution so that it will be possible to submit it to the Resolutions Committee. I would now like to give the floor to Senegal.

Amadou Moustapha CÂMARA (Sénégal): Laissez-moi me réjouir de la qualité du rapport du dixième Congrès forestier mondial tenu à Paris du 17 au 26 septembre 1991 et d'en féliciter M. Murray, le Secrétariat et le Département des forêts de la FAO.

Ce Congrès a été un grand moment autant par le nombre et la qualité des participants que par la pertinence des conclusions auxquelles il a abouti.

Je voudrais à ce stade rendre hommage au Gouvernement français pour toutes les dispositions prises pour faire de cette rencontre la réussite que l'on connaît.

En effet, par la Déclaration de Paris, le Congrès a lancé un appel solennel aux décideurs pour qu'ils s'engagent à reverdir par diverses mesures le globe.

Je voudrais à ce niveau refléter à nouveau une préoccupation que le Gouvernement du Sénégal, à l'occasion de ce Congrès, a soulignée à Paris, touchant l'étroite relation qui existe entre la nécessité d'augmenter la productivité des terres arables par unité de surface, donc d'intensifier l'agriculture par l'utilisation plus soutenue de facteurs modernes de production d'une part, et l'urgence à protéger et à développer les forêts d'autre part.

Cette question est fondamentale pour le Sahel et dans toutes les régions du monde où l'agriculture doit couvrir les besoins d'une population en expansion.

Enfin, je voudrais saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte aujourd'hui pour confirmer que mon pays, le Sénégal, serait heureux de pouvoir accueillir à Dakar le onzième Congrès mondial forestier.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Senegal, for that statement. I would also like to thank you for the invitation to welcome us to the Eleventh World Forestry Congress. I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate from Trinidad and Tobago.

Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for permitting Trinidad and Tobago to intervene on this agenda item on behalf of the Member Nations of the CARICOM region of Latin America and the Caribbean. First of all, our thanks to the Secretariat for the lucidity of the presentation of this particular item. Secondly, we wish to extend, as have others before us, our gratitude to the Government of France for having undertaken and implemented the Tenth World Forestry Congress. This is of great significance to us since, small though we may be, we understand fully the importance and significance of forestry in the whole development process, particularly those of us who have limited resources. Our interest on this agenda item lies in the Paris Declaration emanating from the Congress. The Declaration is a very comprehensive yet concise summary of its conclusions and recommendations, embodying a set of principles to which we should all adhere. We note in particular the call to action issued to decision-makers, enjoining them to commit themselves to the greening of the world through a wide array of programmed actions. It is gratifying to observe that such actions as are implied and intended therefrom constitute a reaffirmation of decisions and declarations that we ourselves have made as members of this august assembly of nations. Accordingly, it is with justifiable pride and a sense of satisfaction that we note also the recognition given during the Congress to FAO's work in the area of forestry development.

Mr Chairman, the Declaration speaks very directly to the need to strengthen international cooperation inter alia specifically in the framework of the Tropical Forests Action Programme (TFAP). In this regard we wish to endorse this appeal on behalf of all developing tropical countries who have been participants in the TFAP.

To many of us TFAP represents a last hope and a major vehicle for mobilizing resources for forestry development in its several manifestations: exploitation of forest products, preservation of protected areas, wildlife management, watershed management, etc. Many of us have entered as partners and cooperators in the TFAP process on the understanding that diagnosis and analysis would have been followed promptly by implementation and execution, that the modalities of the TFAP process would be a key to unlock the resources required for TFAP implementation. Unhappily the rhetoric, and indeed our expectations, have not been matched by action and resource support. My delegation sincerely hopes that the several significant and influential international actors who participated in the Tenth World Forestry Congress, and who adopted by acclamation the Paris Declaration with all its implications, would find a way to rescue the TFAP by committing required levels of technical and financial resources to facilitate continuing implementation of TFAP-induced and identified programmes and projects.

Mr Chairman, my delegation notes that the Paris Declaration calls for comprehensive and integrated action for forestry development. This we fully endorse. It also refers to actions being undertaken within the context of the UNCED. We wish to advise however that as important as the UNCED is, and of that there is no doubt, there is life before UNCED and there will be life after UNCED. These global summits are milestones to mark progress and chart new courses. However, it is the actions translated therefrom that we pursue on a continuing basis which make the difference to the lives and welfare of people. In this regard, it would be tragic if actions which we should take now to get the TFAP back on track be suspended implicitly or

explicitly, pending the deliberations of UNCED. TFAP was spawned out of a crisis; the crisis still exists, and the time for action was yesterday. We subscribe to the tenets of the Paris Declaration and endorse them for consideration and adoption by Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, and I would agree when he said that the world existed certainly before UNCED and will continue to exist after that Conference is held. Obviously our main goal is to achieve our objective. Let me now give the floor to Pakistan.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): We in Pakistan are keenly interested in forestry and the related issues of environment; and also try to effectively participate, at appropriate levels, in all deliberations on the subject. At the Tenth World Forestry Congress, Pakistan was represented by an eight-member delegation headed by our Food and Agriculture Minister.

The Tenth World Forestry Congress tended to highlight crucial and important aspects of forests in developmental and environmental effects, and laid the basis for further dialogue and deliberations. We take this opportunity to felicitate both the Government of France and the FAO for making this event a success.

The importance of forests as a source of economic, social and cultural wealth, as well as a vital component of the ecological balance of the biosphere, cannot be denied. There is need for coordinated action for the protection of environment and forests. All countries must jointly work towards this end, as each country has an equal right to determine its own respective priorities and programmes as these relate to its own respective natural resources, including forests.

In present times, issues relating to forestry have a global dimension as well, due to the impact of forests on climate change and conservation of biological diversity. However, the unfortunate part is that the question of the development and conservation of forests has moved from the technical and professional level to the international political agenda; - and politics, interestingly, has its own peculiar dimensions. Resultantly, the issue has been growingly politicized.

Perhaps the good part is that, at the same time, awareness in this respect has also been growing: the critical role that forests play in maintaining the health and stability of the Earth's environment has been recognized. Perhaps for this reason, amongst the issues being addressed in the preparation for the United Nation's Conference on Environment to be held at Rio in June 1992, forestry is central to a variety of concerns for sustainable development. Primary attention is now focussing on the role of forests as 'sinks for absorption and storage of carbon dioxide, and as the primary source of biodiversity and genetic resources - which is essentially the ecological role of forests'. Forests thus figure prominently in all conventions dealing with climatic changes and biodiversity.

In the backdrop of the above concerns, the Tenth World Forestry Congress in Paris, managed to bring together on a single platform a large number of scientists, forestry professionals and experts, policy makers - and

politicians. The final Declaration of the Congress highlighted the various roles that forestry plays, including economic, social and ecological. The role of forests as being beneficial for mankind alongwith the need for their conservation as a heritage was recognized. Their recommendations laid the basis for further objective studies and dialogue.

We in Pakistan have been able to develop the National Forestry Action Plan, which operates both at the federal and provincial levels. It calls for forest conservation, development, extension and research. It also deals with desertification, water-logging and salinity by providing adequate tree cover.

Mr Chairman, before I end, two observations are made: while formulating global policies on forestry and environment, it should be considered that:

1. Developing countries have a right to their sovereign forests in the first instance; they are as much interested, perhaps more so, in the conservation, and sustainable development of their own forests, as anyone else. Therefore, all policies must be jointly worked-out and formulated- policies to be sustainable and workable must never be thrust upon the developing countries.
2. While preparing any policy the peculiar conditions of want and hunger prevailing in the developing countries must never be overlooked.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Thank you, Mr Chairman. My delegation would like to thank Mr Murray for presenting a very brief and pointed report on the Tenth World Forestry Congress. We wish to pay our tribute to the Government of France for having hosted the Congress in a most commendable manner.

India's delegation was led by the Minister for Environment and Forests and included our Inspector-General of Forests and several heads of State Forest Services, research institutions and university faculties. They have benefited immensely from it and also contributed in their own measure to the grand success of the Congress. We also wish to compliment FAO and particularly those officers who were directly concerned with the organization of the Congress.

Mr Chairman, we believe that the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress are of fundamental importance for the future sustainable development and conservation of forests and related resources. We attach particular importance to the clarion call given by the Congress for the greening of the world. We would, therefore, be interested that all necessary measures are taken for the follow-up and implementation of this and other conclusions of the Paris Conference, so that the collective wisdom of the specialists and other Congress participants is converted into action-oriented programmes and projects. We fully support FAO's endeavour in this regard and look forward to positive results.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I would like to thank the distinguished representative of India for his very brief and complete statement. I hope that all other delegations will be able to follow his example and be brief, particularly in the light of the limited time available to us.

Yavuz YÜKSEL (Turkey): Mr Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to thank Mr Murray, Assistant Director-General for the Forestry Department of FAO, for his clarifying introduction concerning the Tenth World Forestry Congress. I would like to convey our thanks to the French Government for successfully hosting the Tenth World Congress in Paris.

I would like to express with pleasure that we welcome and support the conclusions and recommendations stated in the Paris Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress. During this Congress, deliberations revolved around the general theme "Forests, a Heritage for the Future" and conservation, protection and management of this heritage received major attention. In this connection, recommendations were made to give emphasis to the activities on afforestation, reafforestation and sustainable resource management. In addition, remarks were also made on the importance of the "Mediterranean Forestry Action Plan" in the context of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme.

For many years in Turkey several work programmes in line with similar principles to those stated in the Paris Declaration have been implemented over large areas covering extremely diversified ranges of ecological conditions.

It may be worthwhile to point out that, today some 10 000 plant species exist in Turkey, of which some 3 000 are endemic. From the forestry point of view, it may attract global interest that natural forests with their biological diversity still exist in Turkey. Such a rich ecological environment creates an excellent workshop for foresters to study, to learn and to work. As a matter of fact, several of the inter-regional training activities under TCP were undertaken in our country which took excursion and study tours in the workshop mentioned above.

In the opinion of the participants and FAO Secretariat, these training activities have been effective in strengthening regional cooperation and exchanging information among respective countries. From this standpoint and in line with the recommendations stated in the Paris Declaration, we are prepared to make further contribution to technical cooperation activities by establishing an international training centre on forestry in Turkey.

Mr Chairman, during the closing session of the Tenth World Forestry Congress in Paris the Turkish delegation proposed to host the Eleventh World Forestry Congress. As you know, world forestry congresses have never been held in our region. Therefore, the Turkish delegation renews their invitation to host the next World Forestry Congress in Turkey where West meets East.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Turkey, and allow me to thank you as well for your kind invitation to host the next International Congress on Forestry.

David JOSLYN (United States of America): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. The United States participated fully in the Tenth World Forestry Congress

in Paris and would like to commend the Government of France and the organizing Committee for the very interesting and productive Congress.

During the Congress United States worked with other members to develop the Paris Declaration and joined the consensus at that time in giving our full support to the Declaration. Therefore, we encourage this Conference to endorse this Declaration and direct the FAO Secretariat to support the conclusions and recommendations of that Declaration.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is sympathetic with the idea put forward by the delegates of Tunisia of a resolution endorsing the Paris Declaration, but to the extent that this resolution goes beyond a simple endorsement of the Paris Declaration we would need to study further the exact language of this resolution.

We also agree with the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago that the revamping and strengthening of the tropical forestry action programme can be delayed no longer if this programme is to fulfil its promises.

Mr Chairman, many of the important recommendations included in the Declaration of Paris will be included in Agenda 21 and Declaration of Principles on Forests presently being negotiated within the preparatory process for UNCED, a process that my Government hopes will result in renewed and increased dynamism on global forestry issues.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the distinguished representative of the United States. We will, of course, submit the proposed resolution that has been put forward by Tunisia, and it will be submitted to the Resolutions Committee and placed for support for the Member States.

David DRAKE (Canada): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, the Canadian delegation welcomes this item and would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this document, as well as for its important contribution to the Congress.

We also thank Mr Murray for his clear introduction. First and foremost, however, the Canadian delegation would like to reiterate its deep appreciation to the Government of France for hosting this important and highly successful gathering of world foresters. The Canadian delegation led by Minister of Forestry Oberle, played an active part in the deliberations of the Congress.

Mr Chairman, Canada's deep commitment to the conservation and sustainable management and development of forests derives from our recognition of a wide range of economic, social, cultural, spiritual and environmental aspects of forests for our country and the rest of the world.

Our concern for forests in sustaining human existence was recently highlighted when, on the occasion of World Food Day, Canadian Minister of Agriculture McKnight addressed the UN General Assembly on the theme of "Trees for life".

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to point out that the Tenth World Forestry Congress which was made up of some 2 500 delegates from 136 countries, unanimously adopted the Paris Declaration which is appended to document C 91/29.

The Declaration, which is composed of clear and simple language, takes important steps of appealing to world leaders to commit themselves to the greening of the world through afforestation, and reforestation and sustainable management of the multiple functions of trees and forests in the form of integrated programmes, involving the participation of people concerned in accordance with national land use policies.

The Congress also called upon decision-makers to work towards the prohibition of unilateral restriction on trade in forest products as well as on UNCED to integrate the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress into the process of a non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the high level of importance which Canada attaches to the preparation of an authoritative statement on guiding principles within the context of UNCED for approval by world leaders in June of next year in Rio de Janeiro.

As pointed out in document C 91/29, the Paris Declaration addresses and strongly supports various aspects of the work of the FAO, such as the tropical forestry and Mediterranean action programmes, and is very much in line with the decisions and declarations of the FAO's governing bodies.

Mr Chairman, my delegation believes that the Paris Declaration is an important step focusing world leadership on the critical issues involved for the management, conservation, and sustainable development on world forests.

In view of the unanimous approval of the Paris Declaration by the Congress and the FAO's position as the world's foremost United Nations Agency for forestry, as we said in our statement to Plenary, my delegation urges this Conference to fully endorse the Paris Declaration.

Mr Chairman, we agree with the remarks just made by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, and finally we agree also with the remarks made by the delegates of the United States, and we feel that it is appropriate that we thank the sponsors for their initiative with regard to this draft resolution, we feel that it is appropriate that this Commission have the opportunity to reflect and consider the resolution at a later stage in its deliberations.

Thank you, Sir.

Dody S. SUKADRI (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, first of all, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, my Delegation wishes to extend its deepest appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of France for their warmest hospitality and excellent arrangements that have been made

for the World Forestry Congress. Likewise, our appreciation is also accorded to FAO, particularly the Forestry Department, for their exceptional jobs in providing technical support to the host country organizing committee.

We in Indonesia pay great attention to this important Congress. More than 60 delegates representing governments, universities, experts and private sectors led by the Minister of Indonesia attended this World Forestry Congress.

Mr Chairman, the document C 91/29 contains information on the report of the Congress, including the Paris Declaration and implications for FAO. Nevertheless, I wish to inform the Conference that in addition to the Appendix A of the document there is another outcome that needs particular attention, that is the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Congress on which my delegation would also like to give its views and observations.

During the Congress we learned from various discussions on the six major chapters for us to keep the economic and socio-ecological aspects in harmony. This I believe is a reflection of the theme, "Forests, a heritage for the future" meaning that forests are valuable assets and resources which people have always relied on for decades. There has been no other time when this issue has been highlighted as much as today. As we are all aware, forests not only provide us with products indispensable for survival and socio-economic development of countries, but also play an important role in maintaining a sound living environment.

In other words, forests contribute a major component of global ecosystem and are source of enormous benefit for humankind through the production of various commodities, soil and water conservation, biological diversity, and so forth.

Mr Chairman, it is the time now to increase solidarity and cooperation and not confrontation of all communities, institutions and organizations of all concerned parties as we move towards the new era of the world's forestry development.

The Congress has significantly marked this cooperation reflecting the wishes and hopes of not only foresters, but also all disciplines that are affected and influenced by the existing forests in the world.

During the Congress many participants expressed their hopes that foresters' consideration will be fully reflected in taking necessary actions in the near future. My delegation is very pleased to note that the achievements that have been achieved during the Congress have been the result of frank and open discussion by all participants. We are confident that this close working relationship will continue in the years to come.

Mr Chairman, with regard to implications for FAO, my delegation is happy to note that FAO's work, particularly in the field of global forest resources assessment, has been specifically recognized. In this context, Mr Chairman, the invitation to FAO to monitor follow-up actions and to inform other inter-governmental organizations in any actions and programmes related to the forestry sector should particularly be fully anticipated.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, my delegation is of the view that FAO's role in the field of forestry should continuously be strengthened.

My delegation found that the conclusions and recommendations of the Tenth World Forestry Congress have been satisfactory. Furthermore, my delegation would also like to underline specifically the two following points stated at the outcome of the Congress which I quote personally, "the Congress called upon decision-makers to integrate conclusions and recommendations into the process of UNCED in order to define a non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

Secondly, the boycott on tropical timber would not be considered as a positive action towards sustainable forest utilization, and in fact would accelerate the disappearance of tropical forests by lowering the prices of construction wood, thus rendering other uses of the land more attractive.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to recommend that the outcome of the Tenth World Forestry Congress could be fully endorsed by the Conference as we move towards the united Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

As regards the draft resolution, my delegation wishes to have some time to study the draft, and therefore wishes to come back at a later stage during the Commission for the detailed debates on the substance and language of this draft resolution. We follow with great attention the generous offers of Senegal and Turkey for hosting the next Conference and hope that the Secretariat could inform the next Council's meeting on their advice regarding this matter.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Indonesia, and allow me to say that the draft resolution that has been presented by Tunisia, Germany and Malawi has been distributed. Copies should be available now so that you will be able to take a look at that document.

Jean-Pierre POLY (France): En tant que représentant du pays hôte de cette manifestation, laissez-moi vous dire combien Paris se félicite d'avoir accueilli au mois de septembre dernier le dixième Congrès forestier mondial, qui, après la Conférence Internationale Silva sur l'arbre et la forêt de 1986 et la Conférence ministérielle pour la protection des forêts en Europe qui s'est tenue à Strasbourg, organisée conjointement avec la Finlande en 1990, a contribué à une prise de conscience universelle des perspectives d'évolution du patrimoine forestier mondial.

Ce Congrès, organisé en collaboration étroite avec la FAO, dont l'appui technique et le soutien logistique ont joué un rôle déterminant dans le succès de cette manifestation, a retenu pour thème La forêt, patrimoine de l'avenir", soulignant ainsi l'impérieux devoir de solidarité de la communauté internationale, d'une part entre les générations, d'autre part entre les nations.

L'affluence à cette manifestation, que d'autres intervenants ont soulignée avant moi, témoigne de l'intérêt suscité dans la communauté internationale par le thème retenu.

Les débats, étayés par un fonds documentaire d'une ampleur exceptionnelle et d'une grande qualité scientifique et technique et alimentés par une participation active et soutenue tout au long des travaux, ont contribué à la fois à faire échec aux thèses, parfois trop marquées par les préoccupations liées à la conservation des écosystèmes, qui semblaient prévaloir dans certaines organisations et à balayer quelques idées reçues dans l'opinion publique internationale, montrant ainsi, par exemple: qu'il est faux de prétendre que la forêt tropicale est une usine à oxygène; qu'il est faux également d'imputer à la deforestation l'effet de serre; ou encore qu'il est faux de dire que l'industrie du papier concourt à la mise à mort de la forêt; qu'il est faux encore de proclamer que l'utilisation du bois à des fins domestiques tend à disparaître.

Les débats du Congrès, dont le ton très professionnel et la rigueur scientifique n'étaient pas sans trancher avec le ton, tantôt académique, tantôt passionné de ceux qui se sont tenus à ce sujet dans cette enceinte, ont débouché sur l'adoption par consensus d'une importante déclaration.

En dépassant les traditionnels clivages Nord-Sud, la Déclaration de Paris revêt un caractère universel, même si la priorité qu'il convient d'accorder au plan d'action forestier tropical a de nouveau été soulignée, comme l'a été le besoin de développer un programme d'action forestier méditerranéen.

Partant du constat que la principale cause de deforestation réside dans le sous-développement économique et que, par suite, les politiques forestières doivent être intégrées dans les politiques de développement, le Congrès a estimé que la sauvegarde et la prospérité du patrimoine forestier international passent par un effort soutenu pour combattre la pauvreté, garantir la sécurité alimentaire et l'approvisionnement énergétique, améliorer la productivité agricole. Il a invité la communauté internationale à adapter les mécanismes et accroître les moyens financiers des programmes forestiers, à libéraliser le commerce international des produits de la filière bois, à développer la coopération politique et à coordonner les programmes de développement économique.

Ma délégation considère qu'il est important de réunir les conditions favorables à la mise en oeuvre et au suivi des recommandations de la Déclaration de Paris, référence privilégiée pour la coopération internationale dans le secteur forestier. La France, pour sa part, est disposée à participer à ce programme, en liaison avec la FAO, dans la perspective, notamment, de la préparation de la prochaine CNUED mais également au-delà de cette Conférence.

Je vous remercie, M. le Président.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of France for his very interesting and complete comments, and I must say I do agree with him. I think that if we wish to protect and safeguard forests, then we must accept our duty to help

developing countries and give them support in their efforts. I think it is important for us to give them the ways and means of limiting deforestation, and this I think would be possible if we gave them further support for assuring food security as well as increasing agricultural production in these countries.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am happy to take this opportunity to state that in our opinion FAO deserves the role as centre of excellence for world forestry issues. With the restructuring of relevant environment-related FAO divisions into the ICPF; the International Cooperative Programme Framework, we believe that FAO will be able to maintain and enhance its balanced and multi-disciplinary approach of conservation, management and utilization also in the forestry sector.

Mr Chairman, I am pleased to inform the Commission that Denmark had a very successful seminar on the item "Trees for Life" when we celebrated World Food Day in October.

As the Paris Declaration points out, deforestation is basically caused by extreme poverty and not least by rapidly growing populations.

The Declaration also mentions participation of people concerned as one of the basic elements in national land management policies.

These few examples, Mr Chairman, indicate that FAO has a natural position as global centre of excellence in providing policy advice and technical assistance in matters of sustainable forestry management. These upstream activities should supplement and enhance government execution.

Recent experience has demonstrated there is a wish to lift governance above the institution level. There, the clarification of the interface between governance and management is extremely important in this sector.

Based on these comments, Denmark can support the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document C 91/LIM/41 to the extent that its language enhances the Paris Declaration.

Mr Chairman, permit me to make a few comments on the decision taken in the Council on the future of the TFAP which has also been specifically mentioned in the Congress Declaration from Paris. Denmark would have preferred option (b). However, as a clear majority supported the establishment of an ad hoc group, Denmark goes along with this decision in the hope that the ad hoc group will be able to very quickly suggest solutions on institutional matters as well as on substance issues.

We hope that this situation might eventually enhance FAO's credibility as a manager that can work closely and intimately with its governors.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished representative of Denmark for his comments. I hope, and I would like to ask, that those speakers who take the floor please concentrate their comments on the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

Hissem LAHOUCINE (Maroc): La délégation du Maroc tient à présenter ses sincères félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 91/29 soumis à la Conférence qui a, d'une manière synthétique, fait ressortir l'essentiel des points importants touchant le secteur des forêts. Je tiens également à présenter mes félicitations à la FAO pour les efforts qu'elle a déployés et l'appui qu'elle a apporté à différents pays dont le Maroc dans leurs actions de conservation et de développement des forêts.

Ces efforts louables ont permis de sensibiliser toute la communauté internationale à l'importance de la conservation des ressources naturelles, et particulièrement des forêts, pour un environnement de qualité et un développement durable.

La délégation du Maroc qui a participé au dixième Congrès forestier mondial tient à féliciter la France pour l'organisation de ce congrès et apporte son plein appui à la Déclaration de Paris. Elle souhaite que la Conférence adopte cette Déclaration.

L'impact des forêts étant de nature internationale, ma délégation souhaite que les efforts à déployer et les ressources à mobiliser pour la conservation et le développement des forêts concernent l'ensemble des forêts du monde.

A ce titre, ma délégation, tout en appuyant les actions menées dans le cadre du PAFT, souhaite que les autres régions puissent bénéficier d'un programme similaire; et à ce sujet la référence au plan d'action forestier méditerranéen dans la Déclaration de Paris est une heureuse initiative que la délégation du Maroc tient à saluer.

La FAO, qui ne ménagera certainement aucun effort pour la mise en oeuvre de ce plan, trouvera auprès du Maroc toute la disponibilité et l'appui nécessaires.

Je tiens à conclure que le Maroc a engagé depuis quelques années un vaste programme de conservation et de développement forestiers. Je ne citerai à cet égard que l'opération nationale de reboisement lancée depuis quelques années qui a porté les programmes de reforestation à un niveau assez élevé, à même de reconstituer nos ressources forestières et de développer les ressources naturelles dans l'optique d'un développement durable au bénéfice des populations rurales.

Samba COULIBALY (Côte d'Ivoire): Je voudrais associer à mon tour la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire aux félicitations exprimées à l'égard de la France et de la FAO pour le succès retentissant du dixième Congrès forestier mondial et féliciter également le rapporteur de la FAO pour la densité et la clarté du résumé qu'il a fait de cet important Congrès.

Il a été rapporté un incident qui a eu lieu à Paris, dans la salle même du Congrès, à savoir la manifestation de certaines ONG demandant le boycott intense de bois tropicaux.

Cette manifestation, qui reflète l'état d'esprit négatif de certains pays développés vis-à-vis des bois tropicaux, ignore les efforts des pays tropicaux pour pérenniser leurs forêts, facteur vital d'équilibre essentiel. Nos pays et notamment la Côte d'Ivoire, malgré la crise,

consentent des efforts pour sauvegarder ce patrimoine en lui consacrant des investissements importants; à preuve, pour les cinq années à venir, la Côte d'Ivoire entend consacrer environ 280 millions de dollars E.-U. pour sauvegarder et aménager l'ensemble de ses massifs forestiers.

Nous pensons donc qu'il est nécessaire et indispensable qu'une campagne de sensibilisation intense soit menée sous l'égide de la FAO pour améliorer l'image de nos pays en Occident dans le secteur de la gestion et de la protection des forêts car aujourd'hui les bois assurent, quoi qu'on dise, une part non négligeable des recettes d'exportation de nos pays, recettes qui pour une bonne part retournent au secteur de la forêt sous forme de plans d'aménagement et de financement des programmes de reforestation.

D'un autre côté, nous souhaitons l'appui technique et financier de la FAO pour aider nos pays à promouvoir le Programme national d'aménagement durable et fiable de nos forêts.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): First, I should like to thank Mr Murray for his excellent introduction to this item. Secondly, I should like to congratulate the French Government on the organization of the Tenth World Forestry Congress and express the hope that the conclusions of the Congress and the Paris Declaration will be translated into practice.

In conclusion I should like to stress that we fully support the Paris Declaration.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): I should like to express our sincere thanks and congratulations to the French Government and to the FAO for the very successful Tenth World Forestry Congress.

Our main impressions from the vast documentation and from all the discussions and meetings that took place might be summarized in three points. First, environmental issues now seem to have made a breakthrough also in the forestry debate. All through the discussions there was an undercurrent of hope and expectations that the UNCED Conference in Rio will be a turning point for the present critical forest situation. Secondly, a number of statements were made by countries, many of them from the developing world, on the need to acquire the critical knowledge needed to develop forest policies and to make long-term plans for differentiated sustainable forestry geared to multiple use of forest and forestry resources. Thirdly, the Congress showed the importance of the activities of people's participation, of the green popular movements, and of a knowledgeable and enlightened general public, and also of the necessity to engage women and young people in matters concerning forestry and the environment.

The Congress also adopted a declaration, the Paris Declaration, which is contained in an Appendix to our document. My delegation strongly supports this Declaration which calls upon decision-makers to undertake a number of decisive actions and devise ways for the follow-up of the recommendations. We are pleased to support the proposal that the FAO Conference endorse the Paris Declaration.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Angola has asked that their complete text be included in the minutes of this session.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My Government very much appreciates the success of the Tenth World Forestry Congress held by FAO and the Government of France at a golden opportunity in the UNCED process. At no other time have the issues of forests and forestry been highlighted as much as today.

My delegation would like to inform you on this occasion that my Government endorses the Paris Declaration. In Japan my Government, in cooperation with ITTO, organized another international meeting called the Conference of Senior Foresters in Yokohama, Japan, in July of this year to give foresters an opportunity to discuss the sustainable management of tropical forests. The Conference was attended by around 300 eminent foresters and forestry-related experts from 41 countries and 12 international organizations.

Forest, which is a crucial element of earth's environment, has considerable functions not only as a carbon sink and genetic reservoir but also as a soil and water conserver and desertification controller; it also plays a socio-economic and cultural role for inhabitants.

We hope that the concept of comprehensive functions of the forest I have just mentioned will be involved in the so-called global consensus of forest in the UNCED process. Also, we expect that FAO will submit the definition of technical terminology in the so-called non-binding principle declaration on forests which has been prepared for the next Preparatory Committee.

In this connection we hope that FAO will take the leadership in the UNCED process based on its expertise and the Paris Declaration.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): As we have already heard from Mr Murray in his very clear introduction to this subject, the World Forestry Congress - which in fact has been organized since 1929 and is no recent innovation - was held this year on the theme of "Forests, a Heritage for the Future", which is a very important slogan. We know that the result of that Congress was the Paris Declaration signed by no less than 137 countries.

Since the most important forestry questions are at present being discussed at the political level throughout the world - and here I mention only the negotiations to conclude conventions concerning protecting the climate and certain species - we believe that the UNCED 1992 Conference has been organized to deal with all those important subjects. Therefore, like the Tunisian delegation, we would urge Conference to adopt a resolution which will honour the Declaration adopted in Paris.

Here we should also like to take the opportunity to thank the French delegation for their excellent organization of the Paris Conference. We believe that their efforts have certainly led to a very meritorious conclusion.

Mme. Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie): Je voudrais en premier lieu m'associer à l'hommage unanime que viennent de rendre, à juste titre, les nombreux

délégués qui m'ont précédée, au Gouvernement français et au Secrétariat de la FAO pour les efforts qu'ils ont bien voulu accomplir, car le Congrès forestier mondial leur doit beaucoup.

Je voudrais également féliciter et remercier le représentant du Secrétariat pour le rapport sur le dixième Congrès qu'il nous a transmis, ainsi que pour la présentation claire et pertinente qu'il nous en a faite.

Mon pays a eu la chance et l'honneur de participer au Comité de rédaction chargé d'élaborer ce qu'il est maintenant convenu d'appeler la Déclaration de Paris. C'est dire que c'est bien volontiers que ma délégation répond à l'appel lancé par le représentant de la Tunisie en se portant co-auteur du projet de résolution sur l'approbation de cette déclaration. Celle-ci nous semble d'autant plus pertinente qu'elle associe les populations rurales à l'aménagement des territoires forestiers.

L'appel solennel qu'elle lance aux décideurs revêt à mes yeux une grande importance en ce qu'il tend à renforcer la coopération et la solidarité internationales, qu'il cherche à adapter des mécanismes financiers au long terme de la forêt et qu'il encourage les financements internationaux en faveur des pays en développement.

Enfin permettez-moi d'ajouter que nous sommes d'autant plus attachés à cette déclaration qu'elle reconnaît la nécessité de mettre sur pied un programme forestier méditerranéen.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (Original language Arabic): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Murray for his excellent introduction on this item. Secondly, Mr Chairman, on behalf of my delegation I would like to express my deep appreciation to FAO for its remarkable contribution in launching such an important Congress on forestry issues in order to encourage Member Nations to conserve and utilize forestry resources in a sustainable manner. I would particularly like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Forestry Department of FAO, as well as to the organizing committee, who made great efforts to arrange the Congress efficiently and effectively. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Government of France for hosting the Congress and accommodating some 2 700 experts, scientists and researchers from 136 countries of the world.

On behalf of my delegation I fully support the Paris Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress on the whole, and I would like to emphasize the following matters which we consider to be important. Firstly, as mentioned in the Paris Declaration, the main causes of deforestation and destruction of forestry resources in developing countries are poverty, under-development and a need to meet the basic requirements of rural peoples. Therefore, in order to overcome this problem, it is important to have a combined effort to reduce poverty, increase agricultural productivity and ensure food security and energy supplies. This should be taken into consideration in the appropriate manner in the report of the Conference, for example in a resolution in this regard. Secondly, in order to achieve effective international cooperation for the conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources of the Mediterranean ecological zone, I would like to suggest the enhancement and promotion of the development of the Mediterranean Forestry Action Plan, which should receive

high priority. Thirdly, given the importance of forestry resource statistics and modalities, I would like to support the action of forestry resources assessment and particularly the assessment of the forest resources of the sub-tropical and moderate region. Fourthly, we support the recommendation of the Paris Declaration mentioned on page A2 of document C 91/29, particularly regarding the long-term use of land and that development of agro-forestry systems, afforestation and reforestation be intensified. Fifthly and finally, on behalf of my delegation, I strongly urge Conference to adopt a resolution including the main and highlighted points of the Paris Declaration.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): Thank you for the opportunity to make a few comments on this important issue. At the outset may I join others in expressing our appreciation to Mr Murray for his introductory comments. In our Plenary statement the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture and Forestry highlighted the importance of forestry both from the perspective of environment and economic development and the important position of forestry in our own economy. New Zealand was a participant at the Tenth World Forestry Congress and supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Paris Declaration. Protection and sustainable management of global forestry resources is the responsibility of all of us and the World Forestry Congress was an important step towards realizing this goal.

New Zealand is playing its part in the worldwide effort to protect natural forests. We are fortunate to have an alternative timber supply in the form of manmade forests. Plantation forestry clearly has a significant economic and environmental role to play in New Zealand and internationally. For our part, we have been active in drawing this to the attention of countries in the lead-up to the 1992 UNCED Conference on environment and development.

In conclusion I would like to record our appreciation of the valuable contribution that FAO is making to the work of UNCED, and we hope that the conclusions and recommendations of the World Forestry Congress are taken into account in the lead-up to the final conference in Rio. I would like to endorse the comments made by earlier speakers in regard to the Resolution that has been put in front of us in the form of document C 91/LIM/41. We can go along with the general thrust of the resolution but we would like the opportunity to study it in greater detail.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you. As far as the Resolution which is being distributed is concerned, this is a draft resolution which will be sent to the Resolutions Committee and then brought back here.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): Every World Forestry Congress is a success and the Paris one was not an exception to this rule. This large gathering of foresters from all of the world every six years gives everybody who is interested in the forestry sector an idea where we stand with scientific knowledge about forests and what concerns are from the sector itself and from society as a whole. In the Declaration of Paris, which was adopted at the end of Congress, concerns are expressed and indications are given as to how problems can be solved. My delegation welcomes the Declaration and considers it in the first place as a very clear signal from the forestry sector itself to the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development to take the right actions in this respect. My Government is in favour of the preparation of an authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and the adoption of such a statement at UNCED. After Rio de Janeiro we have to work on a legally binding Forest Instrument, in the opinion of my Government. That will not be an easy task. There is a lot of opposition to a Convention of such a nature, but the Paris Conference made it very clear that there is an urgent need for much stronger international cooperation in the field of forestry. The forests in the tropics as well as in the northern hemisphere are threatened. Everywhere in the south, and in the north to a certain extent, wrong forest management is still practised and the influence of air pollution on the quality of forests is already visible in many forests in the world. Now FAO is invited to monitor the follow-up action of this Congress. How will that be undertaken? Is it FAO's intention to formulate a special project proposal? Does FAO need trust fund money and, if so, how much? My delegation welcomes the idea that FAO is asked to prove between now and the next Congress, so in six years' time, that the Paris Declaration will be more than just a piece of paper. However, it is a difficult job and we would like to know more about the methodology FAO will use to perform this task before my Government will consider any support for an eventual project concerning this matter.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of France for organizing this Congress and to compliment it on its success. It is, in my opinion, preferable that the next Congress be organized by a tropical country.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I Would like to thank the distinguished Representative of the Netherlands. It seems that everyone would like the Paris Declaration to be effective and not to simply remain a dead letter.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): I ztoo would like to thank France for hosting the Tenth World Forestry Congress and Mr Murray for his introduction. My delegation supports the Paris Declaration and finds it very important. As underlined in the document before us, the conclusion is in line with the decisions and declarations of FAO's own governing bodies. We are pleased that the Forestry Congress recommends the long-term use of land, planned on the basis of its potential to determine that which is suitable for forestry and, in so doing, that attention be paid to the needs of the people concerned, particularly those who depend on forests for their livelihood.

Our main challenge for the future is to have an active and sustainable use - and I underline the word "use" - of forest in all parts of the world. Further, it is important that the Forestry Congress strongly recommend that its conclusions and recommendations be taken into consideration in the preparatory process of UNCED to be held in Brazil in 1992. The Congress called for deliberate action to implement its recommendations so as to safeguard the world's forest heritage. Finally, Mr Chairman, the situation facing TFAP is critical and difficult. This question was commented on by the Nordic countries in Commission II earlier this week and I will not repeat our views here.

M. Manlio MARIANI (Italie): Nous aussi remercions M. Murray pour son rapport sur le dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Nous nous félicitons encore, avec le comité organisateur et les autorités françaises qui nous ont permis de participer à cette rencontre dans les meilleures conditions.

L'Italie, qui avait également proposé sa candidature, y a participé avec son Ministre de l'agriculture et plusieurs experts. Notre contribution s'est développée avec la présence d'un coordinateur, de plusieurs rapporteurs et la présentation de trente cinq relations.

Ce congrès s'est tenu dans un moment critique pour l'état et l'avenir de la forêt et pour la responsabilité qui en revient aux techniciens forestiers confrontés à de nombreux problèmes (dont celui des forêts est l'un) et à des changements tellement rapides qu'ils se heurtent parfois avec le temps de réflexion et d'expérimentation propres à la science forestière.

"La forêt, patrimoine de l'avenir", c'était le thème conducteur du congrès. Un patrimoine à sauvegarder mais qui doit être géré (dont celui des forêts est l'un) le plus vite et le mieux possible, afin d'être sauvegardé. La poursuite de l'objectif de la recherche est indispensable comme l'est la nécessité d'opérer vite sur la base des connaissances acquises pour protéger et rétablir un couvert forestier. La sensibilisation de l'opinion publique et une information correcte sont également indispensables. Les forestiers, avec leurs capacités professionnelles réaffirmées, et les décideurs des politiques sociales, qui vivent parfois loin de la forêt, doivent poursuivre l'objectif de trouver un consensus compatible avec les nécessités de ceux qui dépendent directement de la forêt ou qui sont pour toute leur vie dans la forêt. C'est une tâche difficile, mais l'impression que nous avons eue lors des travaux du congrès nous laissent penser qu'un consensus peut être trouvé en vue de bien gérer la forêt.

Pour conclure, nous appuyons le projet de résolution présenté par les délégations de l'Allemagne, du Malawi et de la Tunisie.

G.P. SAKANDA (Malawi): Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, since this is the first time for the Malawi delegation to speak in this noble house, I would like to join my colleagues in the other delegations, who have congratulated you before, in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

Malawi was represented at the Tenth World Forestry Congress by a three-man delegation which was led by the Malawi Ambassador to France. As you may be aware, Mr Chairman, Malawi coordinates forestry in the regional grouping for the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, made up of 10 countries in southern Africa, namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Malawi delegation presented a brief at the Congress outlining the region's activities in forestry.

At this point, Mr Chairman, I would like to point out that Malawi would like to support the proposal made by Tunisia on the resolution to endorse the Paris Declaration.

My delegation has carefully read the report on the Tenth World Forestry Congress which has been presented by the Secretariat in document C 91/29, and has listened with interest to the very stimulating introduction by the ADG, and consider that the Congress is indeed an important event to FAO in particular and to the world in general.

To begin with, Mr Chairman, as the ADG has pointed out, the World Forestry Congress is the highest forestry event that draws on global forestry expertise and experiences and deals with current forestry issues which are of especial relevance to FAO's various committees.

The Tenth World Forestry Congress also draws on the recommendations of two previous congresses, whose themes generally dealt with forests and people's well-being. It gave particular importance to the need for worldwide adoption and implementation of the tropical forestry action programme and the preparations for the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

Secondly, in my delegation's view, Mr Chairman, and as has been heard from the majority of the delegations here, the Congress was ably, effectively and pleasantly organized by the host country, France, in collaboration with FAO, to the satisfaction of all the delegations. My delegation therefore would like to take this opportunity to thank the people and Government of France for the warm welcome and hospitality offered to its delegation who were attending that Congress. The Congress was definitely a success and achieved its objective. Since, Mr Chairman, the Congress invited FAO to make a follow-up to its recommendations and to inform inter-governmental bodies and the Eleventh World Forestry Congress, it is proper that the Paris Declaration be endorsed by this Conference through a resolution. My delegation supports the motion that a resolution along the lines laid out before by Tunisia be passed by this Conference.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I will be very brief.

The United Kingdom delegation congratulates the Secretariat for document C 91/29 and also the French Government for hosting the Tenth World Forestry Congress, in which the United Kingdom participated. The United Kingdom delegation also wishes to associate itself with the remarks of the distinguished delegates of Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America, and to express disappointment with progress made on revamping and strengthening the TFAP. We would like time to consider the implications of the draft resolution proposed by the distinguished delegates of Tunisia, Germany and Malawi. Our initial reaction is that the time has now come for action rather than words on the conservation and rational sustainable use of forest. The United Kingdom delegation believes the TFAP still offers the best hope of a way forward if positive action is taken speedily.

LI ZHENG-DONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would like to join with all the other representatives who have spoken before me, and would like to thank the French Government for successfully organizing the Tenth World Forestry Congress.

I would now like to make three brief comments. Firstly, taking into consideration the unbalanced distribution of forest resources, we should concentrate our limited resources on helping some regions or countries develop their forestry production. Secondly, taking into account the differences of level in forestry development and the serious effects of cutting trees and forests, we therefore promote the common improvement and utilization of the level of forest resources. Thirdly, because agricultural production sometimes is contradictory to developing forestry production, especially in areas where land resources are limited, we support the treating of the relationship between forestry and agricultural production in terms of technical and political points.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to thank you for allowing us to intervene. My delegation recognizes the importance of forestry in the social economy and in conservation for future generations. Consequently my delegation also endorses the inclusion of other aspects in the report of the document C 91/29.

My delegation would like to make the following comments. The concluding recommendation of the Tenth World Forestry Congress is an important result of the Congress, so it should be circulated to the Commission for consideration, as proposed by the Indonesian delegation. Secondly, the draft resolution should also be considered by the Commission at a later stage.

Mr T.J. RAMOTSOARI (Lesotho): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me a chance to speak on this issue.

Mr Chairman, the country of Lesotho does not have natural forest. We only have grass. But we are happy to announce that during the past 15 years we have been able to afforest over 5 000 hectares. Lesotho was represented at the Paris Congress by two officers.

We would also like to support resolution C 91/LIM/41 put forth by Tunisia, Germany and Malawi and if possible, Mr Chairman, by adding clause No. 6 with the following words: Requests Member Nations to implement the Paris Declaration as an enhancement of environment and land-base protection.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, distinguished delegate from Lesotho. The amendment you mentioned to the draft resolution will be taken by examining that draft resolution in the Committee and then looking at your document amendment.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): M. le Président, laissez-moi d'abord me réjouir pour la présentation faite par M. Muny du document C 91/29. Ce document nous retrace le déroulement du dixième Congrès forestier mondial tenu à Paris, qui s'est terminé par la Déclaration de Paris, document très important qui, nous le souhaitons, doit être adopté par tous les pays du monde: puisqu'il s'adresse aux décideurs pour mener concrètement plusieurs actions, notamment rendre verte la surface du monde, renforcer le PAFT au

niveau national, limiter toutes émissions d'agents polluants causant le dépérissement des forêts pour ne citer que les conclusions.

M. le Président, l'Angola a participé au dixième Congrès forestier mondial. Mon pays ne peut que féliciter en général tous ceux qui de loin ou de près ont contribué à la réussite de ce congrès, et en particulier la FAO pour avoir apporté son appui technique et le Gouvernement français qui a bien voulu accepter que ce forum ait lieu dans sa belle capitale, en mettant à la disposition du Congrès tout ce dont il avait besoin. Tout le monde le dit, le Congrès a été couronné de succès.

Au niveau de l'Angola, la Déclaration de Paris a été largement diffusée pour sensibiliser non seulement les décideurs à tous les niveaux.

En ce qui concerne le projet de résolution contenu dans le document C 91/LIM/91 présenté par la délégation de Tunisie, le Malawi, la délégation angolaise accepte qu'elle soit transmise à la plénière de la Conférence pour son adoption.

Le document C 91/29 nous parle déjà du 11ème Congrès forestier mondial. Le paragraphe 14 nous présente 3 pays qui se sont présentés pour l'accueillir. Il me semble que la liste n'est pas close puisque d'autres pays peuvent aussi proposer leur candidature. L'Angola accepte la proposition présentée dans le même paragraphe, celle de laisser à la FAO faire des consultations et au Conseil le soin de prendre une décision finale sur ce point.

Je vous remercie.¹

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Now, ladies and gentlemen, the speakers' list is closed on that point on our agenda, and therefore, I would now like to give the floor to the Secretariat in order to reply to certain questions which have been raised.

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Allow me first of all, Mr Chairman, to express on behalf of the Secretariat our appreciation and gratitude for the words of encouragement, and appreciation for the efforts and the contribution which the Organization has made towards the outcome of the Congress.

The Secretariat has noted very carefully the various comments made by distinguished delegates, particularly those which refer to the Tropical Forests Action Programme, the Mediterranean Forest Action Programme and the emphasis placed on the importance of sustainable management and development of forests, the need for strengthening and continuing international cooperation.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

With respect to the Mediterranean Forest Action Plan I could confirm to interested delegates that this plan is all but ready and it will be presented to the next meeting of the Silver Mediterranean which is due to convene early next year hosted by the Government of Portugal.

Several references have been made during the discussion to the UNCED process, to FAO's involvement in the UNCED process and the role of forestry in the UNCED.

I can confirm, Mr Chairman and distinguished delegates, that FAO as a whole, has been very actively participating in and supporting the work of the UNCED Secretariat, and the Forestry Department in particular has been making substantial and perhaps even the major input from the technical point of view to the preparatory work which was taking place at the level of the forestry committee at all the meetings to date.

We are in very close touch with the main actors at the UNCED Secretariat, and continue, and will continue to make significant technical input to the process up to and including the Conference in Brazil.

I noted, Mr Chairman, that there is general endorsement of the Paris Declaration, and I could say the same for the main thrust of the resolution presented by the distinguished delegate from Tunisia.

Some delegates have indicated the necessity for time to study its contents, and the Secretariat can confirm that the draft as presented to you will return to this Commission after it has been reviewed by the Resolutions Committee so that the entire membership of the Commission will have an opportunity later, early next week, to review and discuss the resolution.

Also discussed and referred to on several occasions, the whole question of follow-up to the Congress. I think in this context it is important to bear in mind that the Paris Declaration calls upon all decision makers to devise ways and means of following up the recommendations of the Congress. FAO most certainly intends to play our role in follow-up, both through the Regular Programme and the Field Programme.

In response to this specific question posed by the distinguished representative from the Netherlands, we are not now in a position to dictate or decide whether or how much extra-budgetary funds would be needed, but we have noted the generous offer confirmed by the government representative from France here at this Commission of their willingness to cooperate with FAO.

Before long we would be in a better position to indicate not only what if any extra-budgetary sources we need, but how we visualize pursuing the full range of recommendations in all the avenues open to us, as I said, both to the Regular and the Field Programme.

In this connection, Mr Chairman, I can also confirm to the distinguished delegates that the conclusions and recommendations flowing from the Congress have already been circulated to all the permanent representations here in Rome, and we intend to ensure that the Ministries and Forest Services concerned also get copies of the directory from my department.

The same applies to the UNCED Secretariat. We have formally, in keeping with the request embodied in the Paris Declaration, we have already formally transmitted to the Secretary General of UNCED the recommendations of the Paris Declaration so that they will be in a position to take that into account in their own deliberations.

I think, Mr Chairman, with those comments, I think I have dealt with most of the points raised, but we are here and are ready to answer other questions if there are any.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr Murray, the Assistant Director-General for Forestry, for the answer that he has given to the questions raised, but I see that Indonesia is asking for the floor.

Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor.

As a preliminary reaction to the explanation of the Secretariat, my delegation wishes to note the explanations regarding the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Congress.

If I am not mistaken, Mr Chairman, the Secretariat expressed that the Conclusions and Recommendations have been circulated to the Permanent Representatives.

Mr Chairman, document C 91/29 had annexed as Appendix A the Paris Declaration. My delegation believes, Mr Chairman, as we have expressed in our earlier statement, the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress are also an important part of the task of the Congress.

We wish, Mr Chairman, through you to appeal again to the Secretariat and its conclusions and recommendations be made as a part of the Conference document, so it could be used by our delegation, Mr Chairman, for the debate of the draft resolution.

Again, Mr Chairman, my delegation is of the opinion that the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress are the anticipated part of the result of the Tenth Forestry Congress, and should be used as a basis also for considering the draft resolution regarding this matter.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Just to support what was just said by the delegate of Indonesia, I think it would be very useful for all if the conclusions and recommendations were made available as part of the Council's recommendations.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the distinguished delegate of Brazil, and I will once again give the floor to the Secretariat so that they may reply to the comments made by Indonesia.

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman.

The Secretariat has noted the request, Sir, and I confirm that by Tuesday morning, the full set of conclusions and recommendations from the Conference will be made available to this Conference. I should add that for the Undertaking I have just given we will adhere strictly to English, French and Spanish texts. The conclusions and recommendations are rather voluminous and run to 22 pages; therefore, it may take a bit longer to have the Arabic and other official language texts available.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I would like thank Mr Murray for that additional clarification and if there are no further requests from the floor then I think at this late hour I would like to thank you very much for having been here today, ladies and gentlemen. I hope we can leave this item of the agenda open so that we can take a look at the draft resolution. However, there will not be a debate of substance on the subject, but we will take a look at the draft resolution once the Resolutions Committee sends it back to us.

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

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C 91/I/PV/6

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(18 November 1991)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji , Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 9.45 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiii. Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA LIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development
- 7. Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement Durable
- 7. Actividades de la FAO en relación con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs.

Je suis accompagné, pour cette présentation, du Vice-Président du Groupe interdépartemental de travail sur l'environnement et le développement durable, M. Jean-Paul Lanly. M. Mohamed Mehni étant empêché, j'ai aussi à mes côtés M. Santiago Botero qui est le Chef de l'Unité de coordination pour tous les programmes d'environnement et de développement durable.

De nombreux documents sont présentés à la Conférence sous d'autres rubriques rendant compte de l'accent mis depuis deux ans sur l'environnement et le développement durable, et ceci en réponse à la Résolution 89/3 de la dernière Conférence. Ce sont notamment les examens du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain, le Plan à moyen terme et le Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93. Je crois pouvoir dire que l'Examen en Commission II sur ces documents, et aussi des interventions en Conférence plénière, semblent avoir confirmé la priorité donnée par les pays membres à l'action de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Le Conseil a été tenu informé à ses quatre-vingt-dix-huitième, quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième et centième sessions des mesures prises par le Directeur général et des résultats obtenus en réponse à la Résolution 89/3, notamment des résultats et du suivi de la Conférence sur l'agriculture et l'environnement, tenue à Bois-le-Duc en avril dernier grâce au généreux concours des Pays-Bas. Le document C 91/30 en discussion aujourd'hui sous le point 7 est en quelque sorte une récapitulation sous forme résumée des progrès obtenus, c'est la première partie du document; des stratégies proposées pour nos actions futures, c'est la deuxième partie; et enfin la réorientation proposée pour certains programmes de terrain, en particulier les programmes d'action spéciaux de l'Organisation concernant l'agriculture et le développement rural durables (ADRD).

Je ne pense pas nécessaire de présenter la première partie qui est essentiellement un rapport d'activités. J'attirerai simplement l'attention sur un document complémentaire, le document C 91/LIM/31 qui apporte des compléments d'information sur les contributions de la FAO à la CNUED que le Conseil a souhaité porter à l'attention de la Conférence.

J'ajouterai à ce sujet que nous avons largement contribué à ce que la CNUED ne se préoccupe pas seulement de la conservation et de la protection, des terres, des eaux, des forêts, des océans et de la diversité biologique, mais aussi du développement durable de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et

des pêches. Nous avons travaillé dans ce sens en étroite coopération avec le Secrétariat de la CNUED pour l'élaboration des propositions d'"Action 21", le Plan d'Action que doit lancer la Conférence de Rio au Brésil, en juin de l'année prochaine. Il appartient maintenant aux gouvernements de négocier ces propositions à la quatrième session du Comité préparatoire en mars prochain à New York et de veiller à l'équilibre nécessaire entre le développement et la protection de l'environnement, notamment dans les domaines d'activités de la FAO.

La deuxième partie du document qui vous est présenté cherche à répondre à la requête du Conseil en juin dernier qui, en examinant la déclaration et le plan d'action de Bois-le-Duc, avait demandé que certains aspects des stratégies de l'ADRD soient plus élaborés, notamment ceux de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte contre la pauvreté, cause principale de la dégradation de l'environnement dans les pays en développement, ainsi que les aspects concernant les pays industrialisés qui n'avaient été que marginalement traités à Bois-le-Duc.

A l'évidence il ne peut y avoir de protection de l'environnement et de développement durables en agriculture sans apporter de solutions à de nombreux problèmes plus vastes qui affectent les relations Nord-Sud et Est-Ouest. Ces problèmes dépassent largement le cadre du secteur agricole; tout en faisant brièvement mention, la deuxième partie du document traite donc essentiellement des stratégies concernant ce qui peut être fait dans le secteur agricole et par le secteur agricole pour le développement durable. Je soulignerai que cette deuxième partie traite des stratégies au pluriel car les voies et les moyens pour gérer la transition vers une agriculture durable dépendent de nombreux facteurs propres à chaque pays, ainsi que des conditions externes. Le document a donc été rédigé de manière à promouvoir un large débat et échange d'idées sans chercher à prescrire une panacée universelle sur ces questions très complexes.

La troisième partie du document répond elle aussi à une demande du Conseil à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session en juin dernier. Sur recommandation de la Conférence de Bois-le-Duc, une esquisse d'un programme-cadre de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durables avait été présentée au Conseil. Le Conseil en avait approuvé les éléments principaux mais avait demandé qu'on élabore plus en détail ces propositions et qu'on examine leurs implications. En fait ceci répondait aussi à un souci qui a été exprimé par les organes directeurs notamment au moment de l'Examen de la FAO de voir les programmes de terrain mieux focalisés et structurés, notamment par le biais des programmes d'action spéciaux.

Je tiens à préciser que ces propositions, qui visent à créer des liens plus étroits entre le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain, ne pourront être mises en oeuvre qu'avec des ressources supplémentaires d'origine extrabudgétaire, notamment celles qui pourraient être mobilisées pour le suivi de la CNUED. Le Directeur général souhaite que la Conférence appuie ces propositions afin de donner à l'agriculture durable la place qui doit lui revenir dans cette grande consultation au sommet qui aura lieu à Rio de Janeiro de juin prochain et aussi dans les programmes d'action qui devraient suivre. Comme l'indiquent les paragraphes 47, 48 et 49 du document, il s'agit de lancer un processus auquel devraient participer de nombreux acteurs. C'est en effet, et chaque mot compte, un Programme cadre de coopération internationale qu'il est proposé de développer

progressivement et avec souplesse en faisant largement appel aux mécanismes déjà existants à la FAO pour les programmes et projets de terrain et ceux qui se mettront en place en 1992, notamment avec le PNUD - on en a discuté en Commission I - mais aussi pour le suivi de la CNUED. Nous poursuivons à cet effet le dialogue engagé à Bois-le-Duc avec de nombreuses organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales dont certaines sont d'ailleurs venues spécialement à la Conférence pour suivre notamment les débats sur le sujet qui nous préoccupe aujourd'hui.

Comme il est indiqué au paragraphe 76, dernier paragraphe de ce document, le Directeur général souhaiterait recevoir les orientations et les directives de la Conférence pour poursuivre l'action engagée depuis deux ans visant à renforcer les activités de l'Organisation en matière de développement durable et d'environnement, notamment par le lancement du programme cadre proposé pour la coopération internationale concernant l'ADRD. La Conférence voudra peut-être aussi formuler des recommandations à l'adresse de la CNUED pour que les intérêts des secteurs de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et de la pêche y soient convenablement représentés.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr Mahler for that excellent introduction to the item. The floor is now open for speakers who would like to take the floor on this subject.

A. FEBERWEE (Netherlands): In front of us we have a very clear document C 91/30 and in the last part of this document the results of this Conference in den Bosch in April this year have been worked out and they have been worked out in the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. At the outset let me say, as was stated already by our minister, how much we appreciated the excellent cooperation with FAO both in preparing and during this successful joint FAO/Netherlands Conference. Its results, as was said already, will be presented to UNCED Brazil next year and the Netherlands stay committed to the follow-up of den Bosch.

Our delegation supports the way the ICPF has been worked out in the document. It depicts the planned activities for sustainable development. The den Bosch results are well integrated and seem to be well anchored in the different FAO programmes. The planned concentration of the ICPF in three programme areas - see paragraph 51 - offers the right framework for the mutual fine-tuning of the activities of different technical divisions. The challenge for FAO is how to translate this integrated approach in concrete programmes, possibly tuned to different ecological zones. Therefore, special attention will have to be paid to aspects of sustainable land use, the maintenance of biological diversity and the integration of forestry activities. We therefore have to look to diversification of land-use systems which are optimal in view of the ecological conditions.

In the document the possibility is left open that the ICPF develops into a new action plan. Anyway, it would have to lead to the streamlining of the existing FAO special action programmes, the SAPs. However, it is unclear how this new action plan organizationally would have to be formed, how the regrouping of SAPs could be affected, and to what degree of coordination. Our delegation urges more clarity. In this respect, we also want to point

out the necessity of a multi-disciplinary inter-sectoral approach at the planning and the implementation of the activities, as well as to stress - in conformity with paragraph 58 of the medium-term plan - the need for linkages between the national, local and household level.

The pilot-scheme for integrated production and farming systems management and diversification of rural incomes, developed by FAO and the Netherlands jointly, has, to an extent, operationalized this approach.

How do we get ICPF organized? If the general idea is to try to attract additional funding, in that case a small secretariat might be desirable. Such a secretariat could possibly be placed in the Organization under the ADG for the Environment and Sustainable Development, or jointly under the ADG for the Agricultural Department and the ADG for the Economic and Social Department.

On a slightly different point, but in line with what I have said, under Agenda Item 6.2 - International Agricultural Adjustment - some delegations suggested it would be useful also to report on the environmental aspects of agricultural development. Discussing now and today specifically FAO activities on the environment and sustainable development, I would in a way like to support these suggestions. Of course, I do not want to adjust what we discussed and decided earlier under Agenda Item 6.2. I would like, however, to comment further on Guideline I of the document which reads "All countries should aim to achieve a rational production pattern in the light of their needs and production possibilities". It is good to point out here and now that we are aware that the named "production possibilities" basically are determined by harmonizing the short-term needs for increase in production, in view of food security, with the long-term use of natural resources. We feel that such a clarification could be useful.

Mr Chairman, finally in order to enforce FAO activities related to sustainable development and environment, I have the honour to announce a draft resolution. At this moment in time we do not yet have official support but we hope to gain it. Being the first speaker I hope that I shall be in time. Of course, it would not be a good thing to take up too much of your time by reading this draft resolution out. But in half a minute I would like to give you a few main points.

After an introductory part, the draft resolution proposes decisions. I would like to recall the main ones so that the last part reads, in addition to that, in the abbreviated form "Sustainable development and the protection of the environment should be a main priority objective of the Organization for developing and developed countries in the field of agriculture in the next biennium..." And then it goes on. Then it states also that the strategies and proposals presented in document C 91/30 should be further elaborated. It works out how this should be done.

The next decision boils down to the fact that the Organization should pursue its active cooperation with UNCED, etc., and last, but not least, a report should be made to the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session in November 1993 on the implementation of this Resolution.

I hope this resolution may be subject to discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the representative of the Netherlands. Of course, you will have taken note of the overall draft resolution and you may refer to this draft resolution. However, the traditional procedure would be to submit this draft to the Resolutions Committee who would then refer it back to us.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Je remercie M. Mahler de son introduction. Ma délégation a lu le document C 91/30 avec beaucoup d'intérêt. Le défi d'une agriculture et d'un développement durables est parmi les grands défis de l'humanité. Il s'adresse à chaque pays, qu'il soit développé ou en développement. C'est à juste titre que nous avons fait de ce défi une priorité centrale pour le plan à moyen terme de la FAO. Ma délégation a noté avec satisfaction qu'il y a un large et solide consensus entre les Etats Membres au sujet de cette priorité.

L'agriculture, la foresterie et les pêches ont à jouer chacune dans leur domaine un rôle clé dans l'utilisation et la gestion nouvelle des ressources naturelles. Vu la grande compétence et expérience de la FAO dans ces secteurs, il est normal et même indispensable que notre Organisation fasse une contribution substantielle aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement et au suivi de cette Conférence dans le cadre de l'agenda 21. Le document C 91/30 nous offre une introduction claire dans le problème du développement durable dans l'agriculture et des défis à relever.

Le paragraphe 29 présente ces défis de manière très compréhensible. Pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire d'une humanité en croissance démographique, il faut une intensification de l'agriculture, mais il faut en même temps éviter le cortège de problèmes souvent entraînés par une telle intensification. C'est là que doit intervenir l'agriculture durable et le paragraphe 30 nous rappelle, à juste titre, que la première condition pour le succès de l'agriculture durable est de mettre en place, à l'échelle nationale et internationale, un cadre politique favorable à celle-ci. C'est sans doute le premier défi que nous devons relever.

Le paragraphe 31 nous rappelle les différents services que l'agriculture doit rendre au grand public. Nous attachons une grande importance à ces services, dans mon pays nous parlons dans ce contexte des multifonctions que l'agriculture est appelée à remplir. Revenons à la question, comme doit-être conçu un cadre politique approprié pour qu'une agriculture durable doit se développer? Il est sans doute de première importance que le cadre offert par la politique assure que les intérêts des individus ne soient pas en contradiction avec les intérêts de la société. Le paragraphe 33, sous paragraphe a), rappelle dans ce contexte à juste titre que l'intervention de l'Etat doit se limiter à fixer des normes et des règles générales, à exercer une action de surveillance et au besoin de régulation des marchés.

Le paragraphe 34 rappelle que la volonté de libéraliser les échanges et la nécessité de protéger l'environnement peuvent entrer en conflit. Ce conflit doit être analysé ouvertement et objectivement. Mon pays se félicite de la revitalisation du groupe de travail sur le commerce et l'environnement au sein du GATT.

Le paragraphe 34, sous paragraphe c), parle de la nécessité de conclure des accords internationaux et d'adopter des codes de conduite ayant pour but de fixer des normes et règles communes préconisant des pratiques viables à long terme. C'est un domaine où la FAO pourrait sans doute faire une contribution précieuse et nous l'invitons à le faire.

Le paragraphe 35 propose qu'il faudra évaluer dans une optique à long terme l'impact des politiques agricoles en vigueur sur l'environnement et le développement durable. Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord et nous voyons un rôle pour la FAO de faire ce genre d'analyse, ceci dans des pays en développement comme dans des pays développés.

Une autre activité importante est mentionnée dans le paragraphe 36, il s'agit d'élargir la collecte de statistiques agricoles en vue de mettre en place des systèmes de surveillance et de comptabilité de l'environnement dans le domaine de l'agriculture. C'est encore une activité où la FAO pourra sans doute contribuer beaucoup. Plus loin, le document se perd dans beaucoup de détails. Le document nous rappelle qu'il est important d'assurer une bonne participation populaire pour promouvoir avec succès une agriculture durable, qu'il faut souvent modifier les systèmes de production en place, qu'il faut entreprendre des actions spécifiques dans plusieurs domaines d'intervention, qu'il faut axer les efforts sur les principales zones critiques, etc.

En effet, le concept du développement durable doit imprégner tous les aspects de l'agriculture, de la foresterie et des pêches. Tout ceci, et plus encore, est sans doute nécessaire. Mais le document ne nous dit pas à quel niveau doivent se situer les différentes responsabilités, quel doit être notamment le rôle de la FAO. C'est ici que le document, qui commence pourtant de manière claire, devient plutôt compliqué. C'est pourquoi je reviens à ce qui doit être à notre avis la question centrale: comment mettre en route un processus qui nous mène vers l'agriculture durable, et quel rôle la FAO peut-elle remplir le plus utilement pour mettre en route et alimenter un tel processus?

La réponse à cette question offerte dans la troisième partie du document appelée le Programme cadre proposé de coopération internationale pour l'agriculture et le développement rural durables, en abrégé le PCCI/ADRD, ne peut pas nous convaincre. Nous étions favorables à l'idée recommandée par la Conférence de Den Bosch de mettre en place un certain programme cadre pour assurer une approche concertée des différents acteurs dans le suivi de l'UNCED, mais nous avons quelques difficultés avec la proposition qui nous est soumise. Rappelons que l'idée du PCCI dépasse largement la portée des activités de terrain de la FAO. A notre avis, la FAO peut aider les Etats Membres, c'est-à-dire nous tous, le plus utilement si elle concentre ses efforts à déclencher et animer le processus vers une agriculture durable dont je viens de parler. C'est donc un rôle de catalyseur que la FAO est appelée à jouer à notre avis. Notre Organisation doit alimenter et animer nos débats, elle doit aider les pays à développer et mettre en place des stratégies pour une agriculture durable, elle doit aussi nous aider à harmoniser nos politiques dans ce domaine, car nous ne pouvons pas nous satisfaire du plus petit dénominateur commun.

Le PCCI tel que proposé dans le document se limite aux seules activités de terrain de la FAO, il nous propose une vue largement technique, une approche axée sur une multitude de projets. Nous nous trouvons devant une

conception compliquée et peu claire qui se résume en sorte à habiller la multitude des activités traditionnelles de terrain de la FAO d'un nouveau vêtement. La proposition soumise ne correspond pas au rôle que nous voyons pour la FAO dans le domaine du développement durable.

Rappelons-nous que le défi principal se situe au niveau des politiques et non pas au niveau des projets; ces derniers doivent seulement intervenir en second lieu.

Nous partageons cependant l'avis selon lequel il est nécessaire d'examiner les activités de terrain actuelles de la FAO à la lumière des exigences d'un développement durable. Cet examen, que j'appellerai interne, est nécessaire, indépendamment du processus CNUED, et il devrait déjà être en route. A notre avis, un tel examen et l'ajustement qui en découle ne nécessitent pas de ressources supplémentaires. Nous aimerions que le Secrétariat nous fasse un rapport sur l'ajustement des programmes de terrain de la FAO pour les mettre au service du développement durable. Ce rapport pourrait être soumis, par exemple, à la session du Conseil de novembre, l'an prochain. Je prie M. Malher de nous dire si un tel rapport peut être fait.

Pour ce qui concerne le processus de la CNUED et l' "input" de notre Organisation sous forme du PCCI/ADRD, nous proposons que la FAO retravaille sa proposition en vue du Prepcom IV. Il s'agit de ne pas trop se perdre dans des détails et de concentrer le tir sur le développement de stratégies. Il ne suffit pas de faire une proposition qui se limite aux activités de terrain; le coeur de la proposition doit se situer dans le Programme ordinaire.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais souligner que ma délégation accorde aux travaux de la FAO dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement durable une haute priorité. Nous pensons donc que les services de la FAO responsables de ces questions doivent être renforcés en personnel, et cela aux dépens d'activités moins prioritaires.

Enfin, l'idée d'une résolution telle que celle avancée par la délégation des Pays-Bas nous semble bonne et nous l'examinerons avec intérêt et en détail.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you Sir, for your very interesting and full statement. You have raised a number of very relevant points, particularly regarding the role of FAO, and you have provided answers to some of the questions raised, in particular the observation that FAO's role should be catalytic. You have also referred to readjustment of some of FAO's activities in the light of sustainable development considerations. I think I can say that there is a tendency within FAO towards the direction which you suggest.

J.O FALOBİ (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would first like to congratulate the FAO on the process achieved to date on the various activities carried out by the Organization towards sustainable development and environment as contained in document C 91/30 now under discussion. We have noted with interest and concern the progress achieved to date, particularly with regard to the Regular Programme activities, field

programmes, the coordination mechanisms, inter-agency collaboration, activities with NGOs and contributions of FAO to preparations for UNCED.

The Nigerian delegation has also noted with interest the reports on the strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. The challenge and the focus on critical areas where conflicts between demands for environmental protection and sustainable development are very acute, where irreversible damage occurs or may occur rapidly and where significant segments of the population are affected. These crucial areas, we agree, indeed call for special programmes of action for sustainable agriculture and rural development, particularly in the developing countries.

Much as the Nigerian delegation appreciates and commends the activities of FAO towards sustainable development and environment, we are yet to feel the impact of this FAO programme in Nigeria. We would like to see more activities of the Organization in this direction.

On the linkages of ICPF/SARD with forestry programmes contained in paragraphs 66-70 of this document, Nigeria is a place where this is possible and where FAO activities to strengthen the institutions and country capacity for improvement are welcome. In Nigeria, we have put in place various forestry programmes and activities which aim at sustainable development and environment. These include rural forestry development programmes, protection of forestry, development of community woodlots, arid zone afforestation and lately of course a country-driven TFAP programme in which Nigeria has adopted a grassroots approach, involving all sectors of the economy, starting from the President to the farmers in the villages, including NGOs.

Also, in furtherance of sustainable development and environment, the Nigerian Government has set up a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) and a Natural Resources Conservation Council with Mr President as the Chairman and key government officials and representatives of NGOs as members.

The Nigerian delegation would like to seize this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the FAO, ODA, the Government of Japan, IUCN, WWF, the World Bank and the EEC for their cooperation and moral support in the efforts of Nigeria to evolve a model TFAP which would incorporate recent experiences and comments. We would also seize this opportunity to request them and other international organizations and agencies, donor countries as well as various NGOs, for financial, technical and institution-strengthening support to Nigeria in order to ensure a speedy take-off and implementation of the TFAP Programme in Nigeria, which is crucial to sustainable development and environment.

Finally, the Nigerian delegation appreciates and commends the FAO activities related to sustainable development and environment as contained in this document and endorses the activities and the proposed action by the Conference as contained on page 24 of the document.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway) : I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

In 1989, the Twenty-fifth Conference adopted a resolution on FAO Activities Related to Sustainable Development, based on a proposal from the Nordic countries. The Conference also adopted a resolution on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. These resolutions contained a number of constructive elements for FAO's priority setting and further work for sustainable development and environmental protection.

As mentioned by Nordic ministers in their Plenary addresses, the interaction between agriculture and the environment should be a top priority of FAO's work. It should cover both agriculture's effect on the environment - such as land degradation, loss of biological diversity, pollution of waters and health hazards from intensive chemical use - as well as the equally harmful effects on agriculture, such as climatic change and acid rain. The focus should be on developing environmentally sound and sustainable agricultural practices that will secure growth in the production of food for the growing world population and raw material necessary for continued increases in industrial production for the well-being of people in all countries.

While some of the environmental threats to sustainable development apply to all countries, most of them differ in relative significance between countries and regions. As a universal organization, FAO needs to give due attention to all threats, irrespective of their relative importance in various parts of the world.

Part one of the document contains information on action taken to implement Resolution 3/89. We agree with what is said in paragraph 9 that the task called for by Resolution 3/89 was considerable and is far from being completed. However, we want to compliment the Secretariat for the progress achieved so far. FAO has taken the environmental challenge seriously, and the shift in priorities during the last two years is commendable.

As expressed on earlier occasions, we consider the organizational adjustments, mentioned in paragraphs 10 to 13, as valuable. These modifications have contributed in increasing the interdisciplinarity of the work, which we find important.

The review of the Regular Programme, discussed under Agenda Item 14 of this Conference, demonstrated that FAO has succeeded in making environmental issues cut across most of its activities. Environmental considerations seem to be gradually integrated into all management and lines of communication in FAO.

Resolution 3/89 called for strengthened cooperation with other organizations in the UN system in pursuing sustainable development, and for active work in the preparation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. During the last biennium, such cooperation has been improved considerably. We especially want to mention FAO's active support to the negotiations on a Convention of Biological Diversity, where FAO has been able to contribute substantially. But also other parts of the UNCED process have benefited from an active FAO involvement. To achieve the objectives of the Conference, competent contributions from all relevant organizations are needed. In areas like land degradation, integrated coastal zone management, use of fresh water in agriculture, living marine resources and forestry, FAO demonstrated that it has competence to offer.

The Nordic delegations fully agree with what is stated in paragraph 20, that active participation of people and of local organizations is of particular importance for the achievement of sustainable development objectives. The den Bosch Conference, on which we have had an opportunity to comment earlier, proved that FAO also is able to cooperate with the important part of the international community represented by the NGOs. In our opinion, these experiences should be used for a further strengthening of such cooperation, to the mutual benefit of both parts.

However, although the collaboration with other organizations has improved, I have to say that the experiences from the TFAP revamping, discussed at the 100th session of the Council, shows that there is still room for considerable improvement.

In Part Two of the document, the strategies for sustainable development and rural development are discussed. The Nordic delegations can support most of what is presented in this part of the document, but we want to make some specific comments.

We agree that the challenges mentioned in paragraph 29 of the document, further intensification, poverty alleviation and global environmental threats, are the most important ones. We want to underline that these challenges are closely connected and should not be addressed separately.

In developing strategies for sustainable agriculture, creation of an appropriate policy framework is important. FAO has an important role in developing and providing advice on such policies. We want to underline the close connection this has to the review process of FAO, discussed under Item 19 of this Conference. The Nordic countries for a long time have advocated FAO's important role in policy development and want to commend the Secretariat for the progress made. FAO, nevertheless, should recognize that lack of sustainability is a problem confronting agriculture, in different ways, in all continents. We would once more stress that intensification of agriculture as practised at present, particularly in developed countries, carries with it problems of pollution and contamination, waste disposal, and loss of biodiversity which can affect not only natural resources, but also human health.

In paragraph 35 it is underlined that the adoption of sustainable agriculture and rural development will generally call for major revisions in agricultural policies, and rural development plans and programmes. In developing such policies, these need to be as concrete and specific as possible. These policies should also encourage and activate the farmers themselves to maintain and enhance their farms' environmental asset base.

I have to say that the role of women in achieving more sustainable practices is not sufficiently covered in the document. Women are often the main food producers, wood and water gatherers, and as such the main natural resource managers over much of the developing world. It is vital to take women's accumulated knowledge, concerns and needs into consideration, if our striving towards sustainable practices is to be successfully implemented at local level.

We also want to underline what is mentioned several times in the document, that poverty alleviation is imperative to the work for sustainable agriculture. There is an immense task ahead in finding the best ways of

doing this. FAO needs to address this, but should also seek the cooperation of other organizations, as for example IFAD, which has considerable experience in the field.

The Nordic delegations can endorse the recommendation, presented in Part Three of the document, that an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development is launched by FAO. We agree that such programme framework should not only be seen as a new action plan, but should also include streamlining of a number of existing field programmes. The main components of the programme framework seems to be well identified and we consider it important, as is said in paragraph 52, not to include all international programmes and projects which contribute to agriculture and rural development.

It is important, as mentioned in paragraph 53, to make full use of existing machinery for field programme management in FAO and the UN system. We want to underline that this should also include the important concept of national execution, where the governments themselves gradually are given increased responsibility for the implementation of projects.

Regarding funding of the programme framework, the Nordic countries realize that achieving sustainability in agriculture and rural development could entail extra costs. We agree that existing funding mechanisms should be used to the maximum extent possible, but the possibilities of benefiting from funding arrangements which might be established for the implementation of Agenda Item 21 need to be followed up.

Finally, we want to encourage FAO to continue cooperating with the UNCED Secretariat as regards the various aspects of sustainable agriculture. It is imperative for FAO to define its own role in the institutional division of tasks in the follow-up of the Rio Conference. The Nordic delegations are convinced that FAO has a lot to offer, and should be given important functions in the implementation of Agenda Item 21. FAO must strengthen efforts in further defining its role as the global "meeting point" for sustainable development in agriculture. There is need for a vital and active forum for global discussion on agricultural policy and strategies at national and international level, in particular after the Rio Conference.

The main challenge ahead in the agricultural sector is to modify existing production patterns to become more sustainable. More sustainable practices must be combined with an increase in productivity to enable the sector to satisfy the food requirements of a rapidly increasing world population. It is not an easy task FAO is called upon to take on.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): In thanking the delegate of Norway for her intervention, I would add that she has particularly understood the question of cooperation. I support such cooperation and hope that FAO will play a pioneering role with regard to sustainable development and all matters regarding rural and agricultural sustainable development. So far we have heard four delegations who have spoken with extreme transparency and discussed all the important points. The time allotted to us is very short and we have to finish our work this morning. Therefore, I hope that if there is nothing new to mention, delegations will just endorse what has been said by the first four speakers.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): A good deal of effort seems to have been made by the Secretariat in preparing the document on the subject; where fears of environmental damage and the resultant effects on sustainable development have been aptly laid out.

Talking of strategies, we submit that to be workable, any strategy or policies must consider and accord priority to the special circumstances of the developing countries. The magnitude of the two basic problems of the developing countries has to be put in perspective and should form the basis of any policy formulation. These are, first, the fact of poverty, want and hunger; second, the fact of the continuous indebtedness - which unfortunately hampers all developmental efforts undertaken.

May we repeat that to be workable and sustainable, policies should be built upon the above premise. This must always merit special and continuous attention. Sustainable management of natural resources is important and should be incorporated in the main developmental plans. However, the above are today's main problem areas in the developing countries.

Against this backdrop of special circumstances, the imposition of any conditionalities of environmental consideration on the developing countries would indeed be not only very unfair, but would not be workable.

We submit that the idea of linking or relating debt relief debt-swap with the environment and the preservation of forests is workable, and we feel, it would help the developing countries to overcome some of their problems. This aspect needs further study.

FAO's response in highlighting the importance of the issue and creating awareness amongst the international community for better integration of environmental considerations along with the problems faced by the developing countries regarding their agricultural and economic policies are appreciable. The FAO has actively involved itself in collaboration with UNCED, UNDP, UNESCO and other agencies in various fields to attend to the problems and to find solutions for them. Of particular mention is FAO's contribution in the development of World Conservation Strategy, the recent Tenth World Forestry Congress held under the auspices of the FAO and the UN Congress on Environment to be held at Rio in July 1992. Also, the appointment of the Special Adviser to the Director-General and the establishment of the Steering Committee will help focus attention in this area, and enable FAO to take further initiatives in this respect.

The Government of Pakistan and the people of Pakistan are not only trying to create awareness of the environmental global problems but are also trying to highlight the local problems in the field of environment and sustainable development, and continuous efforts are being made to find solutions to these problems.

Mirza Tasaddug BEG (Bangladesh) : I commend the FAO Secretariat for the quality and comprehensiveness of the document C 91/30 as presented to us. The document, as my friends preceding me have already mentioned, has quite comprehensively addressed critical issues of global importance concerning sustainable development and the environment. Sustainable development in agriculture, forestry and fisheries encompasses a broad spectrum of development efforts directed towards meeting human needs. The task is a

formidable one and calls for coordinated and collaborative efforts at national, regional and international levels. The goals of sustainable development cannot be achieved without integrating the environmental considerations in any strategies and action programmes.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the active interest and role that FAO has been taking in the subject through its various multisectoral programme activities, Special Action Programmes, and collaboration with UN and other agencies. Considerable progress has been achieved in FAO's collaboration in sustainable development and the environment with UN and other international organizations. We feel that there is scope for further diversification and possibly expansion of FAO activities related to sustainable development and the environment. Cooperation with UN organizations in this field should also be strengthened.

My delegation fully endorses the views expressed in the document regarding the need for appropriate policies at national and international levels for the attainment of sustainable agriculture and rural development. However, as we are all aware, the resource constraints of the developing countries together with lack of appropriate technology and pressure of population growth pose a serious problem in achieving environmentally sound agriculture and rural development. Food security is another important aspect that remains a formidable challenge to the developing countries in their pursuit of attaining goals of sustainable development.

Most of the developing countries are unable to generate additional resources due to a narrow resource base. They are also handicapped by a heavy international debt burden that does not allow them to channel their resources towards development efforts relating to environmental protection and management and conservation of land, water, plant and genetic resources. Steps so far taken by bilateral donor countries in providing debt relief to the indebted countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America are encouraging but not adequate. It is, therefore, imperative that the developed creditor countries take necessary measures to write off or significantly reduce the debt burden of the recipient countries in a way that allows the developing countries to reallocate their scarce resources to the growth of sustainable economic development.

However, we also recognize the fact that satisfactory implementation of sustainable agriculture and rural development strategies would involve active participation of governments, the private sector, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, and last but not the least, the farmer community. I am pleased to say that in this connection the Government of Bangladesh has given priority attention to the issue of sustainable agriculture and rural development vis-à-vis the environment. A separate Ministry of Environment and Forests is actively engaged in overseeing the environmental soundness of development programmes and projects in close coordination with other development ministries and relevant government institutions. NGOs and local organizations are playing a complementary role in this regard.

Finally, I would like to say that my delegation endorses the proposed action contained in paragraph 76 of the document regarding launching of the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and other related proposals.

HUANG YONG-NING (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr Mahler has given us an excellent introduction to this document prepared by the Secretariat. Together they have given us a very detailed description of sustainable agriculture, and we would like to express our appreciation.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development cover a wide range of areas. Therefore, when this subject is under discussion many aspects can be considered. However, at present in the process toward this end it is important for us to determine what should be done first and how to make it happen.

Sustainable agriculture and rural development have strong policy and technical features. However, we believe that the progress, quality and nature of this work is insufficient. There is still a lack of principles for action and guidance for macro policies.

It is our hope that FAO will make further efforts to carry out studies in this regard in order to obtain the necessary materials and to formulate related policies.

Document C 91/30 has put forward the idea of strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development, as well as an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Agriculture and Rural Development. We think the basic contents are quite comprehensive. Nevertheless, we must point out that this programme framework should have its own clear-cut features and try to avoid duplication of other programmes. Its orientation should be the coordination and unification of international activities in this field, and the focus should be placed on environmental protection and agricultural practices conducive to rural environment.

Sustainable agriculture involves many departments and agencies. We would like to see more departments and organizations participating in this work and making joint efforts. Special appeals should be made to relevant international organizations, such as UNDP, to expand their agricultural projects in this field so that this work can be realistically implemented.

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): May I take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the documents before us and Mr Mahler for his very sound introduction to this item.

In our Minister's statement to Plenary and in our interventions on relevant items in Commission II we have indicated our strong support for FAO's activities related to the environment and sustainable development. We reiterate here our support for FAO's work in this area.

We support the FAO moving to implement an International Cooperative Programme Framework for SARD. We believe that the proposed strategies for sustainable agriculture which were developed at the recent FAO/Netherlands Conference provide a good basis for action by FAO and constitute a useful guide for individual countries in the promotion of sustainability.

In terms of setting the overall conditions for sustainable development, we agree with the need to ensure that the overall economic environment is conducive to growth with equity and with the need to review existing agricultural policies and rural development plans.

From our own experience we would particularly support the approach of creating a policy environment which encourages community participation and the expression of individual choice. An important conclusion from our own process of developing policies for sustainable agriculture is the need to promote community self-help groups as vehicles for information transfer and joint action. This "bottom-up" approach applies not only to land conservation activities where it originated, but also to a wider range of agricultural resource management issues.

We place strong emphasis on effective research, education and extension in promoting sustainable agriculture. It is also worth noting that, while research into new approaches is essential, emphasis should also be placed on making sure that the existing body of knowledge on sustainable practices is properly disseminated.

There are two areas where we would like to see more emphasis in the framework facade. First, there is a need to raise general awareness about the benefits of adopting more sustainable practices. This applies not only to farmers, but also to companies, financial institutions and other organizations servicing the farm sector, to research and education institutions and to the general community. Second, there is a need to ensure that institutional arrangements are reviewed to ensure that they do not impede a move to sustainability. For instance, separate administration of soil, water and agricultural policy will not assist the more integrated approach to policy-making and programme delivery that will be needed for sustainable development.

On the question of FAO's activities we do not believe that SARD should become a major additional set of programmes. FAO appears to recognize this in the proposed implementation procedures. FAO should be looking very closely at its existing priorities and programmes with a view to reorienting them to promote sustainability and eliminating any which can be identified as having a negative effect on sustainable development.

On this basis FAO should be seeking to ensure that its priorities enable it to incorporate strategies for SARD within existing resources. We do not see a need for a special fund for SARD. Sustainable agriculture is not an "add on" - it is an approach which should be reflected across FAO's activities. We believe close links need to be maintained with the UNCED process with the aim of ensuring that UNCED takes on relevant aspects of the SARD programme.

Finally, with regard to the resolution introduced by the Netherlands we would like to have some time to review it before commenting on its merits.

Art WRIGHT (Canada): The Canadian delegation welcomes the opportunity to address issues raised under this item. We thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 91/30 as well as Mr Mahler for his clear and concise introduction.

As we have stated previously, Canada is gratified by the progress made by the FAO in integrating sustainable development into its programmes and operations. Sustainable development is a cornerstone of our own Canadian development assistance policy and sustainable agriculture is very much a

foundation for Canada's own agricultural policy. The topic is therefore one in which we are profoundly interested.

Canada contributed to the formulation of the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development at the Ninety-ninth Council Session in June of this year. Our comments this morning can therefore be brief.

We were particularly pleased to participate in the FAO/Netherlands Den Bosch Conference which made substantial progress towards establishing the first real consensus between technical experts of developing and developed countries. The den Bosch Conference recommended an International Cooperative Programme Framework for SARD, which is now before this Conference and we feel this is a major contribution.

Canada feels that the proposed ICPF is an extremely valuable step for FAO as a whole, and responds in a substantive manner to Conference Resolution 3/89.

We agree with the Secretariat when it said that the next stage is to develop an operational plan for the implementation of SARD. It is essential that this plan have concrete programme elements, which should address the linkages between population growth, food security, poverty and sustainable use of the resource base and as mentioned in the Nordic delegation's statement this morning, the role of women and the needs of vulnerable groups. These elements must be integrated in a strategy and must also be measurable and it is therefore essential that we identify indicators and establish base data so that evaluations can be established.

What is needed now is a realistic time frame and priorities which are sensitive to both the urgency of the global environmental situation and the constraints which affect it. We believe that the draft resolution presented by the Government of the Netherlands goes some way to address these issues and we will address it in detail and hope that we will be able to give it our support. We recognize that there are financial constraints both within the FAO, among other contributing partners and within developing countries, but we would like to stress, however, that not all elements of SARD require extensive additional financial investment. There are a number of things that can be done with regard to agricultural policy reorientation and the use of traditional know-how and indigenous production systems which are both low-cost and cost-effective alternatives which are compatible with the objectives of SARD.

In many parts of the world, agricultural production has already exceeded the agro-ecological potential and the process of environmental degradation has begun. Canada would like the FAO to take a leadership role particularly in helping the poorest countries to assess and identify their agro-ecological potential, and advise on appropriate agricultural policies. The calculation of environmental costs is one of the main difficulties in implementing SARD. My delegation believes that FAO has a unique and highly important contribution to make in developing common tools that can be used in the measurement of natural resources consumption by all Member States. Such tools would be particularly helpful to developing nations.

We know that the rate of subsidization of agriculture in developed countries may also have a negative impact on the implementation of SARD in

all countries and as our delegation said in our statement in the Plenary, we must not only provide for policies to address sustainable development and to alleviate poverty but we must also revise the international rules relating to trade and commerce. There is an essential link between poverty, economic growth 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. Preservation and protection of the valuable natural resources on which agriculture depends can only become a priority once the problem of poverty has been adequately addressed.

Another area of difficulty is that of land tenure which may constitute a bottleneck or a major constraint for the implementation of SARD in many developing countries. Canada believes that FAO has a distinct comparative advantage in advising developing nations on land tenure policy as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

We would also like to see the Secretariat further develop the linkages between this framework for sustainable agriculture and the strategies for the fisheries and forestry sectors as well as the relationship of these sectors within the concept of SARD. Finally, Canada advocates that the Conference endorse the Council's recommendation that an International Cooperative Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development be launched by FAO, in cooperation with the other institutions concerned. The Canadian delegation agrees that progress reports containing recommendation for the operational phase should be presented to the Hundred and second Council and the Twenty-seventh Conference. We urge the FAO to take a higher profile also in the process for UNCED. In our view, issues such as SARD and the conservation, management and sustainable development of forests need additional emphasis in the UNCED process as the Rio de Janeiro Conference rapidly approaches. FAO does have a unique capacity to advise UNCED in these areas and we strongly urge that FAO assume a heightened role in providing expertise to and influencing the UNCED process.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Mi delegación expresa su satisfacción por la dedicación que la FAO ha prestado al tema de referencia, atenta a la importancia que el mismo ha adquirido y dada la preocupación existente en mi país sobre la cuestión.

En cuanto al documento correspondiente al tema 7, se hacen las siguientes apreciaciones. Respecto al primer problema, que plantea las estrategias para una agricultura y un desarrollo rural sostenibles (punto 29 (i)), deben destacarse los graves problemas que la aplicación de políticas proteccionistas efectuadas por los países desarrollados causa a los países en desarrollo. Los altos precios que se fijan a los cultivos que se siembran en los países desarrollados, principalmente en la Comunidad Económica Europea, incentivan el uso indiscriminado de los recursos productivos mediante la aplicación elevada de agroquímicos, a fin de obtener cantidades de producción significativas. Como consecuencia, como la oferta resultante excede a la demanda, los excedentes son volcados en el mercado externo, también mediante la aplicación de subsidios que aseguren su colocación, desplazando a los países en desarrollo de los mercados de exportación. El desincentivo provocado por el consecuente descenso de los precios internacionales lleva a que los países en desarrollo disminuyan sus niveles productivos, agravando también las necesidades alimentarias

mundiales. Es por ello que los países que, en función de sus ventajas competitivas, tienen natural estructura agroexportadora, como es el caso de Argentina, continúan apoyando el proceso de negociación agrícola del GATT en la actual Ronda Uruguay, a fin de alcanzar una mayor justicia en el mercado internacional de productos agropecuarios a partir de la paulatina liberalización de la producción y el comercio mundial.

En cuanto al tercer problema que plantea la estrategia, la Argentina debe mencionar que la agricultura no es, en sí misma, causante de perjuicios al ambiente, sino que son las prácticas agrícolas intensivas las que producen los trastornos mencionados en el documento. Por lo tanto, resulta imperativo efectuar la diferenciación entre agricultura intensiva y agricultura extensiva, para el conocimiento más profundo de los perjuicios que ciertas prácticas agropecuarias pueden causar al medio ambiente.

En relación al punto 31 del documento, nuevamente se destaca que la manera más efectiva de lograr una mejora en la situación de ingresos del sector rural se da a partir de un resultado favorable de la Ronda Uruguay, en términos de la progresiva disminución de las prácticas de subsidios agrícolas, de manera que se refleje en un nivel de precios más transparente para los productos.

En tal sentido, se apoyan las medidas propuestas a nivel internacional para la creación del marco de políticas apropiado para una agricultura sostenible, con especial énfasis en lo atinente al establecimiento de directrices claras sobre buenas normas comerciales, por medio de las cuales se puedan resolver las controversias que se planteen (párrafo 34(a), segundo guión). Se señala una vez más que el GATT es el foro más indicado para el tratamiento del tema. Se observa también que debería enfatizarse más el rol de la mujer en el desarrollo sostenible. Además, y más allá de los perjuicios derivados por las políticas profesionistas, la Argentina ve con agrado las propuestas de acción que la FAO emprende, tendentes a lograr la necesaria concienciación de los gobiernos para que cada uno de los recursos fundamentales de la agricultura (tierra, agua, recursos biológicos) y cada uno de los insumos esenciales para la producción (fertilizantes, plaguicidas, etcétera) sean utilizados de la manera más inocua y eficaz, tal como se menciona en el párrafo 41 del documento.

Por último, con respecto al proyecto de Resolución de los Países Bajos, solicitamos que se conceda tiempo para su revisión.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for preparing a very clear and comprehensive document which provides a broad overview of matter relating to sustainable development and environment. There are several other conference documents which contain considerable coverage of this topic. My delegation has particularly noted the chapter on integration of environmental components in FAO's field activities in document C 91/4, Review of Field Programmes 1990-91: the Review of Regular Programmes 1990-91; the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97; the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93; and the Director-General's Report on the implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's goals and aspirations. It is indicative of the importance attached to this issue in the activities and programmes of the FAO in view of the significance that this matter has assumed for the whole of mankind.

Mr Chairman, the Indian delegation appreciates and welcomes the initiative taken by the FAO in co-sponsoring the FAO/Netherlands Conference in den Bosch on Agriculture and Environment in 1991 and now recommending an overall International Programme Framework to assist in meeting the needs of SARD at the national and international level.

In India, 53 percent of land resources are characterized by one type of degradation or another due to a variety of causes such as water erosion, wind erosion, ravines, alkalinity and salinity. Therefore, the land's capability of being put to productive use is rather limited. There is also the increasing pressure on land due to an increasing population.

In 1986, the Government of India adopted the National Land Use Policy Outline highlighting the most crucial aspects which should govern public policies impinging on the exploitation of land resources of the country.

Our National Land Use and Conservation Board has also embarked upon working out a prospective plan for conservation, management and development of land resources of the country by 2000 AD. The draft prospective plan on a regional basis has been formulated and also discussed in the national consultations held from 21 to 24 October of this year. The State Governments were persuaded to prepare a prospective plan for their states either on an agro-climatic zonal basis or on a unit basis. The strategy for fisheries development and management also included environmental considerations. India has been following the guidelines outlined in the FAO's Field Programme keeping in view its linkage with the environment.

Mr Chairman, we are happy to note that the FAO will strengthen cooperation with other UN organizations and is making an important contribution to the preparation for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Adequate funding at national and international level will be required for successful implementation of this programme. As the capacity of the developing countries in this regard is very limited, we believe that the industrialized countries are primarily responsible for the existing state of the global environment and they should primarily assume the responsibility for providing the resources and appropriate technology through different contributions towards the establishment of a global environment facility, a Green Fund or a Special Fund for SARD.

My delegation is supportive of the approach of creating an overall economic environment conducive to growth with equity through people's participation, establishing an appropriate policy for human settlement and a sustainable rate of population growth at national level.

We also consider it essential that the action, as proposed in paragraph 34, is taken at international level. The debt burden of international debtors needs to be reduced by restructuring or waiver. Similarly, fair trade practices should be established and protectionism in international trade relaxed. Equally important is to assist developing countries to have access to improved technologies that permit more economic and environmentally acceptable use of natural resources.

In conclusion, my delegation endorses the proposed framework plan by FAO and would look forward to a report at the next Conference on its implementation.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): The United States strongly supports the direction in which FAO proposes to go in promoting sustainable agricultural development and conserving the world's environment. An integrated management and planning approach is, in our view, the key to successful land resources. Almost none of these resources serve a unique function nor exist independently of their surroundings. Sustainability has become one of the watchwords in my country's own national efforts as well as in our assistance to other countries. The emphasis is on full understanding of the problem, and on research combined with the best known management practices we can find. This combination holds hope for success in preserving and regenerating our precious land resources.

Equally important, in our view, in achieving sustainable agricultural development is broad popular participation in the political process of defining and developing such integrated farm management systems. Such popular participation, employing market processes and adjusting for conflicts of interest among concerned individuals, groups and nations, is, we believe, essential to the ultimate goal of protecting land resources.

We generally support the elements proposed for an appropriate policy framework for creating sustainable development in the agricultural sector. Toward that end, we would urge that the document language on page 11 of C 91/30 be modified to eliminate any prejudicial and invidious comparisons between countries. As is the case on population policy, we think that all countries need to make a serious examination of their consumption patterns, and that it is definitely not productive to engage in finger pointing.

Next, towards FAO's stated overall goal of promoting sustainable agricultural production, we fully support the three major objectives of (1) improving efficiency, (2) increasing resilience and minimizing risks, and (3) promoting diversity. In that last category, that is promoting diversity, we suggest the addition of "light manufacturing", "agribusiness", and "recreation" to the three off-farm activities cited on page 13 of document C 91/30.

Lastly, we are not clear what exactly is proposed in Part III regarding an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development. We find commendable the proposed process of networking and streamlining existing field programmes, projects and other activities to achieve the stated objectives. We do have reservations, however, about the mention of new mechanisms to ensure better integration. Creating new intergovernmental or national bodies is expensive, diverts resources from ongoing activities and frequently requires developing an entire new set of operating skills. On the other hand, the United States Government would suggest that redirection and, if needed, augmentation of existing bodies should be made to the fullest extent possible. Often assignments will need to be more specific, and additional resources both human and financial, will be required. The United States Government would like to underscore that new coordinating mechanisms should be created only as a last resort.

In closing, let me repeat our enthusiasm for the overall thrust of the FAO's proposed strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development. We look forward to their approval and rapid implementation.

Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia): In considering the overview of the FAO activities related to Sustainable Development and Environment as mentioned in document C 91/30, we are gratified by the range, the general thrust and character of those FAO activities, including FAO contributions to preparations for UNCED 1992.

With regard to the proposal on International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development with particular reference to its operational, financial and organizational implications, my delegation agrees to the recommendation of the 98th Session of the FAO Council that it should be launched by FAO, in cooperation with the other concerned institutions.

Allow me now to express my delegation's views on some major points, as follows :

Firstly, on the synthesis between environment and development: This is obviously an issue which is of extreme importance to us, the developing countries. We are aware that we must be able to sustain a reasonable level of economic development, but at the same time we must also keep the exploitation of our natural resources within the tolerable limit to keep the function of ecosystem properly. We, therefore, should develop policies and support the international measures that would enable us to maintain a reasonable margin between the level of development and environmental ceiling. To this end it is necessary that economic and institutional tools, including depletion rate measurement, resource accounting and resource management methods, be developed to maintain sustainable development and environment in the agricultural sector.

Secondly, on changes in the nature and directions of development: In addition to the synthesis between development and environment, development processes must also take into account the normative objective of sustainable development, namely the fulfilment of present and future needs and aspirations. Transgenerational needs and aspirations-fulfilment are normative values to be pursued and expressed in policies. This means that we must seek a congruence between present needs and aspirations and those of the future, which in turn would mean that we must forego some present benefits in order to fulfill our future needs. To manage that congruence we need further economic tools of analysis. To meet these objectives new terms or international cooperation must be formulated and agreed upon, simply because of the fact that many impoverished countries have no present benefits to forego for the sake of the future as they are barely able to meet present needs. Unless their poverty is alleviated today - an impossible task without international cooperation - such countries will have no tomorrow.

Thirdly, on financial resources as the principal constraint: In this connection we must therefore develop institutional arrangements and the criteria for an equitable international sharing of financial resources, tasks and responsibilities in our efforts to safeguard global as well as national environments.

And fourthly, regarding access to technology and knowledge: The need to share environmentally sound technologies is now universally acknowledged. But as we seek a synthesis between development and environment, development technologies which do not have direct impact upon the environment should

also be made available to developing countries under conditions that are fair and affordable. The same applies to knowledge: unless knowledge is shared, the definition of environmental - and development - problems and the application of their solutions will remain the monopoly of the advanced countries. It is particularly in the area of technology and knowledge-sharing that the principle of global equity should be upheld.

The overview that I have just presented is to underscore the generally acknowledged point that developing and developed countries still differ in views and approaches towards environmental problems. In industrialized countries there will be a greater concern about pollution and other problems affecting the quality of the environment. In developing countries which are mostly agricultural, there will be a greater concern about the rational management of their natural resources which form the mainstay of their livelihood.

In this regard, to mention just one example: In the sections on forestry and bio-diversity conservation, there is little or no mention at all of the incomes and opportunities foregone by developing countries in maintaining forest and bio-diversity reserves for the common good. Many analyses rightly state that pressure on biological diversity stems mostly from population growth and increased consumption of resources. On the other hand, however, the developing countries - often because of external trade barriers - are deprived from gaining adequate value-added revenues on their export of natural based commodities, particularly forest products which are exported in lower-priced, unprocessed form. Also, in the analysis of biodiversity conservation as well as bio-technology, so-called farmers' rights are not dealt with. Nor is the fact that bio-technology progress contains the potential of wiping out the livelihood of millions of plant growers in the developing countries. All of these are the consequences of the patterns of international economics, pricing mechanisms, and so on, which harm the development and environment efforts of the developing countries.

The final point we would like to raise is that we are fully convinced that global cooperation can be achieved by first developing cooperation at regional and even sub-regional level. It can be more readily established in smaller units of cooperation, and the cooperation that we have established among the six countries of the Association of the Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN) stands as an example. Indeed the countries of ASEAN, basing themselves upon the Kuala Lumpur Accord on Environment and Development, adopted on June 19, 1990, will develop common programmes in implementing sustainable development throughout the sub-region.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I thank the representative of Indonesia for his statement. I fully share his view on the need of developing and developed countries to solve all these environmental problems together.

Süleyman SAYIN (Turkey): In recent years, sustainability has become as important as development. In view of the Den Bosch Declaration, my delegation believes and expects the Twenty-Sixth Conference of FAO to provide an important opportunity for the attainment of an international consensus on environmental issues and development. This will lead towards

the fulfilment of the rightful demands of people from all over the world, for economic, social, political and cultural development, with due care being paid to the preservation of the ecological equilibrium of the Earth.

The "Only One Earth" conception of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment of 1972 has now developed into an understanding that humanity shares common environmental values and posterity will share a common future. In this sense, the interaction between development and the environment must be taken into consideration in all aspects at national, regional and global levels.

In this context, FAO activities will provide the necessary framework, together with the full participation of all members, towards the global attainment of the objectives in sustainable agriculture and rural development.

The concept of sustainable development requires countries to take their share in this concept according to their present structures. There are, however, important obstacles to the implementation of such a concept, in terms of disparities in levels of development, bilateral and multilateral agreements presently in effect, differences in economic systems, protection provided to certain sectors, and foreign trade policies. The attainment of sustainability on a global scale depends in the first place upon the attainment of a certain level of development by the developing and less-developed countries. In this connection, the basis of an international economic policy should be the provision of political, technical, and financial support to contribute to the development of those countries. Although it is true that every section of society has a common interest in environmental protection, and that environmental destruction will produce results affecting the entire world, the development of a sound global approach in the long run requires the adoption of this policy by countries in such a manner as not to hinder their efforts for development, and to be in line with their levels of development.

We are all aware that the costs involved in ensuring the effective implementation of sustainable agriculture and rural development place a heavy burden on developing countries, especially the least developed ones. My delegation therefore believes that this global responsibility must be sustainably shared on the basis of sustainability.

My delegation gives its overall support to the den Bosch Declaration and the Agenda for Action. We are of the opinion that this declaration provides a good technical input for UNCED. In this connection we think that it would be useful to continue the effective cooperation and coordination which already exists between FAO and the UNCED Secretariat, in order to lay the basis for the preparation and implementation processes of the work envisaged in this field. This process should however ensure the full participation of all members at every stage.

We would also go along with the proposal that progress reports, with recommendations for the operational phase, should be presented to the 102nd Session of the Council and the next Session of the Conference.

In view of the concerns throughout the world, we would like to join others in inviting UNCED to give the necessary support to the international cooperative framework for sustainable agriculture and rural development as part of Agenda 21.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): The Thailand delegation appreciates FAO's initiation of work on sustainable agriculture to increase food production, and to promote the aims of environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources, through collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs' activities. We especially commend the contribution of FAO to the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development next year. FAO should however keep in mind that the income of the poor is an important incentive for them to conserve their natural resources. My delegation also thanks FAO for its initiatives in Asia as mentioned in paragraph 23 of document C 91/30, and would like information about the future programme of the initiatives.

With regard to the strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development, my delegation recognizes that a policy framework at national and international levels which is favourable to sustainable agriculture and rural development must be created. In Thailand, we have already prepared our national plan of economic and social development for the years 1992 to 1996 on the basis of food security and improvement of employment and better incomes, to eradicate poverty, conservation of natural resources and protection of the environment, and the participation of local people. We have now also exposed the concept of sustainable agriculture to researchers in agriculture at different levels.

For the policy at national level, my delegation would like to emphasize the matter raised in the document under discussion that the growth rate of population and optimal size of population in terms of sustainability should be also considered along with the concept of food security, because some countries may have limitations of land, natural resources, and favourable environments for food production.

On the question of sustainable agriculture and rural development at international level, my delegation recognizes that the importance of the policy at national level, especially protectionism in international trade in terms of food standards, should be minimized. We would like to see FAO setting food standards which favour the health of the consumer rather than being used as a barrier to international trade because international trade will be another important mechanism for the improvement of income and the standard of living of the poor on the basis of sustainable agriculture in the developing countries.

With regard to the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, in Thailand we have critical areas to develop, as mentioned in paragraphs 42 and 43 of the document we are discussing. Therefore, my delegation recognizes the importance of the international cooperative programmes, especially Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, or TCDC. Consequently, my delegation wishes to comment that the future programme of TCDC should be made much closer to the sustainable agricultural concept, and activities should be related to each other.

We support the proposal made by the delegate of the Netherlands in this Commission with regard to sustainability.

My delegation considers that document C 91/30 is a good guide for sustainable agriculture and rural development in developing countries. We also recognize the hard work of FAO, especially that done by the Secretariat, in the preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Consequently, we wish to endorse the Council recommendation that an ICPF/SARD should be launched by FAO in further elaboration and cooperation with the other institutions concerned.

Mrs Hannelore Angela BENJAMIN (Dominica): I would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document before us.

Dominica, as most of our islands in the region, belongs to the low-lying islands in the Caribbean and therefore faces threats from the depletion of the ozone layer, sea-level rise, frequent and violent hurricanes, and other calamitous climate changes.

My delegation feels that all countries, if they have not already, will one day suffer together if we do not take action now and involve our youth by stressing to them the fact that they will inherit this earth along with all its problems in agriculture, forestry, fishery, the environment, global warming and the hole in the ozone layer. By the time the effects become profound and they inherit from us who caused these problems, we might be dead. Therefore, it is the youth of today who should be trained so they can help us to make a difference in order that future generations have a safe place to live on earth.

We all know that the future of Planet Earth is at stake. It is man's sole refuge in this vast and harsh universe. We should also learn from the unfortunate fate of those countries who ignored environmental warnings and are now having to spend millions of dollars to clean up their mistakes.

Unless the developing nations of the world can acquire and introduce sustainable development technologies, their ever-poorer and ever-expanding populations will become the hopeless victims of environmental disaster, too catastrophic to contemplate coordination between all our countries, whether developed or developing.

Regular Programme activities can teach us further biological diversity, integration in overall economic environments, coastal area management and protection in forestry and fisheries. The collaboration of FAO in sustainable agricultural development and environment is of the utmost importance and should be expanded through extra budget for field programmes which will help small farmers and women in rural development.

In this regard our developed partners in FAO therefore may help us by providing us with their support, either directly or within regional and multilateral arrangements which will enable small farmers in small developing states to achieve the capital inflows and resource requirements necessary to make agricultural diversification productive and competitive. It will require a demonstration of the well being of all of us as partners in an ever-changing world where the difficulties of one nation or of one

region inevitably affect the opportunities of others. There is a saying that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, desea felicitar a la Secretaria por el excelente y completo documento presentado.

Conscientes del agotamiento que día a día sufren los recursos naturales del país, el Gobierno de la República de Honduras ha venido revisando y evaluando las acciones ejecutadas a través de programas y proyectos de desarrollo a fin de reorientarlas bajo el principio fundamental de respetar las interrelaciones de los distintos componentes de la naturaleza y de conservar los procesos regenerativos de los ecosistemas como base para lograr un desarrollo sostenible.

El Plan de Gobierno de la República de Honduras establece, como prioridad fundamental, la protección, conservación y mejoramiento del ambiente como factor fundamental para el desarrollo sostenible del país. Se crea con carácter permanente y como dependencia directa de la Presidencia de la República, la Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente y Desarrollo de Honduras, contando con la participación de instituciones públicas y privadas: las fuerzas armadas del país y otras instituciones.

Existe cada día mayor conciencia de que los recursos naturales no deben limitarse a un dato geográfico aislado y estático; es necesario identificarlos, relacionarlos, y determinar el grado permisible de su aprovechamiento racional.

Para ello es menester incorporar en las estrategias de desarrollo una gestión ambiental que minimice el deterioro y agotamiento del capital ambiental, a la vez que preserve, mantenga y complemente esta riqueza natural, mediante la acumulación de conocimientos científicos y su aplicación en naciones concertadas de la sociedad.

Las líneas maestras para adelantar una estrategia que nos conduzca al desarrollo sostenible de nuestra región son, a nuestro juicio, las siguientes:

- la erradicación de la pobreza,
- el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales,
- el ordenamiento del territorio,
- desarrollo tecnológico compatible con la realidad social y natural,
- una nueva estrategia económico-social,
- la organización y movilización social,
- la reforma del Estado.

También debe prestarse especial atención a la inclusión de la mujer en el proceso, promoviendo su papel activo, no sólo en el sector laboral, sino también en el profesional y en la toma de decisiones.

La década de los años ochenta representó para la región una década perdida. El PNB de 1988 fue más bajo que el de 1978; la recuperación del crecimiento y el desarrollo son una condición necesaria que debe cumplirse para hacer frente a problemas sociales y ambientales apremiantes. La inversión financiera en infraestructura social es enormemente baja. Se estima que la

región tiene un déficit de inversión anual de 80 000 millones de dólares. Esto hace que se aleje la atención de preocupaciones ambientales urgentes. Es esencial mitigar en gran medida esta situación para poder hacer frente a los problemas ambientales.

Sobre esta base apoyamos los principios del Proyecto de Resolución que ha planteado la delegación de los Países Bajos.

Sra. Grafla SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba, señor Presidente, quisiera expresar que nuestro país se ha interesado mucho en los preparativos de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo que se celebrará en 1992. Cuba participó activamente en la Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre la Agricultura y Medio Ambiente, y consideramos muy atinado que sus resultados se utilicen para la elaboración de estrategias y propuestas de acción en la esfera de la agricultura y del desarrollo rural sostenible.

En tal sentido, señor Presidente, continuamos apoyando los resultados y recomendaciones de la Conferencia de den Bosch de que la FAO, en colaboración con otros organismos, continúe elaborando un marco de programas cooperativos internacionales para ayudar a satisfacer las necesidades de todos los países en la esfera de la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenible.

En realidad, coincidimos con otras delegaciones en que éste constituye un gran reto para toda la humanidad. En nuestro país damos mucha importancia al manejo y conservación de los recursos naturales y al cuidado del medio ambiente.

Estamos conscientes de que las cuestiones relativas al medio ambiente y al desarrollo sostenible afectan a la mayor parte de las actividades de la FAO; pero consideramos que deben seguirse incrementando los esfuerzos para el cumplimiento de la Resolución 3/89, aprobada por la Conferencia de la FAO en su 25º período de sesiones.

En cuanto a las estrategias, señor Presidente, contenidas en la Parte II del documento C 91/30, la delegación de Cuba considera que, en realidad, todas estas acciones deben tener como base principal garantizar la alimentación de millones de personas que sufren de hambre y malnutrición en el mundo. En tal sentido apoyamos las declaraciones de las distinguidas representantes de Honduras y Dominica, en lo que se refiere a las acciones en la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

También el propio documento C 91/30, en su párrafo 34, se refiere a dos obstáculos muy grandes que se interponen para garantizar una coyuntura económica favorable al desarrollo de la agricultura y al desarrollo sostenible. Se trata del peso de la deuda externa y el proteccionismo en el comercio internacional.

No nos extenderemos en estos aspectos, puesto que ya mi delegación ha expresado sus opiniones al respecto en otros temas que se han debatido y también lo resaltó nuestro Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros en el Plenario de esta Conferencia.

En términos generales, la delegación de Cuba apoya las estrategias para un desarrollo sostenible planteadas en esta segunda parte del documento. Estamos de acuerdo con lo expresado por los países nórdicos, a través de la distinguida delegación de Noruega, en que deben tomarse más en cuenta los intereses de la mujer para que las mismas puedan jugar un papel importante y desempeñar el gran rol que tienen en la mayoría de los países subdesarrollados.

Referente al Proyecto de Resolución presentado por la distinguida delegación de los Países Bajos, la delegación de Cuba ha tomado debida nota, y la estudiaremos cuando la misma sea distribuida, pero estamos seguros de que no tendremos dificultad en apoyarla ya que compartimos sus principios generales.

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Pologne): M. le Président, tout d'abord j'aimerais remercier M. Mahler pour son excellente introduction à la discussion de ce point de notre agenda, et pour la soigneuse préparation du document C 91/30 qui contient des considérations substantielles sur les activités de la FAO dans la sphère du développement durable et de l'environnement.

The delegation of Poland has spoken at length on the subject matter last June. Our position remains unchanged. Therefore, we are glad to inform this Commission of our support for the Draft Resolution introduced by the representative of the Netherlands, and we are very glad to join that delegation as co-author of the Resolution.

With regard to the efforts of FAO, let me mention that it would be misleading to limit the meaning of the term sustainable agriculture or sustainable agricultural development to the agricultural sector. The complexity of the problem, which was very well presented previously in the Canadian statement, stems from the fact that on this planet earth there are more and more people, so it is necessary to produce more and more food. Hence, on the one hand we talk of the pollution of the environment and of the great dangers to the environment resulting from development of the chemical industry that produces chemical fertilizers, and, on the other hand, I think I am not committing a major error by saying that industrialized countries' workers, engineers and scientists are praised for their efforts in scientific institutes and chemical plants as they produce more and more fertilizers that contribute to better yield, and so on. Vicious circles? In a sense, yes, but perhaps it is not the time here to enter into detailed analyses. In fact, the only substantial remark that my delegation would like to provide here and now is that, in view of the commitment of FAO in this sphere of activities, it seems responsible to increase, or to increase much more, the cooperation with UNIDO. My delegation is of the opinion that there exists important and sensitive links in the activities of these two agencies of the United Nations. Increased cooperation between them in this sphere would be very beneficial for the sustainability of agricultural development, for the environment, in short, for all of the human race.

Jung Sup CHOI (Korea, Republic of): My delegation wishes to thank Mr Mahler for this excellent introduction to this item.

As my Minister of Agriculture emphasized in his statement to the Plenary meeting, world food and agriculture is currently facing conflicting problems of hunger and surplus. Specifically, developing countries suffer from food deficit, while in contrast, developed countries in general are more concerned about the environmental influences of agriculture and the sustainability of agriculture into the future.

Many developed countries criticize the application of massive chemicals in agriculture. However, the Korean delegation wants to remind you that the environmental degradation is even more seriously progressing in the developing countries. The reasons for that, among others, include higher population density and less opportunity to earn non-agricultural income in developing countries. Farmers in developing countries are less likely to take the future sustainability of agriculture into consideration.

Furthermore, there is another structural problem in terms of international agricultural trade. Most developing countries have the tendency to manufacture and export either labour-intensive or natural-resource-intensive products. The international trade situation, however, does not allow easy market access into the developed countries' markets due to various border measures. As a result, the developing countries that may not export labour-intensive commodities tend to be dependent on mining and agricultural products that cause, in turn, a serious resource depletion.

In these contexts the Korean delegation would like to re-emphasize the importance of environmental consideration and sustainable agriculture, not only in terms of agriculture in developed countries, but in terms of agriculture in the developing countries.

Necessary efforts by the developed countries as well as various international organizations, including FAO and UNDP, are required in order to achieve sustainable agriculture in a global sense.

Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): The agenda before us is of central importance. Widespread and rampant poverty and hunger in the developing world are closely linked with mismanagement of the environment. It is important that the FAO continues to address the issue of sound environment as the only basis for sustainable food and agricultural development.

My delegation appreciates the fact that FAO has been active and emphatic on the importance of environmental conservation, particularly in the FAO Regional Meetings, the ongoing UNCED committee meetings in preparation for the Rio Summit, and even more recently at the World Forestry Congress in Paris.

Kenya reaffirms its commitment to the conservation of the environment and supports all efforts geared to its sustainable exploitation. We share the international concern for the continued destruction of tropical forests and the general environment.

Consistent with the Tropical Forests Action Plan, Kenya has launched the preparation of a long-term National Forestry Master Plan 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 all Kenyans in the development, conservation and management of forestry resources. This is due to the fact that Kenya has a limited forest cover, which is approximately 3 percent of the overall land area, mainly located at agriculturally high potential and sensitive water catchment areas. And yet 90 percent of our people's energy consumption is derived from fuelwood.

The Kenya Forestry Master Plan (KFMP) therefore calls for an intensive agro-forestry programme to cover all farmlands, and to extend forestry into Kenya's vast marginal lands. This is the only realistic approach to extend the national forest cover and to enhance both environmental conservation and forest resource sustainability.

I wish to point out that environmental conservation activities are costly, time-consuming and do not yield immediate results. In the hunger-stricken developing countries such activities are often overlooked since resources are extremely limited.

In Kenya we have active NGOs, women groups, schools and churches through which donor support for resource conservation can be channeled. Most Government Ministries are keen and involved in various aspects of environmental protection.

My delegation fully endorses the recommendations contained in document C 91/30, paragraph 76, and urges the FAO to continue its cooperation with the UNCED Preparatory Committee and other UN agencies involved in the protection of the environment. FAO should continue assisting developing countries in the preparation of TFAPs and national environmental policies, and should regularly organize and coordinate national or sub-regional seminars on the environment and sustainable development.

Finally, I wish to thank FAO for its timely support of my country's efforts and appeals to the donor community for assistance in combating the serious cypress aphid disease which has invaded our cypress plantations and indigenous cedar forest reserves. Our cypress aphid control programme has received encouraging support from the World Bank, UNDP and the Finnish Government. However, I wish to reiterate my country's appeal for more donor support since the cypress aphid disease is threatening to wipe out all cypress plantations and indigenous cedar natural reserves in eastern, central and southern Africa.

If this disease remains unchecked, Kenya will start to lose all its cypress plantations, estimated at around 116 000 hectares, in the next three years or so. As these plantations are a main source of our industrial wood, their total destruction would reduce Kenya to a net importer of basic industrial wood. Similarly, it is also estimated that Kenya has around 280 000 hectares of indigenous cedar natural reserves, which are also an alternative victim of the deadly cypress aphid disease.

As the cedar forest reserves are mostly located on important catchments, their destruction would be a serious environmental catastrophe in Kenya and the affected sub-region at large.

Without saying much this is an area of grave concern to us and calls for immediate technical and financial assistance by all friendly and sympathetic donors.

I fall short of suitable words to illustrate sufficiently the seriousness and magnitude of the problem facing us. It is nearly two years now since Kenya made the appeal for assistance and only a third of the required support in the cypress aphid control programme has been pledged. I am prepared to provide any additional information to any interested donors or persons if required.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you delegate of Kenya, I think everybody has taken note of his appeal and his statement, especially with regard to combating the cypress aphid which is endangering the environmental life in his country.

U. Tin HTUT OO (Myanmar): For Myanmar, as an agricultural country, it is imperative that exploitation of her abundant natural resources, as well as her economic development policies should be environmentally sound and sustainable. Fortunately, Myanmar's natural environment has not been unduly impaired due to the relatively limited population pressure, the still low level of industrialization and limited use of polluting agro-chemicals. Moreover, almost 50 percent of the country is still under forests, mostly natural. However, like in most developing countries, the Government of Myanmar instituted drastic changes to its economic structure in recent years with a shift towards a market economy. Early indications signal that agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors have responded well to the increasing demand and higher prices with increased production.

Therefore, more efforts are needed in improving efficiency and reducing risk in the use of our natural resources. Sustainability becomes a key word in our national development policies and plans.

Sustainable development and environmental affairs are important not only nationally but also globally as their causes and effects cannot be confined to any specific region. In this regard, the leader of the Myanmar delegation in his statement has stated that "the problem 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".

In Myanmar the National Commission for Environmental Affairs has been set up in February 1990. Nationally, the Commission has competency over all environmental affairs and internationally, it acts as a focal point with bilateral and multilateral organizations as well as other related government bodies and NGOs.

We highly appreciate FAO's initiatives and various activities related to sustainable development and environment. At the same time we commend the highly comprehensive document C 91/30 and my delegation fully endorses the

proposed actions by the Conference mentioned in para.27 and other related proposals of the document. Our country will closely and effectively cooperate with the international community in this crucial area.

Srta. Martha VAZQUEZ (México): La delegación de México ha leído con gran interés el contenido del documento C 91/30, sobre las actividades de FAO en relación con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible, resultado de la aplicación de la Resolución 3/89, aprobada en la última Conferencia.

Al respecto, nuestra delegación quisiera hacer los siguientes comentarios: Reconoce la relevancia que representa el informe de la Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos, sobre agricultura y medio ambiente, en el que se incluyen la Declaración y Plan de Acción de den Bosch, para una agricultura y desarrollo sostenible, así como el documento que contiene el esbozo de un marco de programas cooperativos internacionales, los cuales constituyen una contribución importante a los preparativos de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo, a celebrarse el próximo año. Resalta la importancia de las estrategias para una agricultura y un desarrollo rural sostenible, las cuales exigen un empeño decidido y constante en materia de políticas y asistencia técnica y financiera en sectores concretos para promover el marco de programas cooperativos internacionales.

Resalta la necesidad de mejorar las relaciones económicas internacionales, con objeto de incrementar y estabilizar los ingresos de los agricultores, examinar y mejorar las normas que rigen el comercio internacional, a efectos de proporcionar mejor acceso a los mercados, y asegurar precios equitativos con miras a apoyar las estrategias contenidas en la Parte II del documento que nos ocupa.

Los sustantivos costos que supondrá la aplicación de la estrategia para la ADRS deberán sufragarse de tal manera que no representen ninguna carga adicional a los países en desarrollo, en particular a los sectores más vulnerables de la población, por lo que la asistencia financiera de la comunidad internacional, en particular los donantes, podría ser en condiciones que no agraven los problemas comerciales y, en general, económicos de estos países.

Por otra parte, es necesario resaltar el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo sostenible, la cual ha desempeñado una labor relevante en la agricultura de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación mexicana coincide con las estrategias para la agricultura y el desarrollo sostenible, que se esbozan en la Parte II del documento, en el sentido de que los gobiernos, las comunidades rurales y unidades de producción deberán participar activamente en la labor de integración y coordinación de las actividades que requieren la agricultura y el desarrollo sostenible.

Asimismo concuerda con los principales componentes del marco del Programa de Cooperación Internacional contenidos en el párrafo 51, relativos a los programas y proyectos, así como su importante vinculación con los programas para el sector forestal y pesquero.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, México se manifiesta en favor de que la FAO contribuya con su experiencia, información y expertos en las labores preparatorias de la Conferencia de Río, que tiene que ver, en particular, con el aprovechamiento de los recursos marinos vivos.

En relación al proyecto de resolución presentado por la distinguida delegación de los Países Bajos, la delegación mexicana lo ve con agrado y en su momento procederá a su análisis para su eventual aprobación.

Eloy RAMOS RODRIGUEZ (España): Gracias señor Presidente, por permitirme participar. Felicitamos al Sr. Mahler por la exposición del documento C 91/30 el cual, en líneas generales, aceptamos.

La situación general de la agricultura en el momento actual en los países de la CEE se caracteriza por una clara recesión en materia de precios, a los productores y de mecanismos de protección de mercados. Es decir, estamos ante un ajuste estructural, que obliga a dichos países, y en especial a los de desarrollo medio dentro de la Comunidad, a un replanteamiento del desarrollo rural al que obviamente países como España no renuncian, si bien vemos que la necesaria modernización e incremento de las productividades será desigual; se concentrarán en áreas con potencial y se abandonarán en zonas marginales y desfavorecidas donde el riesgo va a ser el del despoblamiento de cara al medio ambiente.

En cualquier caso, señor Presidente, aprobamos que no puede promulgarse en zonas ya intensivas un aumento de recursos e "inputs"; la estrategia, según se hace ver en los párrafos 35 a 38 del documento C 91/30 que aceptamos, se basa en la reducción de costos de producción y, por ende, en una utilización más eficaz de los "inputs", evitando pérdidas y residuos y mejorando las técnicas extensivas de los sistemas productivos que mejor se adaptan a los recursos naturales.

Queremos insistir en que en los países mediterráneos este proceso de producción intensiva, que tuvo lugar antes del ajuste estructural que he mencionado, ha afectado en especial al suelo, y que es en ellos éste un recurso natural básico y frágil si se les somete a condiciones socioeconómicas y ambientales adversas.

El programa marco ya anunciado en den Bosch, en donde tuvimos el placer de asistir, debe hacer énfasis en este aspecto importante de recurso-suelo para los países mediterráneos.

Señor Presidente, apoyamos la filosofía del documento C 91/30, en los párrafos 39 y 40, en lo que concierne a las estrategias y programas de inversión de cara al desarrollo sostenible. Si queremos que tengan acogida entre la población rural y que sean eficaces a largo y medio plazo, estas estrategias deben venir apoyadas no solamente por prácticas agrarias compatibles con el recurso suelo y agua, sino que además necesitan una mejora en los servicios, en las infraestructuras físicas y humanas del medio rural para completar el enfoque integrado del desarrollo sostenible, y en el que intervienen aspectos económicos, sociales y técnicos.

En esta acción multisectorial y pluridisciplinar, según dice el punto 13 del citado documento C 91/30, la FAO puede desempeñar un papel fundamental en esta acción de desarrollo rural.

Por último, señor Presidente, queremos hacer hincapié en que dicho programa marco, que nació en la reunión de den Bosch, deberla reconocer con más énfasis, al programar y evaluar las estrategias de gestión y uso sostenible, que se requieren inversiones con carácter colectivo en muchos países mediterráneos para afrontar problemas de medio ambiente con carácter sostenible, y que estas inversiones de carácter colectivo no proporcionan a medio plazo retornos económicos necesarios.

No es pues la solución corregir de forma inmediata y fácil, a nivel de explotación, los excesos de fertilizantes, pesticidas, etc. Creemos que los verdaderos problemas de una incorrecta utilización por un sistema intensivo de producción, en pendientes, exceso de mecanización del cultivo, etc., tienen en nuestros países un carácter colectivo y que hay que afrontarlos a nivel de un conjunto de explotaciones de un área sensible. Por tanto, señor Presidente, estas inversiones colectivas requieren ingentes desembolsos en inversiones reales para restaurar y conservar el medio. Creemos que el documento al que estamos haciendo referencia no contempla suficientemente este tema y vería con agrado nuestra delegación que, en la estrategia del desarrollo agrícola sostenible, se tengan presentes estos aspectos de cómo abordar obras públicas y colectivas de repoblación forestal para una correcta gestión del espacio rural, ordenación del territorio; es decir, no podemos separar la estrategia del desarrollo sostenible con la acción rural integral y acciones inversoras colectivas.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation congratulates the Secretariat on papers C 91/30 and C 91/LIM/31 and thanks Mr Mahler for his clear introduction. We also wish to congratulate the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the Den Bosch Conference which played such a part in raising the profile of sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Part I of paper C 91/30 presents a clear overview of FAO progress to date in the areas of environment and sustainability, and identifies the main challenges for achieving sustainability. As paragraph 8 indicates, the scope of Conference Resolution 3/89, which called for a strengthening of FAO activities in the fields of environment and sustainable development, is very broad. If taken too literally, the Resolution can almost be interpreted as a mandate for FAO to expand its interests and resources beyond its traditional areas of competence. The UK delegation believes that FAO should focus and prioritize its activities, whilst ensuring that the environment and sustainability issues are addressed as integral components of projects, programmes and strategic planning; not seen as separate issues requiring separate funding and support structures.

The United Kingdom delegation would also welcome confirmation that paragraph 33, which sets out the national policy framework for the attainment of sustainable agriculture and rural development, does not imply that FAO wishes to become involved in population policy, urbanization, etc., and impinge on the mandates and competence of other organizations.

The United Kingdom delegation supports the comments made by Switzerland about the catalytic role of FAO. We question how far FAO should become involved in field activities, rather than concentrate on policies and strategies. Once again it is a question of priorities and comparative advantage. The International Cooperative Programme Framework (ICPF) for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development is intended as a means of streamlining and networking existing field programmes, projects and other activities towards sustainable objectives. In theory, the initiative is meant to avoid unnecessary duplication and enhance coordination but, given the wide-ranging elements of the programme, the potential for duplication is great.

Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom delegation is concerned that the general tone of the paper is towards broadening the scope of activities rather than setting clearly defined priorities. We hope that Conference will agree to close monitoring of implementation of the ICPF by COAG and by Council.

Paragraphs 61-65 on funding for the ICPF appear to make the a priori assumption that additional costs need to be met to achieve sustainability with net additionality in financial assistance from the donor community taken for granted. Reference to a "green fund debt-for-SARD swaps", etc., do not strengthen FAO's earlier arguments on the need to integrate environmental and sustainability concerns into all projects and programmes.

Finally, the United Kingdom delegation would suggest the draft resolution proposed by the distinguished delegate for the Netherlands be expanded to include references to the need for FAO to determine clear priorities, the importance of integrating environmental concerns into all activities and to mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of ICPF.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): To save time the delegation of Zambia has asked for his intervention to be inserted in the verbatim record for which I thank you, Sir.

R. MULELE (Zambia): Mr Chairman, the Zambian delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for the high quality document placed before us.

We have noted with great satisfaction the efforts by FAO in the progress achieved to date - as reported in Part 1 of the document. In particular we laud the close collaboration between FAO and other UN and International Organizations on matters related to sustainable development and environment.

Mr Chairman, the Zambian delegation fully endorses the proposals contained in paragraphs 30 to 34 regarding the creation of the appropriate policy framework - both at national and international level.

In summary, we wish to join other delegations in endorsing the FAO Council recommendation that an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ICPF/SARD) be launched by FAO, in cooperation with other institutions concerned.

We also wish to support the call that the FAO Secretariat should continue to cooperate with the UNCED Secretariat as regards sustainable agriculture.¹

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a l as 12.45 hours

1 Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/7

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION

(18 November 1991)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 15 horas

bajo la presidencia del sr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development(continued)
- 7. Activités de la FAO relatives à l'environnement et au développement durable (suite)
- 7. Actividades de la FAO en relación con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible (continuación)

Neil D. FRASER (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, I am fully aware of the time constraints of which you so eloquently remind us, so will therefore not traverse all of the issues in document C 91/30, but would like to comment briefly on two specific aspects and make a general comment.

Environment is not a stand-alone topic, but is a factor that should be incorporated into the ethos of all activities of the Organization, and of national policies. An integrated approach is called for, and my country supports the moves taken by FAO to meet this imperative.

I would like to briefly mention a recent development in New Zealand, namely, the enactment on 1 October this year of the Resource Management Act, which has as its expressed purpose the promotion of sustainable management of the nation's natural and physical resources, including those used in agriculture. Central government will participate as a partner with local government, communities and individuals to overcome a range of impediments to sustainable management. This accords with the stress given in paragraph 39 of document C 91/30 to the importance of devolving power and responsibility down to the local level. We believe that our experience with the application of this new and comprehensive Act will furnish valuable experience that we can later share with other countries in their policies and activities directed toward sustainable development.

I would like now to refer briefly to paragraphs 29, 34 and 35 of the document before us, each of which in its way draws links between intensity of production and environmental effects.

The negative environmental effects that can accrue to intensive forms of production, promoted by inappropriate pricing and support policies, often augmented by protectionist border measures, is well known. We join with the statement of the delegate of Argentina when he called for the dismantling of these policies. This would promote development in those countries, many of which are developing countries, where the comparative advantage based on an endowment of natural resources, climate, and other factors allows the development of an efficient and environmentally benign agriculture.

Finally, we congratulate the joint organizers of the successful den Bosch Conference. Further, we note the Draft Resolution proposed by the Netherlands, and while sympathetic with the direction of this resolution, we would like to study further the detail and wording of that resolution.

Manuel VARA OCHOA (Perú): Dentro del desarrollo de la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenible, apoyamos el concepto consignado en el párrafo 3, de establecer una política demográfica y sobre la cual nuestra representación se pronunció anteriormente en esta misma reunión.

Apreciamos el párrafo 39 y que se esté fomentando cada vez más la participación popular en la adopción y ejecución de programas de desarrollo rural, es decir, en el fomento de los recursos humanos. Consideramos que esta medida correctiva es fruto de la experiencia adquirida por los organismos internacionales como una de las formas más importantes de liberar el potencial de los agricultores e instamos a la FAO a que se creen las condiciones necesarias en todos los proyectos de desarrollo para la auténtica participación de los beneficiarios en todos los componentes de los proyectos tendentes a la reducción de la pobreza en el marco de un desarrollo de amplia base. Es necesario que el desarrollo de este nuevo concepto FAO de participación promueva a que el productor organizado sea protagonista de su propio destino y sea responsable de su propio desarrollo.

Confiamos que en la próxima Conferencia FAO tengamos un informe de los logros obtenidos dentro de esta estrategia innovadora de autogestión y autosostenimiento de nuestros campesinos por sus propios sistemas de extensión e investigación adaptativa, tendente a la ordenación sostenible de los recursos y la protección del medio ambiente.

Es asimismo importante la ordenación integrada de los sistemas de producción y diversificación de los ingresos rurales consignados en el párrafo 40, y en ese sentido preconizamos la integración de los diversos tipos de producción en las explotaciones agrícolas, brindando la oportunidad de reutilizar sus desechos agrícolas en la alimentación animal, de tal manera que la alimentación animal en nuestros países en desarrollo no compita en utilizar los mismos alimentos empleados en la alimentación humana, a la cual debemos orientar exclusivamente la utilización de granos y sus subproductos, por lo que estimamos que debe existir una complementariedad de la explotación agrícola con la explotación ganadera, la cual sería la única forma de comercializar todos los desechos de la agricultura para ser transformados en alimentos humanos.

Por ello estimamos que esta experiencia debe ser aplicable por la FAO en forma prioritaria como una de las medidas de incrementar la producción de alimentos en forma simplificativa. Finalmente, apoyamos las recomendaciones propuestas en el párrafo 76 del documento de trabajo.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, the Philippine delegation would like to endorse the recommendation of the FAO Council on the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development to be launched by FAO in cooperation with other institutions concerned. I say this because FAO has competence and comparative advantage in many of the areas that are taken up in this Programme.

First of all, FAO has competence with regard to the skills and know-how of the producers, the use of biological inputs, processes on the farms, which would emphasize the use of biological inputs rather than increase the amounts of inputs so as not to harm the environment. Likewise, FAO has

competence in the technologies and post-harvest and marketing processes that could be favourable to the environment. In addition, FAO has competence and expertise in the promotion of diversity. It has experience in promoting people's participation in land-use planning and soil conservation, improvement of water management, conservation and use of genetic resources, integrated plan nutrition systems, integrated plant pest management and integrated rural energy development and utilization. These are all topics that are handled by FAO and, therefore, I believe that FAO should be very much involved with the other organizations. In fact, I think it should take the lead in this matter.

Secondly, with regard to overall strategies and priorities and programme thrusts of the ICPF/SARD, I would like to say that we agree with the methodology as presented and the challenges and policy framework as outlined to us by the document C 91/30. However, it is common knowledge to all of us that, with regard to the challenges, there are some objectives that are more pressing for developing countries. The objective, for example, is how to feed the growing populations not only now but also in the future. We know that this is not exactly the same as in the developed countries. The problem is not altogether how to produce more food, but how to reduce their own production.

With regard to constraints, we know that to implement all of these programmes we have to have resources. Everyone is aware of the resources and constraints of the developing countries because of the economic situation of developing countries, the problem of debt, the problem of unfavourable terms of trade, which has been referred to by Argentina and New Zealand. These are problems that are not exactly the same as in the developed countries. Therefore, as far as the objectives, we should be very clear to make a distinction between these differences.

With regard to the policy framework, again when it comes to resources available, there is also a difference. The choice is very often letting your population go hungry and the choice of a means of how to produce more. Certainly the choices are limited because of the constraints and the objectives that developing countries have.

With regard to the available resources, the ways and means by which the development of the ICPF/SARD should proceed, I think that, if the commitment we have heard here in this Commission is really serious, we know that the developing countries are ready to give resources. We also know that the resources of the developing countries are limited. Therefore, we should like to appeal to our more fortunate brothers who are able to facilitate the establishment of this proposed action by the Conference.

Like many other delegations, we would like to request the FAO Secretariat to continue cooperating with the UNCED Secretariat as regards sustainable agricultural development and invite UNCED to give the necessary political and financial support to the ICPF/SARD and we look forward to the reports that will be furnished to us in the future.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you. I think FAO will play a leading role in the cooperation with other international organizations and I agree with him that the environmental problems differ from those faced by the developing countries and those faced by the developed countries.

Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago): Permit this brief intervention to articulate some concerns of small island states typical of the one which I represent. We hope in the focusing of our views we would bring to your attention the particular concerns that we small island states have in respect to sustainability, environment and development. You would no doubt be aware that most of us small island states of Asia, Caribbean and Pacific are cooperating actively within the framework of the current climate change discussions under the Alliance of Small Island States, AOSIS. On matters related to sustainable development and environment, the stark reality of our narrow resource base quickly confronts us and therefore we are strong advocates of the precautionary principle since countries like ourselves have few degrees of freedom either of space or time. Indeed for us awaiting the proof before taking action may result in our demise.

We are heartened that the document C 91/30 reflects a mix of approaches comprising the preventive and the rehabilitative. Indeed in this regard FAO must be congratulated for its own activities as reflected in its review of its field programmes and its Regular Programme and the activities pursuant to its involvement in the UNCED process. We support the three challenges reflected in para. 29. We agree that action must be pursued at national, regional and international level. We assert more in-depth studies and analyses may yet force us to the realization that the current development paradigm which we are pursuing must be revisited, and early too, to accommodate more appropriately issues of natural resource conservation as they relate to development, and agricultural development in particular, if we are to take full account and realization of the economic costs of certain development practices.

We small island states are seriously concerned about the potentially adverse impacts of some current development practices, including agricultural production systems and technologies and while all the answers may not be available we do know and are fully aware that there are environmentally friendly technologies. The question is what about the costs of adjustment. How affordable are these clean technologies. It has been posited that re-direction of current development financing may put us in the position of affording environment sustainability and development. However, we wish to remind you of the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 44/228 which spoke to the need for new and additional financial resources to facilitate changes and modifications in this particular area and in this regard we take the opportunity to renew our appeal for getting the revamped TFAP back on the road.

For us the issue then is one requiring urgency, requiring integration of approaches within nations across the various sectors and sub-sectors, cooperation and coordination amongst countries.

We support the recognition of the special interest of coastal zones and small island states. For us our entire islands are a coastal zone and we want to suggest that specific intervention strategies must be designed for treating with the problems which we particularly suffer. We support the ICFP/SARD process for its flexibility in respect of implementation and recommend its adoption for integration as part of FAO's contribution to the UNCED process.

May I conclude by saying the proposals contained in document C 91/30 can be fully endorsed. I appeal to this body to consider what specific assistance it may be able to provide to small island states in order that they may be able more fully to integrate the concepts and principles and global strategies here outlined as we seek to develop a set of arrangements and initiatives that are more particularly applicable to our own circumstances. In making this appeal I do so not only in the name of my particular country but the countries of the CARICOM, the countries of Asia and South Pacific which share similar circumstances.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): Denmark can fully associate itself with the Nordic statement made by Norway this morning. I only take this opportunity, with your permission, to state that Denmark puts special emphasis on developing the notion of organic agriculture in relation to the concept of sustainable agriculture. I would therefore like to hear the reaction of the Secretariat on the following questions also covered by the den Bosch declarations.

How far has FAO progressed in its work on describing the agro-ecological conditions in specific localities? To what extent is it already operational in support of projects? What is FAO's definition on the concepts "ecological" or "organic"? Can concrete local examples on ecology based cultivation tradition/techniques be given? Do they have a productivity potential that can match traditional input based systems? How can organic systems match the population pressure on marginal agro-ecological zones?

Let me finish by supporting inter alia the Canadian delegation in stressing the importance of focusing on indigenous low-cost production methods.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to express its appreciation to the FAO for the preparation of the document C 91/30 addressing critical issues regarding the environment as sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture and environment would be a very expensive action, and the developed countries should be willing to pay for that and developing countries cooperate in an international strategy.

Development of industry and transfer of manpower from agriculture sector to other sectors of the national economy, population growth have all caused problems in providing food, uncontrolled utilization of natural resources for further production of food, in addition to endangering natural resources, destroying the ecology and agricultural development and mechanization of agro-industries, altogether will create conflicts between agricultural development and natural environment, and suggest a national and scientific utilization of natural resources.

Identifying the required elements for adoption of a worldwide strategy for development of agriculture, based on severe differences in ecological, cultural, social and economic conditions should be highly emphasized. Furthermore in continuous process of persistent development farmers should be considered important factors in providing assurances for food security, employment opportunities and income.

Management and preservation of natural resources, modification in technology and organization should be carried out in a way to meet the needs of the present and generations to come. Such consistent development of agriculture and forestry would preserve soil, water and genetic resources, and it would be ecologically suitable, technically acceptable, economically efficient and socially applicable.

To materialize such a consistent development in agriculture the following measures have to be taken:

Reconstruction of agriculture in both developed countries to meet the continuous demand for agricultural and food products, and developing countries to arrive at rural income, and encouraging investments in agriculture should create certain modifications in the economic aspects of the continuous agricultural development.

The protection of continuous agricultural development in developing countries; firstly financial and technical assistance should be provided and ensured and secondly to ensure appropriate prices for agricultural commodities the legislations governing the international commerce should be reconsidered in favour of developing countries, and thirdly through encouragements made by the credit policies and international credit development, the right atmosphere for investments in agriculture should be provided.

Cooperation with all international organizations involved is essential.

In the long term, the consistent success of agricultural development and sustainability depends on policies adopted for population control, and these policies should be universally confirmed.

The role of the agriculture sector in providing assurances for food security and conservation of renewable natural resources should be highly recognized by governments and the international society through the allocation of financial resources, pricing policies, decentralization of management and strengthening of rural societies.

Considering that in most developing countries the agricultural sector faces disadvantage as far as terms of trade are concerned, therefore appropriate trade terms should be created among agricultural producers, industry and consumers for the transfer of technology, the training of farmers should be seriously considered and the necessity of agricultural development and its significance in food material should be brought to the attention of the public. For sustainability it is emphasized that FAO works heavily on the biological control of insects and pests in order to reduce the use of herbicides, pesticides and insecticides all over the world.

To materialize consistent agricultural development and to provide food through incrementing agricultural production, and higher income for farmers, the following factors should be considered as primary objectives of consistent agricultural development: providing food security for society through the creation of a balance between self-sufficiency and self-dependence in agricultural products; the creation of appropriate employment to elevate the level of income and standards of living in agricultural producing and rural areas.

In this regard, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran two years ago started a programme with the assistance of FAO for sustainable agriculture and rural development, to be implemented in Bakhtaran, one of our provinces, with 2 250 000 ha, mainly agriculture, livestock and forestry and small farmers, and we hope that this case study will bring information to the next Conference of FAO with the assistance of all the departments of FAO involved in agriculture and environment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is planning to focus all UN bodies' activities in Bakhtaran Province, and we have offered this opportunity to FAO for the implementation of the policy of sustainable agriculture in this Province and hope this offer will be supported by the Conference.

Thank you.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I would like to join others in thanking the Secretariat for the preparation of this document, and Mr Mahler for his presentation.

I would also like to thank the FAO for the elaboration of this proposal for an international cooperative programme framework for agriculture and rural development, as requested by the Council. The host countries of UNCED are pleased to bear witness to FAO's commitment to the environment and sustainable development.

Concern with environmental sustainability is not new to FAO. The document recalls a number of major initiatives taken in the past, but above all it reminds us, in paragraph 8, that sustainable development and environmental issues cut across most of the activities of the Organization.

We can, therefore, say that the discussion of environmental issues has become a tradition in FAO. There is every reason to be proud of it. However, tradition may sometimes generate a certain inertia. Once the body is set in motion, it requires a large amount of energy to redirect it.

Mr Chairman, the Ninety-ninth Session of the FAO Council stressed that the Organization should beware of concentrating too much attention on the environment in the developing countries, lest some people think that the problems are any less grave in the developed countries. Document C 91/30 gives the impression that these comments were not made forcefully enough or that perhaps they were made too late in the drafting stage.

I make this comment in a constructive spirit. The FAO must be responsive, and must be perceived to be responsive to the concerns of member countries regarding strategies and priorities if it is to receive the cooperation needed for the success of this rightly called cooperative of a programme framework.

Turning now to the substance of the document, let me start by agreeing with the perception of the challenges as presented in paragraph 29. The emphasis on the creation of an appropriate policy framework is also to be commended. Some suggestions may, however, be potentially contradictory. Paragraph 31, for instance, argues that terms of trade between the agricultural sector on the one hand and industry and services on the other should better reflect

the services rendered by agriculture to the general public. The same comment is made in the North-South context.

It is important to note that the effort made in Western Europe and in North America to resist or even reverse the historic trend for the relationship between agricultural prices and those of other sectors, has led to the enactment of agricultural policies which bear little connection to the market and are, therefore, not sustainable in the long term. Further, they have aggravated the situation for developing countries' producers of commodities. This contradiction between action at the national and the international level should be further examined by FAO and given prominence in the ICPF.

Along the same lines, Mr Chairman, let me comment briefly on the statement reproduced in paragraph 61 to the effect that "achieving sustainability in agriculture and rural development entails additional costs". Whilst this is to a large extent true, particularly in the development countries, it is certainly not an absolute truth. Of course, a complete shift from chemical to organic fertilizers, for instance, as suggested in a pamphlet distributed in the hall, would lead to higher unit costs. There is, however, ample scope for extensive production in the developed countries which would fall short of this extreme step. Far from entailing additional costs, this would most likely release resources which could be then used, for instance, to achieve the level of input use required to make agriculture sustainable in the developing countries.

It is clear, therefore, that the developed countries need some policy advice to help them achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development. The FAO should not shy from its responsibility in this regard within the context of the ICPF.

Having said this, I do not wish to contribute to an underestimation of the need for additional resources to finance SARD. Paragraph 34 gives an idea of the magnitude of the task before us. This task will require a clear definition of priorities which would be assisted by further elaboration and, to the extent possible, quantification of the funding requirements mentioned in paragraphs 61 to 64.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to ask if the order of presentation of the areas for action described in paragraph 51 is our order of priorities in itself and, in this case, what is its connection with the priorities of FAO's Programme of Work and Budget? In asking this question, I wish to repeat that Brazil fully supports the emphasis on environmental sustainability but considers that this should not divert the Organization from its constitutional goals.

With regard to the draft resolution presented this morning, I would like to thank the Dutch delegation for this initiative. We would like, however, to have an opportunity to examine it in more detail and therefore reserve our right to comment on it at a later stage.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the delegate of Brazil.

I think that you have done very well to support the fact that the Organization should take into consideration the problems of the environment and not at the expense of, or to the detriment of, the essential principal activities of the Organization.

Mme Ioanna EFSTATHIOU (Greece): In the last four decades, agriculture has experienced a technological revolution which has profoundly changed farming practice with the expectation that the rate of such progress will even accelerate. Undoubtedly the interrelationships between agricultural practices and environment are obvious and the need to prevent the environmental damage is identical to the need to protect our lives.

In this context, we believe that environmental concerns should be considered in agricultural planning, not just as an afterthought but as an integral part of it. Environmental economic and social objectives are not necessarily in conflict but can often reinforce each other.

However, we are fully aware that efforts towards an integrated policy approach should take into account some problems such as: increasing the cost of agricultural policies with the consequence that many countries, especially the less developed, will not be able to afford it; reducing the farmers' income and possible conflicts arising between the aims of liberalizing and environmental protection. Under these circumstances, there is need to proceed at both national and international levels.

At the national level, incentives or payments are needed to be given to the farmers to follow practices compatible with the environmental protection and the continual use of productive resources.

At the international level, multilateral cooperation should be further promoted, first because environmental problems many times are of a transnational nature; and, second, because concerted action will soften the trade conflicts arising from the policy measures aimed at environmental protection.

Lastly, we should notice that the over-supply problem, especially in developed countries, means that it is time to consider new dimensions in agriculture, giving more emphasis to the diversification of production and the efficient use of natural resources. In this context, we support the efforts made by FAO concerning the establishment of the International Cooperative Programme Framework for a Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

Thank you.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela, siguiendo la solicitud del señor Presidente de que seamos breves, va a manifestar su pleno apoyo al documento presentado por la Secretaria, ya que consideramos que cubre perfectamente los puntos más esenciales de las estrategias para una agricultura y un desarrollo rural sostenible.

Como país en desarrollo Venezuela está interesado, precisamente, en poner en práctica estas estrategias que podrían recibir, desde las orientaciones de la FAO, un mejoramiento para el desarrollo de su agricultura. En ese

sentido estamos interesados en que se incorpore, efectivamente, dentro de las actividades preparadas por la FAO, el principio del interés por el desarrollo ambiental y por la agricultura sostenible.

En este mismo sentido, además de las estrategias para la agricultura, nosotros vamos a estar de acuerdo con la segunda parte de este documento en el cual se insiste en la necesidad de dar un marco para los programas cooperativos internacionales en una agricultura y desarrollo rural sostenible en cada uno de nuestros países. Este marco, que debería comprender la orientación y normativas técnicas, debería ser, en principio, a través de la gestión, no solamente de la cooperación técnica del Programa que la FAO mantiene, sino fundamentalmente a través del trabajo de campo que consideramos indispensable. Nosotros pensamos que el trabajo de campo de la FAO no debe dejarse de lado; debe ser enfatizado y por eso nosotros hacemos énfasis en ello, ya que las características del desarrollo de la agricultura sostenible no pueden ser cubiertas por un programa de índole general. Deben de ir de acuerdo con las características geográficas, ambientales y con las características de suelos y climas que en cada una de las regiones existe. Por estas razones el Programa de Campo de la FAO ha tenido éxito hasta ahora y, por ello, consideramos la necesidad de mantenerlos en vigencia para poder convertir en realidad este desarrollo agrícola sostenible.

De la misma manera, nosotros vamos a estar apoyando plenamente la proposición de los Países Bajos puesto que consideramos que ella cubre esencialmente el programa general que esperamos que se ponga en práctica dentro de ese marco que se ha considerado indispensable.

No creemos, señor Presidente, que nosotros podamos entrar en detalles con relación a estos puntos que cubre el programa que ha presentado la Secretaría en esta Comisión. Necesitaríamos disponer de más tiempo, y como han sido cubiertos los puntos que más nos interesan en las exposiciones de los Países Bajos, de Estados Unidos, de Canadá y de Francia, nos limitaremos a apoyar esas proposiciones por considerar que ellas satisfacen los intereses del desarrollo rural sostenible y la posibilidad de ampliar la cobertura de este desarrollo rural y de esta agricultura sostenible.

No nos extendemos más, señor Presidente, porque queremos cumplir con su petición y porque ya es demasiado tarde, además de que tenemos otras reuniones que atender.

Takakata OKAMOTO (Japan): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the efforts it has made in presenting the document before us, C 91/30.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are, as the document mentions, mostly dependent upon environmental conditions, and conversely have caused and can cause further environmental change. Conference Resolution 3/89, on FAO activities related to sustainable development and the den Bosch Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development has responded to the growing public awareness that economic activities have environmental consequences. Continued environmental degradation threatens the attainment of FAO's main objectives of reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

We are convinced that in the field of agriculture every country is required to pay due attention not only to the economic aspect but also to the maintenance of the ecosystem and thus the maintenance and development of agricultural production in each region on a stable basis. Particularly, FAO Conference Resolution 3/89 calls for a task in which sustainable development and environmental issues cut across most of the activities of the Organization. The Japanese delegation is pleased to note that the Secretariat mentioned these aspects in Part I of the document.

My delegation recognizes that sustainable development is not merely connected with the environmental dimensions of development. The document mentions strategies for sustainable agriculture and rural development. We appreciate this basic approach. In particular, concerning the appropriate policy framework at national level I would like to stress the following points: Today, more than 500 million people suffer from malnutrition in this world: We are still far behind in finding the solution to world hunger and malnutrition problems.

The policy priorities of developing countries with food deficits should truly be the food and agricultural sector, and these countries should formulate and implement strategies including policies to assure that producers will obtain results commensurate with their endeavours. At the same time, these strategies should also include the adjustment of the social system related to food and agriculture, and to effectively eradicate hunger and poverty.

Japan has actively participated in the international effort to assist developing countries in their economic development and structural adjustment. Our priority is given to international cooperation in rural and agricultural development, especially pursuing the direct benefit of poor people, which would mitigate food shortages through increasing food production and improving the living standard of farmers. This is an effort to respond to basic human needs.

Concerning an International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, success in achieving sustainable agriculture and rural development will depend on large numbers of relevant farmers, communities, the government, etc.

The role of the international community should be to facilitate and support national and local activities, as indicated in paragraph 48 of the document.

Finally, my delegation supports the draft resolution proposed by the Netherlands.

Pascal BRIODIN (France): Les documents présentés par le Secrétariat ainsi que l'exposé de M. Mahler et les interventions des délégations ont mis en valeur un certain nombre de questions importantes sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je me réfère en particulier à l'intervention de la délégation néerlandaise, à celle de la Suisse ainsi qu'à l'intervention britannique.

Ma délégation souhaite, à cette occasion, rappeler quelles sont ses vues sur cette question prioritaire dans le prolongement de ce qu'elle a déjà

exposé lors de notre dernière réunion du Comité de l'agriculture et de la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Conseil en juin.

Tout d'abord ma délégation se félicite de ce que la FAO exprime son souci d'intégrer les préoccupations d'environnement dans l'ensemble de ses activités. C'est cette approche qui est certainement la plus efficace.

Ensuite, permettez-moi de vous exposer comment ma délégation interprète le document C 91/30 qui nous est présenté. Ce document doit constituer, de notre point de vue, une référence sur les activités de la FAO en matière d'environnement et de développement durables. Le PCCI est, comme son nom l'indique, un programme-cadre, mais en aucun cas il ne doit s'agir d'un programme supplémentaire de l'Organisation. Ce serait en effet diminuer sa portée que de le considérer comme le seul programme d'environnement de la FAO. La question de l'environnement pour la FAO, ce n'est pas seulement un nouveau programme, c'est surtout la prise en compte de la question d'environnement dans les activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation. Par exemple, en faisant la promotion de techniques particulières, respectueuses de l'environnement, en systématisant les études d'impact ou en repérant les systèmes de production qui respectent mieux le milieu naturel. Les moyens d'intervention sont donc nombreux. Pour nous, c'est dans le détail des activités opérationnelles que l'on mesurera le degré de prise en compte de l'environnement par notre Organisation. Pour assurer une cohérence à l'action de la FAO dans ce domaine, il nous semble bien sûr indispensable que les autres programmes de la FAO fassent référence à ce programme-cadre dont il est important qu'il garde par ailleurs le maximum de souplesse.

Pour ma délégation, c'est ainsi que la FAO pourra prendre en compte cette orientation prioritaire dans ses activités et jouer, comme l'a bien dit le délégué de la Suisse, un rôle de catalyseur.

Quelques mots sur la stratégie telle qu'exposée dans le document C 91/30.

L'intensification de la production agricole est certainement nécessaire mais il faut également, de notre point de vue, éviter de lier trop rapidement "intensification" et "dégradation du milieu naturel".

Des mesures récentes adoptées dans mon pays, comme dans l'ensemble de la Communauté européenne, ont montré que l'on pouvait concilier "intensification" et "bonne gestion de l'environnement".

Pour dire les choses brièvement, je pense que la prise en compte des questions d'environnement correspond à un niveau d'intensification et à un niveau de technicité supérieurs au niveau moyen actuel. En ce qui concerne les pays en développement, ma délégation rejoint donc ce qu'ont dit d'autres délégués: ce qui fait peser un danger sur l'environnement, c'est avant tout le problème de la pauvreté rurale. C'est donc ce point qu'il faut traiter en priorité.

Pour terminer, je voudrais rappeler que ma délégation appuie pleinement l'implication de la FAO dans la préparation et le suivi de la CNUED, en particulier, il est de notre point de vue fondamental de défendre cette opinion, et qu'il convient de respecter un équilibre entre les mesures de protection d'une part et les nécessités du développement d'autre part.

Enfin, ma délégation est tout à fait favorable à un projet de résolution sur ce point de notre ordre du jour et examinera avec intérêt le projet de résolution de la délégation néerlandaise.

M. Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Le document C 91/30 nous donne un résumé très complet de toutes les activités qui ont été réalisées sur le développement durable et l'environnement par les services de la FAO depuis 1989, selon ce qui a été décidé à la vingt-cinquième Conférence.

En ce qui concerne la stratégie pour une agriculture et un développement durables, deux situations s'affrontent tout d'abord:

Un nombre considérable de régions où les individus n'ont pas suffisamment d'aliments, mais où l'environnement ne pose pas encore de problèmes; et, d'un autre côté, des situations qui se créent en raison d'une intensification des moyens de production et qui risquent d'accentuer le risque de mettre en cause la conservation de l'environnement et du développement durable.

Il nous faut certainement trouver un autre ordre politique (que le Secrétariat accentue au point 30) envisageant que les agriculteurs puissent bénéficier d'un niveau de vie semblable à celui des travailleurs des autres secteurs.

Une nouvelle planification ainsi qu'une programmation plus objectives seront naturellement essentielles pour atteindre les objectifs de l'ADRD.

Cette stratégie entraîne des coûts supplémentaires à l'échelle nationale et internationale, ainsi qu'il est développé aux points 61 et 62; à ce sujet, nous appuierons les propositions faites par le Secrétariat aux points 64 et 65, y compris la liaison et la participation des dotations d'autres programmes qui sont en marche, notamment les programmes forestiers et les programmes des pêches.

Les aspects particuliers de la protection de l'environnement ont fait l'objet de notre attention lors de notre intervention sur la stratégie d'aménagement du développement des pêches.

Enfin, la délégation portugaise donne son appui à la stratégie définie par la FAO.

Johan BODEGARD (Sweden): Sweden is fully behind the Nordic statement on this agenda point, and with your permission, Mr Chairman, we would like to make some further specific comments on C 91/30. The following points we believe should be highlighted in a SARD Programme. Most of these points are already touched upon in the excellent document.

Firstly, Sweden notes that the importance of differences between nations is stressed in the document. This we believe should be a central feature and guiding principle in all international efforts to achieve sustainable development. All action must be firmly based at national level. Each nation must develop its own specific, integrated programme and should consider developing a concrete and detailed action plan for sustainable agriculture and rural development. In fact, all sectors utilizing natural resources

- specifically agriculture, forestry and fisheries - must be given a clear responsibility to achieve environmentally sound and sustainable development within this field.

Secondly, international cooperation must be focused on supporting national action to achieve an effective and integrated development. "Flexibility" of international agreements and cooperation is a key word to make such efforts compatible with national specificity.

Thirdly, national action should be based on two fundamental means of regulation, the first being environmental legislation and the second, economic incentives. As is pointed out in document C 91/30 public intervention should be kept at a minimum to allow the market to develop economically. Environmental and social considerations are areas of public interest that may need regulation.

Fourthly, the diversity of production systems as well as in genetic composition of crops should be favoured. A diverse production system has the advantage of being more stable in a changing market situation. A broad genetic diversity favouring horizontal resistance in species is a necessity in order to minimize the need for external input of inter alia chemical pesticides.

Fifthly, review and reformulation of plans and programmes must be as important as the action itself and must have allocated to it sufficient resources from the beginning. Sustainable development is a process in itself and the work to achieve this objective must be structured as a flexible process. Ecological systems as well as human behaviour evolves and changes. An International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development must be equipped to adapt to change.

Therefore, Sweden would like to suggest that the Programme be strengthened, reflecting the central importance of these issues. Further, the practical relationship between FAO in its international and national efforts to attain sustainable development needs to be further developed and clarified.

Finally, we would also like to fully support and second the proposed resolution presented by the delegate of the Netherlands earlier this morning.

Hurrydeo UNMOLE (Mauritius): On behalf of the delegation of Mauritius I wish to commend the Secretariat on the preparation of this extremely valuable document, C 91/30. I would like to make some brief observations especially with regard to small island states and to further support the propositions made by the Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago earlier.

While Mauritius fully endorses the ICPF/SARD we feel there is a strong case to test the ICP Framework at national level in island countries because island states have special features, needs and requirements which have important bearings on possible programmes and projects regarding sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Small islands have severe handicaps such as trade constraints, geographical isolation, information flow, fragile ecosystems, over-exploited resource bases, food insecurity, high costs of imported fuels, high impact of

pollution, and other constraints with respect to optimum utilization of water resources, land and marine resources. Other typical characteristics of small island countries include the small size of farm land and a large predominance of small-scale producers, over-exploitation of inland marine resources, deforestation, and sudden exposure to pests and diseases.

Allow me briefly to say that in Mauritius, the Government has committed itself for some time now to projects based on the principle of sustainability, and I take the opportunity to say we are prepared to share our experience in this area with other friendly countries.

Let me just cite a few examples - protection of terrestrial and marine fauna and flora which is internationally known; creation of a national park; promotion of ecological agriculture; destoning of land and removal of boulders to increase land area and productivity to allow crop diversification, mechanization and irrigation in a systematic and planned way; promotion of integrated pest management; promotion of renewable projects such as biogas generation followed by composting and organic gardening; promotion of policies and technologies which are environmentally friendly, sociably acceptable and economically viable. One typical example would be the generation of grid electricity from sugar cane tops and sugar cane bagasse.

However, I believe that our effort, however small but important, should be further strengthened and consolidated. The role of FAO will be important in this attempt. Therefore, I wish to repeat once again that the ICPF is very interesting and a very valuable document, but given the very special conditions of small island states, it should be tested nationally and adapted to meet their needs.

Khaled J. AL-MUSAPEHI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): In the name of God the compassionate and merciful, my delegation would like to thank all those who have prepared these two documents, and I would also like to pay tribute to the efforts which have been brought to bear. We support and confirm the contents of these documents with respect to the aid given to developing countries, with respect to aid given to promote the use of natural resources, which would be rational from an ecological and economic point of view.

As everyone knows, my country has experienced a very difficult trial, a trial which could be experienced by any other country. On 2 August 1990 Iraqi forces invaded my country and occupied it for almost nine months. These occupation forces destroyed the infrastructure, and the agricultural sector did not escape from the destruction. It was greatly affected by the occupation. Our agricultural production was brought to a standstill on over 18 000 farms. Animal production, as well, was affected and the grazing lands covering some 40 percent of the country's needs. Several farms were destroyed and even bee-keeping was affected. Fodder plants were destroyed. Almost 4 000 head of livestock, 2 000 ewes and other animals were destroyed during the Iraqi occupation.

Much of these resources were used by the occupation forces. The occupation was only one of the crimes against my country; a second crime against the environment was the destruction and setting ablaze of 723 oilwells. This

led to extensive pollution and to destruction costing thousands of millions of dollars.

Thanks to unending efforts, thanks to the help of our friends in other countries, we managed to extinguish the last well in November 1991 after eight months of fires. There was very great pollution, but extinguishing the flames was the first challenge that my Government had to face.

The second challenge is to put an end to this pollution, the oil that has been spilled following destruction of the wellheads and the presence of 100 oilslicks with differing volume and content covering over 40 square kilometres. These slicks are a direct threat to the environment and are killing life forms and fodder.

We have an urgent need for technical assistance in order to deal with this pollution at present and in the future.

Ms Barbara DINHAM (Observer for Environmental Liaison Center International): The Environmental Liaison Center International has nominated the Pesticide Trust to attend this Conference on its behalf and to contribute to the debate on sustainable agriculture.

We welcome FAO's commitment to sustainable agriculture and rural development as confirmed in the den Bosch Declaration in April of this year. As a non-governmental organization and a participant in the Pesticide Action Network, the Environment Liaison Center International and the Pesticide Trust have a history of work on the impact of the pesticide trade and use. We support this initiative to allocate more resources for sustainable agriculture and to achieve systematic reductions in application of pesticide active ingredients. Like many other NGOs and NGO agencies, we wish to ensure that the health and environmental hazards of pesticides and the future for a truly sustainable agriculture are given major importance at the UN Conference on Environmental Development in Brazil next year.

In consultation with other non-governmental organizations we have submitted evidence to UNCED that makes five recommendations that we would like to share with this meeting: 1, that sustainable agriculture be guided by commitment to the reduction in pesticides use and to the principle of low external inputs; 2, that agricultural strategies place sustainability, equity and safety for workers above the principle of maximum inputs for maximum yields for agriculture; 3, that policies need to recognize that the requirements and access and distribution of food are not guaranteed by increased food production; 4, that priority be given to resources for education and training to ensure that not only are health and safety standards maintained but genuine alternatives to chemical pesticides are available rather than linking standards to safe pesticide use; 5, we would recommend that the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides be supported through the UNCED process and great consideration be given to the methods of enforcement. A full copy of our copy to UNCED is available.

We urge the FAO delegates to support the new directive for global agriculture production based on the principles of sustainability, pesticide reduction, access and distribution above maximum production and respect for health and safety of workers, communities, consumers and the environment.

Mrs Susan MILNER (Observer for Greenpeace): We agree with earlier speakers that inappropriate agriculture, economic and trade policies have trapped farmers in both industrialized and developing countries in agricultural systems that are eroding the very resource base on which food and fibre production is dependent.

The challenge is to generate the appropriate policy framework. Specifically, we would like to draw attention to several key policies and changes needed: 1, promote the end to current subsidy and price support systems that encourage environmentally-damaging and socially iniquitous systems of production and distribution; 2, instead, to promote policies and incentives to encourage agricultural production methods that are environmentally sound, socially just and economically-viable; 3, promote preferential market access and trade advantages for agricultural products produced by environmentally-sound methods; 4, promote the phase-out by the year 2005 of the use of pesticides that are acutely toxic, persistent or bioaccumulative.

At the technical level it is the careful design of the agroecological system that offers the key to environmental sustainability. We urge the Conference to adopt the precautionary principle approach in agriculture. In effect, this would mean that agriculture production systems are designed to minimize pest infestations and maintain and improve soil fertility so that agrochemicals are utterly not required. Models of such systems include traditional farming methods and organic agriculture. The role of traditional farmers' knowledge in achieving development needs to be recognized. Research institutions need to redirect their priorities to work with farmers utilizing environmentally agriculturally sound farming systems. Urgent measures are needed to ensure that indigenous knowledge is fully utilized for the benefit of the farmers themselves.

Therefore, we urge support for existing and developing independent networks of environmental and consumer NGOs, farmer associations and scientific institutions that have demonstrated a commitment and expertise in ecological agriculture. We urge support for the establishment of an international network on ecological agriculture. We fully support Denmark's intervention regarding organic agriculture, and hope a proposed meeting between FAO and the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement will provide some of the answers raised in the intervention from Denmark. We hope that this meeting might take place prior to the UNCED Preparatory Committee Meeting so that these answers may be incorporated into FAO's intervention. A full text of the Greenpeace paper is available.

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): La longueur et la richesse du débat - nous avons eu quarante interventions de gouvernements membres, plus quatre d'observateurs - témoignent de la priorité accordée actuellement à ce sujet. Je tiens à remercier les délégations qui ont bien voulu exprimer leur appréciation pour le travail effectué par le Secrétariat. Je dois dire que ces compliments doivent aller non seulement à toutes les divisions techniques avec lesquelles nous collaborons mais surtout à une petite équipe menée par M. Botero et qui a la charge de stimuler et de promouvoir ces activités.

En ce qui concerne la première partie du document, il y a eu peu de questions. On a remarqué que le rôle des femmes n'était peut-être pas suffisamment souligné en matière de développement durable. Je suis heureux de pouvoir dire que le Service qui s'occupe du Programme des femmes dans le développement a établi une équipe spéciale qui s'occupe des questions d'environnement et de développement durable. Cette équipe a contribué à la préparation des propositions pour la CNUED. La FAO sera également associée à des réunions qui vont avoir lieu prochainement dans ce domaine.

On a souligné l'importance de la coopération avec d'autres organisations intergouvernementales et les ONG. Je peux vous assurer que cette coopération est particulièrement active. C'est par souci de brièveté que nous ne sommes pas entrés dans les détails. Notamment en ce qui concerne la question du Représentant de la Pologne; je suis heureux d'informer ce dernier que la FAO était présente à une conférence homologue de la Conférence de Bois-le-Duc portant sur le développement industriel durable et qu'elle a été chargée, en particulier, d'y conduire la discussion sur la production des engrais phosphatés. Vous voyez donc que nous coopérons également avec l'ONUDI dans ce domaine.

On a souhaité que l'on mette un peu plus l'accent sur les conseils en matière de politique agricole. À ce sujet, là aussi, une équipe a été constituée et je peux indiquer, pour répondre à une question du délégué du Brésil, que c'est effectivement une priorité dans le programme-cadre qui est proposé dans la troisième partie.

On a également souhaité que l'on mette davantage l'accent sur les relations entre le commerce international, la dette, les questions d'environnement et la liaison avec les questions de protectionnisme. Je suis heureux d'informer la Commission que, l'année prochaine, la Division qui s'occupe des produits et du commerce va mener une étude sur le commerce, la dette et le développement durable, et que cette année déjà la Division de l'analyse des politiques a effectué une étude sur les relations entre le commerce et l'environnement. C'est certainement un aspect qui mérite notre attention mais, évidemment, il dépasse le domaine de compétence de la FAO. Nous chercherons donc à poursuivre notre coopération, d'une part avec le GATT et, d'autre part, avec la CNUCED.

Cette étude sur le commerce, la dette et le développement durable sera présentée au Comité de l'agriculture l'année prochaine.

En ce qui concerne la coopération avec le Secrétariat de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement durable, certains ont peut-être pensé que nous avions été un peu trop discrets, que nous avons gardé un profil bas dans tous ces préparatifs.

Je peux vous assurer que la FAO est l'agence qui fournit les contributions les plus importantes en ce qui concerne l'agriculture, les pêches, les forêts, les zones côtières et d'autres domaines, en ce qui concerne par exemple les produits toxiques. Les préparatifs que nous avons faits pour la CNUED ont été menés conjointement avec ce que nous proposons ici sous la forme d'un programme-cadre de coopération internationale. En fait, les éléments de ce programme-cadre devraient, nous l'espérons, se retrouver dans le Programme d'action 21 de la CNUED. Pratiquement, c'est le Secrétariat de la FAO qui a apporté les principaux éléments de substance.

pour la rédaction des propositions du Programme d'action 21 pour la CNUED dans ces domaines.

Il nous a été demandé également ce que nous avons fait pour le suivi de la Conférence de Bois-le-Duc en ce qui concerne l'agriculture organique.

Je rappellerai d'abord que le Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe a tenu une réunion sur ce sujet l'année dernière. Nous sommes actuellement en train de lancer une étude sur ce sujet. Ce sont les divisions du Département de l'agriculture qui sont impliquées et également plusieurs organisations non gouvernementales. Il y a toutes sortes d'autres aspects qui touchent à cette question, notamment les études de capacité, de charge des populations sur les différentes terres. Nous avons conduit une étude en Afrique à ce sujet, il y a un peu plus de dix ans. Ces études vont être maintenant poursuivies plus en détail.

En ce qui concerne la deuxième partie, nous avons pris note de toutes les observations qui ont été faites. Effectivement les stratégies de développement durable de l'agriculture doivent être spécifiques à chaque pays. Nous avons cherché à dégager quelques orientations principales, mais il est certain que, dans le cadre de chaque pays et de ses ressources, on doit rechercher les approches les plus convenables et les plus adaptées.

J'en viens maintenant à la dernière partie du document qui a été l'objet de très nombreuses remarques.

Je dois d'abord, au nom du Directeur général, exprimer notre satisfaction de voir une large majorité soutenir les propositions pour un programme-cadre de coopération internationale. J'insiste sur ces mots, comme je l'avais fait dans mon introduction, pour bien indiquer qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un programme de la FAO. Il s'agit d'un programme qui trace les grandes lignes de ce que pourrait être la coopération de très nombreuses institutions qui doivent être effectivement impliquées dans ce domaine. En fait, nous avons voulu montrer les relations multiples entre les différentes facettes du développement agricole durable. Ainsi, il est apparu à certains que nous n'avions pas dégagé de priorités. Lorsqu'on traite des questions d'environnement, tout est lié à tout, et c'est justement lorsqu'il y a des lacunes que l'on crée des problèmes en matière d'environnement et de développement.

Toutefois, je dois insister sur le fait que l'objectif, en ce qui concerne la FAO, est bien de structurer, de focaliser, de concentrer nos programmes, en particulier à travers ce que nous appelons les Programmes d'action spéciaux. Donc, il ne s'agit pas de proposer une extension du mandat. Nous restons dans les domaines qui nous concernent: l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches, et nous avons essayé de dégager les domaines sur lesquels nous devrions mettre l'accent à l'avenir, ceci évidemment non seulement dans nos programmes sur le terrain mais aussi dans le cadre du Programme ordinaire.

Donc, il ne s'agit pas d'un programme "environnement". Et là je me réfère à l'intervention du délégué de la France. Il s'agit d'un programme de développement durable et d'environnement dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement rural. D'ailleurs, je peux dire que je serais fort embarrassé pour définir, à l'intérieur de la FAO, dans le cadre de l'agriculture, ce qu'est un programme "environnement", où cela commence et

où cela finit. Au contraire, ce que nous avons cherché, c'est à introduire ces considérations dans les diverses activités de l'Organisation.

Comment se feront la coordination et l'exécution?

Pour la coordination, nous avons déjà ses mécanismes qui ont été mis en place au début de 1990. Nous avons le Comité directeur, nous avons le Groupe interdépartemental de travail, nous avons un certain nombre de groupes de travail satellites et l'unité de coordination.

Quant aux aspects opérationnels, je pourrais me référer par exemple au Programme engrais qui est d'ailleurs en train d'évoluer actuellement. Ce Programme engrais existe depuis 30 ans et nous avons dans la maison des dispositifs pour gérer ce programme, pour lui assurer l'appui technique et aussi pour l'exécution des projets.

Je veux insister aussi sur le fait que dans l'optique que nous nous proposons dans le futur, ces Programmes d'action spéciaux seraient liés non seulement au Programme ordinaire, mais aux réseaux de coopération - ce qu'on appelle la CTPD.

Un certain nombre d'interventions, notamment de la Dominique, de Trinité-et-Tobago, de l'Ile Maurice, ont porté sur les aspects particuliers des petits Etats insulaires.

Le Secrétariat se préoccupe de ces questions. C'est une problématique particulière et nous cherchons avant la CNUED à organiser, si nous trouvons pour cela l'appui nécessaire des donateurs, une réunion des petits Etats insulaires qui devrait traiter des problèmes spécifiques de l'agriculture, des forêts et des pêches, de développement durable des îles, et aussi des problèmes connexes, notamment ceux du climat. Les délégations intéressées pourraient, si elles le souhaitent, se réunir avec le Secrétariat dans la salle des Philippines, demain à 9 heures 30 (Salle C 277) pour discuter de l'objet du contenu de cette réunion qui serait une réunion en quelque sorte préparatoire à la CNUED, et voir comment matériellement on pourrait l'organiser.

Dans les mois qui viennent, il y aura une série de consultations officielles à New-York, au siège de l'Assemblée générale, entre les délégations pour discuter de tout l'ensemble du Programme d'action 21. La FAO ne va pas y participer directement mais à travers les contributions importantes qui ont été déjà faites par l'Organisation. C'est dans ce cadre-là que l'on touchera aux questions de financement, notamment de savoir si des ressources nouvelles et additionnelles sont nécessaires et comment les fournir.

Pour la réunion au sommet à Rio, je voudrais, si vous me le permettez, insister sur l'importance pour les délégations d'avoir, parmi leurs membres, des représentants des secteurs agricole, forestier et des pêches. Si nous souhaitons effectivement que l'agriculture, la foresterie et les pêcheries soient effectivement discutées à Rio, il est souhaitable que dans les délégations, les secteurs représentant ces intérêts soient aussi présents.

Après cette Conférence, nous étudierons quelles pourraient être les retombées sur les programmes. C'est pour cela que nous avons proposé un programme-cadre flexible et pouvant s'adapter aux décisions de cette grande Conférence. Si tel est le souhait de la Conférence, nous rendrons compte au Conseil, au mois de novembre, du suivi de cette Conférence.

En terminant, je voudrais remercier tous les délégués qui ont bien voulu s'intéresser à cette question importante et, je peux les assurer, de la part du Directeur général, que le Secrétariat continuera à faire le maximum d'efforts pour la mise en oeuvre des recommandations et des directives de la Conférence dans ce domaine.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr Mahler for his answers to the questions and queries raised by the delegates. Do you have any comments?

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Il s'agit peut-être d'un simple oubli, mais ma délégation avait fait une proposition qui consistait à suggérer au Secrétariat de faire un rapport sur l'ajustement des programmes de terrain de la FAO pour les mettre au service du développement durable. Nous avons suggéré qu'un tel rapport soit soumis au Conseil en 1992. M. Mahler ne nous a pas dit si un tel rapport était possible.

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Ce n'est pas un oubli, mais c'est une réponse incomplète que j'ai faite tout-à-l'heure. J'aurais dû préciser que lorsque nous étudierons les retombées des recommandations de la Conférence de Rio, nous étudierons ces retombées sur l'ensemble de nos programmes.

J'en profite pour informer la Commission que ce processus d'examen de nos programmes de terrain, du point de vue du développement durable, est en cours et que nous avons depuis le mois de juin une équipe qui travaille sur ce sujet. Donc nous serons, je l'espère, en mesure de répondre à l'attente du distingué délégué de la Suisse.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to announce that the paper of the Observer from the EEC and the paper from the Associated Country Women of the World will be included in the verbatim record.

Gianpaolo PAPA (CEE): La Communauté a adopté, le 29 mai 1990, une Résolution du Conseil exposant sa politique pour une meilleure intégration des préoccupations environnementales dans l'aide au développement. Celle-ci se base sur les résolutions précédentes et sur les textes de Lomé IV. Cette Résolution promet aux pays en voie de développement l'appui de la Communauté afin d'améliorer leur compréhension de l'environnement local, de les préparer aux stratégies environnementales et de renforcer leurs institutions de l'environnement. Elle souligne l'importance de l'intégration de l'environnement à l'économie dans les plans de développement et de la participation des populations locales dans la prise de décision sur l'environnement. La résolution attire l'attention sur les

liens existants entre la dégradation de l'environnement d'une part et la pauvreté et la croissance démographique d'autre part. Elle établit la liste de quelques problèmes écologiques locaux à considérer comme priorités pour l'aide au développement. Pour la première fois le Conseil du Développement, par sa résolution, a également souligné l'importance de la participation des pays en voie de développement dans les efforts mondiaux à aborder globalement les questions de l'environnement. Le Conseil a reconnu que ceci ne pourrait se faire que par la croissance continue des pays en voie de développement eux-mêmes et par la fourniture de ressources additionnelles aux conditions concessionnelles.

Convention de Lomé IV: La Convention de Lomé IV a été signée le 15 décembre 1989 avec effet au 1er septembre 1991. Le développement soutenable, y compris la protection et l'amélioration de l'environnement, est le principe central dans la poursuite de la coopération.

Cette reconnaissance de l'importance des préoccupations environnementales tant par la Communauté européenne que par les partenaires ACP s'est affirmée par l'inclusion d'un titre spécial, le titre I, dans la Convention.

Ce titre exige que la Communauté et ses partenaires ACP adoptent un éventail de dispositions techniques et administratives pour assurer l'examen satisfaisant des conséquences sur l'environnement de tous les projets et programmes, ainsi que les listes de vérification conjointement convenues et l'introduction de procédures d'Evaluation d'Incidences sur l'Environnement (EIE, EIA en anglais).

Leur mise en oeuvre effective dépendra de la disponibilité d'une équipe entraînée aux techniques d'évaluation de l'environnement et de leur suivi, ainsi que de la modification des procédures existantes et des manuels. Ce point a reçu une attention prioritaire.

Les dispositions spécifiques du titre I traitant des déchets de pesticides, agrochimiques et dangereux sont à l'examen avec comme objectif de présenter en 1992 une vue générale de leur mise en oeuvre.

L'importance donnée aux problèmes écologiques locaux, à la fois dans le texte de Lomé IV et dans la Résolution du Conseil, se reflète dans les Programmes Indicatifs Nationaux (PIN) comme convenu avec les partenaires ACP. Un pourcentage significatif de programmes accorde la priorité à l'environnement soit comme une question horizontale reprise dans tous les secteurs soit comme projets spécifiques de protection de l'environnement et de conservation des ressources naturelles. La lutte contre la désertification et la protection des forêts tropicales reçoit une attention particulière.

PVD ALA: Au début de l'année 1991, le Conseil a adopté de nouvelles orientations, décennales, concernant la coopération avec les pays d'Asie et d'Amérique latine (PVD ALA). Ces orientations comprennent des engagements importants sur l'environnement et exigent que l'évaluation concernant l'environnement soit reprise dans tous les projets. Elles reconnaissent également l'importance pour les PVD ALA d'aborder les préoccupations environnementales, en particulier la détérioration de l'environnement urbain et de l'air, la pollution de l'eau, les risques industriels et la surexploitation des ressources naturelles. En outre, elles attirent

l'attention sur l'importance pour les PVD ALA d'aborder les questions globales de l'environnement. Cependant, pour la première fois, les orientations générales permettent l'aide aux PVD ALA plus développés pour ces secteurs spécifiques, qui incluent l'environnement. Le Conseil a accepté de réserver 10 pour cent des ressources disponibles au secteur environnement, et notamment pour la protection des forêts tropicales.

Pays méditerranéens: A la fin de 1990 la Communauté a mis à jour sa politique de coopération méditerranéenne. De nouveau, le Conseil a accepté d'augmenter sensiblement les fonds disponibles pour cette région et de réserver une part importante du budget à des projets nationaux ou régionaux en faveur de l'environnement. Les fonds pour l'environnement peuvent être attribués à des projets de démonstration, de formation, d'assistance technique et de renforcement d'institutions. Les ressources de la Commission seront utilisées en collaboration étroite avec la Banque européenne d'investissement qui fournira des prêts pour l'environnement à des conditions favorables.

Programme pilote brésilien: Pendant l'été 1990, la Commission a été chargée, ainsi que la Banque mondiale d'assister les autorités brésiliennes à formuler un projet pilote pour la protection des forêts tropicales. Le Conseil européen et le sommet G7 de 1991 ont approuvé, tous les deux, des aides financières pour la mise en oeuvre d'une phase préliminaire de neuf mois avant l'exécution d'une première phase opérationnelle complète. La Commission poursuit actuellement des contacts actifs avec des donateurs potentiels afin de mettre en oeuvre la phase préliminaire dès que possible. Un engagement financier spécifique a déjà été pris par la Communauté pour un montant de 15 millions de dollars E.-U.

Lignes budgétaires de la Commission: Tandis que la plus grande partie des dépenses de la Communauté pour l'environnement dans les pays en développement est acheminée à travers des programmes bilatéraux importants, les initiatives du Parlement se sont assurées qu'il y avait aussi deux lignes budgétaires spécifiquement consacrées aux questions de l'environnement et du développement. Celle qui concerne l'écologie dans les pays en voie de développement a été augmentée de 25 pour cent qui l'amène ainsi à 12 millions d'ECU pour 1991. Elle est utilisée dans des projets d'amorce, pour la recherche méthodologique et pour l'amélioration de la capacité propre de la Commission d'intégrer l'environnement dans ses activités internes. Elle est largement utilisée comme expression de sa politique. Une somme importante a été affectée pour le financement de Profils d'environnement de pays ACP et ALA dans la perspective de la Conférence de Rio en juin 1992. En 1991, le Parlement européen a alloué un autre crédit budgétaire qui s'élève à 2 millions d'ECU, destiné spécifiquement à la protection et à la gestion rationnelle des forêts tropicales, en particulier dans le contexte des problèmes écologiques globaux.

Travail actuel: La Commission contribue à la formulation de la politique générale des problèmes écologiques globaux et participe aux négociations destinées à la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement de juin 1992.

Le 31 octobre 1992, la Commission avait approuvé une plate-forme commune pour la Communauté à la CNUCED. Ceci a été soumis au Conseil pour approbation.

Dans le cadre de cette plate-forme, diverses orientations politiques sont établies qui incluent les suivantes: adopter la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de la Conférence de la FAO/Pays-Bas sur l'agriculture et l'environnement comme politique de base de la Communauté; viser à la réalisation d'une agriculture durable dans les pays industrialisés, en concentrant son action, notamment sur la conservation des ressources naturelles et la protection de l'environnement; assurer que les projets de développement rural et agricole financés par la Communauté dans les pays en développement aient un impact environnemental positif; avancer sur la base des résultats du Congrès forestier mondial qui a eu lieu à Paris en septembre dernier, ainsi que d'autres fora, pour établir une série de principes qui devraient guider l'aménagement des forêts.

La Commission poursuit également activement l'étude des critères en matière d'environnement qui devraient être introduits dans les procédures d'évaluation des projets et des programmes. Ceci s'inspire de la recommandation du Conseil de l'OCDE de 1985 concernant l'évaluation, du point de vue de l'environnement, de l'aide au développement. La Commission précise les lignes directrices pour une bonne utilisation de l'évaluation des incidences sur l'environnement des projets de développement proposés par le CAD dans le groupe de travail ad hoc sur l'environnement et le développement, ainsi que la législation de la Communauté européenne et de ses Etats membres.

Une attention particulière est apportée à la cohérence entre les procédures adoptées par les Directions générales des relations extérieures et du développement.

La Commission s'attend à une coopération plus étroite avec la FAO également dans le domaine de l'environnement dans les pays en voie de développement, basée sur l'arrangement cadre de coopération entre la Commission et la FAO qui a été conclu au mois de juin de cette année.¹

Ms R. Ayesha SAMAD (Observer for the Associated Country Women of the World): Sustainable agricultural and rural development (SARD) along with environmental conservation has become a crucial problem in our times mainly because of the demographic and economic pressures. The document C 91/30 points out, and Mr Mahler has also stated in his introductory statement, that the population of the world will increase by an additional 3 billion people by the year 2025. To see the problem in its grim perspective, it is useful to disintegrate this increase. Nearly all this increase will be in low-income countries where the population will increase from the present 4 billion to 7 billion. In the high-income countries, the projected increase would be from the present 0.8 billion to 0.9 billion. Therefore, it will be in the low-income countries, that most of the environment degradation will continue.

Coming to SARD strategies, it is true that the national actions have an important role to play. Equally, if not more important are the national policies which have an international bearing. It is in such policy actions that international for a like FAO could have a determining influence. However, in my view, the document C 91/30 pays relatively less attention to

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

these policies. The document treats these policies in para 34. However the issues emerging from them are so crucial for the success of SARD, that they would merit a fuller analysis. To illustrate my point, I shall just state the problems connected with only one aspect of these policies, that is, trade and protection. Connected policies have resulted in providing a high degree of protection, both to agriculture and manufacturing in high-income countries. The result is a serious distortion in world trade and resource use.

First taking the farm trade policies including farm subsidies, price supports and direct payments in high-income countries. Initially they were argued for their environmental sustainability. Their actual result is an over-intensification of capital in agriculture, and use of intensive practices far beyond their optimal level. They have, thus, degraded rural environment they were supposed to conserve by causing ever-increasing problems of water pollution and waste disposal. On the international front, they have resulted in ever-worsening terms of trade against the agricultural produce of the low-income countries. In a scenario of continuation of these policies, the low-income countries will be forced to eke out whatever income they can, at the expense of natural resources, which are their sole asset. Driven by the worsening terms of trade and debt burdens, they will tend to use environment degrading chemicals, follow soil fertility-depleting farm practices and destroy the tropical rain forest.

Now coming to tariff and non-tariff barriers in high-income countries. Their main purpose is to discourage high value added processing, even when it is labour intensive in the low-income countries. These policies have resulted in a distorted and sub-optimal allocation of resources causing, inter alia, large segments of population tied to the agricultural sector in low-income countries. The result is an ever-increasing pressure on soil, leading to deforestation and breaking of ecological balance. In terms of development, the result is to keep the low-income countries imprisoned in a low-income trap. Here I have just briefly touched upon this problem and would conclude that such problems merit a detailed analysis and discussion and their solution would be a prerequisite for SARD.

Coming to International Cooperative Programme Framework (ICPF) for SARD, at the rural community level, aimed at the development of local organizations and people's participation, such as FAO's projects on education, training and extension, and women's participation in agricultural development (para 51 i (b) C 91/30). NGOs, such as my organization, that is ACWW would be able to play a useful role in their implementation. It would be fruitful and cost-effective to involve them actively in the process.¹

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Secretariat. Does anyone have any comments to make? If no one has any comments to make, I would like to sum up the Agenda Item as I understood the discussions.

We have had an extensive, positive and constructive discussion. Four main points have arisen. Many delegates referred to the first of these points, which is the cooperation with other international organizations so as to avoid duplication.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

The second point concerns the focus on the differences that exist insofar as environmental problems are concerned for the countries of the North and the developing countries because the developing countries are fighting on two fronts: they are trying to combat hunger and poverty; on the other front they are trying to preserve the environment.

The third point concerns the unanimous approval of the delegations to the initiatives taken by the FAO on the UNCED Conference which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and also the desire expressed by all delegations that the issues of sustainable agriculture be included in the agenda of UNCED. There was a request made by some delegates that we avoid the establishment of new mechanisms. We have to develop and promote the existing programmes regarding the environment.

Therefore, we have concluded our discussion of this Item. This Item will only be open to discussion as far as the resolution proposed by the Netherlands is concerned. This proposal has been supported by a number of countries at this meeting. Therefore, we conclude our discussion on this Item which will remain open only in order to discuss the proposal made by the Netherlands when it comes back from the Resolutions Committee.

8. Third Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action

8. Troisième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR

8. Tercer informe parcial sobre el Programa de Acción de la CMRADR

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I would now like to move to Agenda Item 8 on our Agenda which is the Third Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action.

I would like to give the floor to Mr Dutia, Assistant Director-General to introduce this Item.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have great pleasure in introducing document C 91/19 which, as you know, consists of two parts. The first part is the Third Progress Report of WCARRD Programme of Action. The second part is in another document in the form of a supplement to the document bearing the number C 91/19-Sup.1. That is the Review of the FAO and United Nations Agencies experiences in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action.

I would start with the Third Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action. This is the third report in a four-year cycle of reporting to the FAO Conference on the progress by countries in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action which was adopted in 1979. The first two such reports were presented to the Conference in 1983 and 1987. Shorter versions of these reports were subsequently submitted to ECOSOC in 1984 and 1988. We plan to submit a similar shorter report to the ECOSOC at its session in 1992.

As in the previous reports, the Third WCARD Report draws heavily on the individual reports provided by member countries on their progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action. I am pleased to report that

some seventy countries have provided reports for the current round of reporting to the Conference and the ECOSOC.

As in the past, the information provided in these country reports was also supplemented by a variety of other data sources which are acknowledged in the Progress Report at appropriate places. We have attempted in this Third Progress Report to provide a concise analysis of progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme.

The main theme underlying the entire Report before you is that of rural poverty alleviation. After dealing with trends and plans and strategies for rural poverty alleviation in the first chapters, the other five substantive chapters address specific issues in policies and programmes for poverty alleviation, again drawing on the reports submitted by the countries. These issues include landlessness and agrarian reforms; employment and wages; markets; prices; access to input, services and credit; human resource development; and the development. The general concerns for enhancing women's roles in rural development and people's participation have been addressed throughout the report where appropriate. The final chapter summarizes the main lessons which emerge from this analysis.

Our intention here is to highlight the most successful rural poverty alleviation policies and programmes pursued by countries, and to draw attention to possible adverse consequences that certain policies might have for specific groups of the rural poor.

I should also like to invite the attention of distinguished delegates to the Summary and Conclusions at the beginning of the Report. This attempts to summarize briefly the main findings of the analysis and to highlight the implications for national rural poverty alleviation policies. As distinguished delegates will note, there was a moderate reduction in the proportion of the population in 1987 relative to 1980. However, the total number of rural poor has increased over this period from more than 780 million to over 808 million. A large majority of the poor live in Asia. It is encouraging to note that available evidence indicates that a number of low-income countries made significant strides in reducing rural poverty. This highlights the vital need for public policies to stimulate growth while simultaneously taking positive steps to improve the access of the poor to social services, such as education and health, and to productive assets and improved inputs to enhance incomes.

The Secretariat would appreciate the views and comments of the delegates on the main findings of the Progress Report, and particularly on its conclusions and the lessons learned.

I should now like to turn to Document C 91/19-Sup.I, which contains the Director-General's comments and views on the Review of FAO's and UN Agencies' experiences in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action. The Review itself is attached as Appendix A to the document.

The idea for a review of WCARRD-related activities originated from the Report of the Experts who reviewed FAO's Objectives, Role, Priorities and Strategies. Some two years ago this proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees. While the Conference itself did not make any specific recommendation on this matter, the Director-General has taken the initiative to commission the Review of the WCARRD follow-up by a

team of three consultants and in collaboration with other UN Agencies participating in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. At its meeting in May 1990, the ACC Task Force agreed on the scope, terms of reference and overall plan for the Review. That Task Force also considered the Review itself at its last meeting in May 1991 and its comments are in Appendix B of document C 91/19- Sup.1.

The main purpose of the Review of WCARRD experiences was to determine what FAO and other UN Agencies could do to reinvigorate those parts of the WCARRD Programme of Action which are essential for the alleviation of rural poverty.

The Review was conducted by the consultants during the period September 1990 to May 1991. The FAO Secretariat provided all necessary assistance to the Review team, including logistical support, background documents and technical information. After briefing in FAO, the team members visited seven countries, sixteen UN Agencies, and three Regional Commissions. The consultants also had the benefit of the replies to a questionnaire sent to members of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, the relevant technical divisions of FAO and the five Regional Offices of FAO.

The Review covers all major aspects of the WCARRD Programme of Action and makes proposals for providing a fresh impetus to the process of rural development. In doing so, the Review has taken into account the developments and new concerns since the World Conference in 1979. The Director-General is broadly in agreement with most of the recommendations contained in Chapter VIII and the Agenda for Rural Development in the 1990s as set out in Chapter IX of the Review Report. In the few instances where he disagrees with the recommendations, he has explained his reasons. The ACC Task Force on Rural Development also expressed general support for the recommendations and Agenda for Rural Development and made a number of observations on several specific recommendations. The comments of the ACC Task Force are contained in Appendix B of Document C 91/19- Sup.1.

I should now like to invite the attention of the distinguished delegates to a few of the Director-General's comments and views on the conclusions and recommendations of the Review. The Director-General is pleased to note that according to the experts' findings, the activities undertaken by the UN Agencies to support governments in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action were largely successful. He recognizes that these efforts have, at times, been overwhelmed by other developments both within and outside the countries, such as: the serious consequences of the debt situation in many developing countries, their diminishing share in world agricultural trade and the increasing shortage of funds for development purposes.

The Director-General agrees with the conclusion in the Review that the main principles of WCARRD remain as valid in the 1990s as they had been 12 years ago when they were formulated. This view has also been supported by the members of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, as reflected in their comments. The Director-General also endorses the call for stronger interagency collaboration in the field of rural development and poverty alleviation, particularly through the ACC Task Force on rural development. In particular, he has noted the importance given to the inter-agency WCARRD policy missions by both the Review Team and the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, and agrees on the need for their further strengthening.

Comments of the delegates on this matter will be greatly appreciated, as also any guidance for future follow-up and action. In the light of these views and comments, the Director-General will consider, subject to the availability of resources, an appropriate follow-up to the Review, in cooperation with other Agencies which are Members of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Dutia for his extensive introduction of the documents. This brings me straightaway to the point that WCARRD has been a central issue in FAO since the end of the 1970s. My delegation therefore considers that Agenda Item 8 - Third Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action - is a very important item for discussion at the Twenty-sixth Conference.

A good discussion however needs good preparation. Unfortunately, my delegation received these documents only a few days in advance of the Conference, and this does not enable us to participate in the way we would like. I am sure it is not only the postmen of the Netherlands who are to blame, because a number of delegates here in this room have suffered this same problem.

This brings me to another point. I realize that we are rather tight in our time schedule, but we cannot postpone this agenda item forever.

In particular, the fact that the reports are coming up for action does worry me, and I would like to hear from you, Mr Chairman, how we are going to tackle the discussion here today. It is possible that we could restrict ourselves now to a preliminary discussion, and come later on perhaps, after the next ACC meeting - which could be beneficial as well - to this subject again at the Council meeting in November, where we can discuss proposals for a Plan of Action. This may perhaps be a solution to the problems which face my delegation and some other delegations.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the delegate of Netherlands, who has proposed that we have a preliminary discussion on this matter and perhaps postpone a more definitive discussion until the November Council Session next year. Would delegations here present support that proposal? I would be very grateful to hear your opinions.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Our distinguished colleague from the Netherlands has remarked that we have discussions regarding the Progress Report of WCARRD every fourth year. This is the fourth year, again, when this Report is before the Conference. I think that the Review of the post-WCARRD decade could be discussed when it comes before Council in November next year together with any follow-up action on it.

CHAIRMAN (Original Language Arabic): If I understand correctly, the delegate of India is proposing that we discuss the Third Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action, document C 91/19 and a preliminary discussion on document C 91/19-Sup.1, and to have a more detailed discussion of the later document at the next Council Session. Is that what you are proposing?

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): You are quite right, Mr Chairman.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I was going to support the suggestion that a definitive discussion be postponed to the November Council Session of next year. We have had the same difficulty with the late receipt of this document. We are in a difficult position to do justice to the considerable amount of effort and preparation that the Secretariat have devoted to these two documents. My position is that we should perhaps postpone discussion, or take the opportunity to have a deeper discussion at the November Session of Council.

E. CHENGU (Zimbabwe): The delegation of Zimbabwe has read both documents and is prepared to discuss the documents fully. At the same time, we do share the concern of others in saying that they need more time to read these documents. If we are to postpone discussion, do we need to postpone it to the Council session next year? Is it not possible to postpone the discussion perhaps to another time during the current Conference, during the Twenty-sixth Session? We could be given a few more days for people to read the documents. Do we really need to postpone discussion to next year's Council meeting?

Art WRIGHT (Canada): I find myself in considerable sympathy with the views expressed by other delegations in that the documents before us are, indeed, detailed documents. They cover concerns of great importance. We do feel we would not be doing justice to them if we were to proceed without being adequately prepared, and in that sense I would certainly agree with the suggestion put forward by the delegate of the Netherlands, and supported by others, that we perhaps revisit this report at the November 1992 session. This has the added advantage of enabling the Secretariat to prepare follow-up action to the contents of the document and to bring forward recommendations which at that time we could then take decisions on. My view is that it would be most helpful to have that interim period of time before we enter into detailed discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I do believe we can now turn to our preliminary discussion - a preliminary discussion of the two documents.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): As I have told you, Mr Chairman, we need a little time. Perhaps later on this evening?

LI ZHENG-DONG (China) (Original language Chinese): The document prepared by the Secretariat, C 91/19-Sup.1 is very informative and is no doubt helpful to our deliberations. In the past four years - even in the entire 1980s - there has been some programme of WCARRD development. However, we are still far from the pre-set target. In this connection, we are basically in agreement with the Secretariat and its analysis. However, we would like to point out here that in the annual progress report the analysis should be made in a systematic way so- as to give us a clear understanding of what has happened in the past. Special emphasis should be given to the important

achievements and the existing problems. At the same time we are reducing the analyses relating to various issues.

Referring to the development programme in 1990, we are of the view that the thinking of the Secretariat is reasonable. We agree that at present we should take poverty alleviation as the main aim in WCARRD development. Practice has shown that there is no short-cut to poverty alleviation. We have to rely on the people of every country, and also the international community. Experience also tells us that the alleviation of poverty means an integrated development of rural economy, engagement in a diversified economy and developed non-agricultural industry to provide more job opportunities. We are also of the view that at international and country levels formulae for poverty alleviation should take practical reality into consideration. This is what we have done in the past, and it has brought tangible results.

In the Secretariat's document, the intensification of production as an implication for the environment has been mentioned. We think the scale of farming plays the most important role against the environment. While engaging in WCARRD development, the selection of economic development patterns should be in line with the actual realities of each country. We cannot just borrow indiscriminately patterns from other countries. In fact, it is impossible to do this.

Josaia MAIVUSAROKO (Fiji): In reviewing twelve years of WCARRD follow-up, Fiji has made commendable progress on all fronts, given the limited resources available, and the other constraints it faces. Fiji is fully committed to rural development and has been consistently working towards that objective in spite of the limited resources available, and the other constraints we face. The achievement so far is not, however, to be taken as an expression of complacency. Much more needs to be done to correct wide disparities in income between rural and urban zones. In particular we fully realize and appreciate the important role of women in our development processes.

The Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference twelve years ago continue to be relevant and therefore should be considered as an important development strategy by the countries of the third world. However, given the consensus which seems to have arisen that we will not go into detail or make any specific recommendations about the Progress Report provided by the Secretariat, I will limit my comments to what I have just said.

Hans BRENNER (Finland): We also want to thank Mr Dutia for his introduction of the background document. The Finnish delegation has studied with interest the background documents of this agenda item, including the document on the post-WCARRD decade and an agenda for the future. We want to state that we are in broad agreement with the conclusions reached in Part III, Chapter IX of document C 91/19-Sup.1, Agenda for Rural Development in the 1990s. Now we want to offer the following comments concerning both of the documents in front of us.

We appreciate the efforts made in preparing the Third Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action. It is necessary to follow up the Programme so that Member Nations of FAO can be in a better position to adjust their national policies in the field of agrarian reform and rural development according to the experience gained. The practice of publishing reports at regular intervals on progress in this field is supported by my delegation. Even if we well understand the difficulties which confront the Secretariat in compiling the report, we still wonder if it would not have been possible to avoid basing the report on findings already published at the end of the seventies and at the beginning of the eighties. We kindly ask the Secretariat to make some comments on this issue.

The report presented in document C 91/19 contains a lot of valuable experience of agrarian reform and rural development issues. In reading the document we have found some issues that we consider more important than others.

It is interesting to note that the progress in alleviating poverty is not only dependent on the availability of natural and financial resources of a particular country. Political decisions in this context play a crucial role. Especially those concerning the share of public expenditure devoted to social services have an important influence on poverty alleviation.

Another question that seems crucial for progress in work for the rural poor is how to reach disadvantaged groups of the rural population, particularly women. The participation in programme and project planning by the target group concerned seems to be a prerequisite for the achievement of positive results. The design of extension programmes for women in which their specific needs are taken into consideration is something planners frequently tend to forget. It seems to be a frequent feature that more wealthy and better established groups of the rural population have been able to benefit more from special governmental programmes as opposed to the weaker members. It is also stated in the report that lending institutions often fail to reach disadvantaged groups, particularly women.

Turning now to the question of the relationship between agriculture and the environment, we want to emphasize the dependence between secure land tenure rights and positive results in the prevention of environmental degradation of land. Secure land tenure rights are a prerequisite for the work on sustainable development of agriculture. Therefore, it is regrettable to note the diminishing commitment to land reforms in the 1980s. It is not clear for us why the political decisions during the last decade have taken this direction.

In land reform implementation, countries of Eastern and Central Europe, including the recently independent Baltic countries, even if conditions differ from those of developing countries, could benefit from the knowledge accumulated in FAO through the monitoring of the progress made of the WCARRD.

The positive interrelation between primary school education, particularly of women, and progress made in the standard of living of rural people is striking. Also, education has a reducing effect on child mortality and family size. Knowing that, it is regrettable to see that Africa still is lagging behind in this field, even if some progress has been made.

Summing up, we want to state that, according to several indicators such as life expectancy, literacy percentages and primary school enrollment, some progress is being made in the general situation of the rural poor. Still we must remember that there is tremendous work in front of us, both for international organizations such as FAO, donor countries and, of course, first of all the countries and governments concerned. Let us hope that still more progress will have been made when the next report on progress of WCARRD is being discussed.

Suroso NATAKUSUMA (Indonesia): At the outset my delegation wishes to express their appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive document C 91/19. We also thank Mr Dutia for his introductory remarks.

Indonesia is one of the countries which submitted its country report. We have done so because we are of the view that the progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action is one of the important reports for presentation at this Conference.

This status report relates to the world's poverty situation of today. Therefore, it is an important document for possible guidelines as to where the future activities should be directed. We hope that by presenting this report FAO can encourage all parties concerned to move toward closer cooperation in combating poverty. The success, if any, that we have achieved in raising a portion of our people out of the depths of poverty should actually inspire us to work more closely, cooperatively, harder in a more definable direction. Our aspirations should be none other than to arrive at the day where none of our brothers and sisters are compelled to live below the accepted level appropriate to preserving their dignity as normal human beings.

The implementation of national development in each of our countries will certainly raise the people's income and consequently help our efforts to reduce the number of our poor. However, this alone is not enough. There must be special and well directed endeavours aimed at reaching these rather unfortunate groups. We call on FAO, international organizations and all donors to place the programme on combating poverty as the top priority programme of activity.

As to Indonesia, as the date in this document referred to 1987, I would like to inform this Commission that the current number of people living under the poverty line is around 17 percent.

Although the primary responsibility of poverty alleviation rests with the country itself, we believe that for the benefit of all, prompt and cooperative action of the international community is urgently needed. Perhaps the Den Bosch Declaration will be a good basis for FAO's follow-up action.

As to document C 91/19-Sup.I, we note the Director-General's remarks on the Recommendations of the Review. As the Director-General stated in his comment, the large number of recommendations with regard to activities in support of government programmes, including those related to gender issues, sustainable agricultural and rural development, human resource development and people's participation.

We follow with attention the consultant's view on Chapter VI regarding the advocacy role for poverty alleviation, in particular on relaxing trade barriers and facilitating entry into markets, external funds for development, and technical cooperation among developing countries. We in general could agree with the thinking contained in this chapter. We could go along with the view that the role of agencies should not be restricted only to those listed in paragraph 8.15 of the consultant's report. However, these recommendations in our view contain important elements which should be placed as a priority for prompt action.

We welcome the report and we look forward to the Secretariat proposal regarding follow-up action as a result of having this in-depth study.

Sra. Grafla SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Agradecemos al Dr. Dutia por la presentación que nos ha hecho de este tema tan importante.

Señor Presidente, el hecho de que el tema principal del Informe que nos ha presentado la Secretaría sea el alivio de la pobreza rural, es una muestra más de que nuestra Organización, o sea la FAO, se preocupa en primer orden de la situación desalentadora de la alimentación y la agricultura y en el mundo, cumpliendo así con el mandato que le hemos dado dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En el documento C 91/19 se hace un análisis del marco en que se adoptan las políticas de alivio a la pobreza. En tal sentido, señor Presidente, la delegación de Cuba quisiera expresar que la crisis de la deuda externa y sus servicios, el intercambio desigual, el proteccionismo y las políticas de ajuste estructural, tuvieron importantes consecuencias negativas, repito, señor Presidente, consecuencias negativas para los países subdesarrollados y, en particular, para la población rural de esos países.

En el tema que tratamos con anterioridad se puso de manifiesto una afirmación muy pertinente de que los problemas de la pobreza, la población y el medio ambiente están interrelacionados.

La delegación de Cuba asistió a la reunión de seguimiento al Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada recientemente en Cochabamba, Bolivia. La misma resultó de gran provecho, ya que se pusieron de relieve los problemas más acuciantes de los hombres y mujeres de campo en nuestra región. También se hicieron propuestas de soluciones entre los países de la región, teniendo presente efectos de integración económica y de cooperación entre países en desarrollo, que consideramos pueden ser tomadas en cuenta por otras regiones y que la Secretaría pudiera ampliar en su Resumen.

Los indicadores de desarrollo social, señor Presidente, nos han dado a conocer la situación precaria por la que atraviesan las regiones del mundo en desarrollo; sin embargo, no encontramos propuestas concretas para continuar con el cumplimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

En tal sentido apoyamos a las delegaciones que expresaron que los documentos que analizamos hoy son de gran valor descriptivo, pero con pocas propuestas concretas. Este es un tema muy importante en el que la delegación de Cuba ha sido muy activa, pero, en realidad, mi delegación

también considera que el poco tiempo con que recibimos la documentación es un gran obstáculo para una discusión a fondo. Solamente quisiéramos destacar en esta discusión preliminar, que reiteramos la vigencia del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y solicitamos a la FAO que en el próximo Informe que nos presente nos hagan propuestas concretas para dar seguimiento a las acciones emprendidas.

En los planteamientos del Orden del Día para la década de los años noventa se presentan interesantes propuestas que nuestra delegación apoya; pero nos parece que deberla abundarse más en los aspectos de la integración de la mujer y los jóvenes al desarrollo rural, a los créditos a los campesinos, a la organización de los trabajadores rurales, a la propiedad de la tierra y, en especial, para las mujeres, y debe prestarse más atención para el logro que todos anhelamos en el seguimiento del Plan de Acción que hoy volvemos a analizar.

E. CHENGU (Zimbabwe): First of all I would like to join other speakers before me in thanking the FAO for the great effort they have put into the preparation of this very clear document before us. I will just now limit myself to a preliminary reaction of the Zimbabwean delegation in line with what has been agreed, not perhaps to go into great details.

We would like to observe that Zimbabwe has been taking great interest in the implementation of the WCARRD programme. Zimbabwe has formulated a number of programmes to do with access to land and natural resources and it began to implement a big resettlement programme involving the acquisition of 4 million hectares of land and resettling of 100 000 families on this land. Zimbabwe has also embarked on programmes of people's participation, formation of groups and cooperatives and in this process has concentrated also on the involvement of women.

Zimbabwe has also taken great care to see that there is adequate provision of services, extension and research to the small farmers in particular in that there has been access to inputs, credits and markets. It has also come up with programmes on rural employment in non-farming activities and currently it is looking into trade liberalization, structural adjustment and negotiating tariff agreements.

The thrust of Zimbabwe's agrarian reform and rural development programmes is now aimed at bringing greater economic benefits to the rural people, particularly the small farmers and women farmers and also empowering the rural people to enable them to initiate programmes and to achieve economic benefits from programmes.

Zimbabwe would like to urge other countries, particularly in our region, to take practical steps to implement the WCARRD proposals and also particularly to report on the WCARRD achievements. We note that currently in the whole world a momentum has been generated, opportunities now exist for change. We must take advantage of this momentum and these opportunities that have now presented themselves. There is throughout the world a great groundswell of activity and move toward democracy. If we look at events in South Africa, events in other African countries, we find that the environment for change, for meaningful change, a change in which through people's participation, small farmers, rural farmers, through self-

initiation and management of programmes and projects, particularly given the very small resources of our governments, we can for the first time marshal the resources that can usually be found in the countryside among the small farmers and perhaps achieve something, achieve through people's participation a democratic control and management of resources. Perhaps this is a good opportunity which must not be missed to achieve something.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India) : My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for providing very special information about the progress of WCARRD Programme of Action. I would also like to thank Mr Dutia for a very lucid presentation.

I would like also to appreciate the presentation of the document providing the Summary and Conclusions and Chapter 7, lessons from experience, it facilitates the reading of the document in one place.

In India we accord great importance to rural development and we have adopted the WCARRD Charter for Farmers from the very beginning and we continue to make efforts in planning to eliminate the hunger of the rural poor and we have met with considerable success during the last decade. However, I would say we have a long way to go and we will have to continue our intensive efforts in this regard. In reading this report it leaves one with a mixed feeling and I would say that it is a similar feeling that one gets after reviewing the programmes in India. It is a mixed feeling of achievement as well as a challenge for the future since a lot more remains to be done. Although we have achieved considerable social progress in developing countries yet the stupendous problems continue to be faced in the agrarian sector. The proportion of the rural poor has moderately decreased but their absolute number has increased and this does cause concern.

I would like to say that in India during the last decade we have been able to reduce the proportion as well as the absolute number of the rural poor though we have not been able to achieve a balanced proportion of reduction in poverty factor on a regional basis and we have to do a lot of work in that regard. Presently we have been facing a lot of problems and our government has taken a few policy initiatives and we hope that we will be able to tackle our problems very soon so that we will be able to intensify our efforts in the rural sector also.

When we have a detailed discussion of this subject we will have a more detailed submission to make in the house.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): With regard to document C 91/19-Sup.1, the Thailand delegation would like to inform you that Thailand has paid much attention to poverty alleviation by conducting agricultural development programmes in the areas of rural poor for many years, but only little improvement was obtained. Because the poverty alleviation concerned many activities such as increasing production of food, agricultural production, marketing, employment, and natural resources and environments where they live. In the areas of unfavourable conditions for agriculture, the poor will move to the city for working as labourers, because they need cash for their families. So my delegation realizes that the poverty alleviation is a difficult task.

My delegation consequently appreciates very much the review of the post-World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, and my delegation consider that the main principles of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development providing important roles in the alleviation of the poverty that we have to live with in these times.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): We commend the Secretariat for producing such a useful document and Mr Dutia for a clear presentation. The topic is so comprehensive that in the short time available at our disposal, one may not be able to discuss and deliberate upon all, or even most, of the aspects relating to development at the rural scene of the developing countries. Therefore, I would briefly comment on a few of the issues relating to rural development which perhaps are important to gauge development in this sector, if at all. These are, firstly, the alleviation of rural poverty and secondly, the formation of structures to be able to do so. In fact, these factors are inter-connected. As reported by the Secretariat in the document under review, during this period "the intensity of poverty remained acute in some of the developing countries. The formation of structures relates to the adoption of effective policies towards this end, whereby access to credit, markets and inputs is open and common to all. The question is as to how does this manifest itself into viable structures and which are the successful examples that could be followed or adopted. Experience differs from country to country. This relates to government, non-governmental, and at times, even to factors other than these two. Creation of institutional frameworks and farming structures built on the idea of increasing the direct participation of the rural masses into the development process is called for. In fact, direct benefits must accrue to them if the programme is to be successful.

In Pakistan there has been reduction in rural poverty. Our governments have progressively taken initiatives in this respect and introduced reforms from time to time. Besides, two important initiatives in this respect that have generated the process of change and have helped people at the village levels deserve mention in this forum. Firstly, large-scale overseas migration from the rural areas of Pakistan and the resultant remittances, as also indicated in paragraph 54, page 15, of the document. Interestingly, at times this has led to acute labour shortages during peak agricultural seasons, which is a new phenomenon. Secondly, the development process initiated by the Aga Khan Rural Development Programme (AKRSP) undertaken in some of the most remote Northern areas of Pakistan, namely Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza and the like. Because of climatic conditions, these areas become inaccessible during part of the year. The success of the Programme has prompted the organizers to extend the development programmes in Chitral and other areas of the country.

This Programme undertakes not only direct participation of the rural people, but so organizes the Programme that local people also run it. Through the AKRSP, an effort has also been made to solve the problems of inputs like seed availability, production and distribution.

The most successful example of credit disbursement and availability at the village level is the Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. As pointed out earlier in my intervention on Guidelines, in most of the developing countries, credit availability and facilities are restricted to the affluent of the society, both at the rural and at the urban scene. Here, unfortunately, the default

rate is exceptionally high. The Grameen Bank experience has shown that: firstly, it directly operates at the village level; secondly, there is no problem of collateral, etc. for the poor people of the village; thirdly, rural people have greatly benefited; fourthly, and most interestingly, the recovery rate is more than 97 percent.

Sir, these two successful initiatives, as indicated, call for a further study by the FAO.

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): My delegation appreciates the contents of documents C 91/19-Sup.1. Interest in rural development is widely shared amongst national and international organizations throughout the world. We may well say that rural development policies affect not only rural populations but mankind on the whole.

In my country, notable experience has been acquired in the field of agrarian reform and rural settlement. If we look at the past decades (1970-1990) we note that in Italy, as in other industrialized countries, agricultural areas are continuously decreasing. On a total of 30 million hectares, arable land accounts for only 29.9 percent, while over 19 percent is unproductive for agricultural purposes. The diminished agricultural area has reached, in these decades, 14.3 percent of the whole, with a loss of 2.5 million hectares.

Land is thus becoming an ever more precious resource, especially in countries with high population density and lack of an alternative income. Inside certain boundaries, we can consider the shift from a basically rural economy to industrial and service-dependent to be a physiological one. We can say, therefore, that rather than try to arrest the trend, it is essential to ensure an increased well-being to resident rural populations. This would enable us, on the other hand, to keep farmers on the land, especially on marginal areas in hilly or mountain districts, so to arrest environmental destruction and desertification.

The progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action well describes, particularly in Chapter 5, the main factors which can be improved for bettering the conditions of the rural poor.

I would like to add the importance of ameliorating also rural structures (e.g. rural transportation, electrification of rural areas, the making and maintenance of rural roads, etc.) as well as providing adequate information for the rural population.

Hüseyin Avni CINEMRE (Turkey): On behalf of the Turkish delegation, I would like to thank you for the concise progress report prepared for the meeting. It is apparent from the report that country papers on the matter were very well and fruitfully analyzed.

Turkey has been placing increasing emphasis on the rectification of interregional disparity in the nation's socio-economic development, but also based on unerring recognition that the realization of development potential in less developed regions will contribute also to the national objectives of sustained economic growth, export promotion and social stability.

Concomitant to the economic growth, provision of social services will have to be improved.

For a balanced development and resources distribution in the least developed regions, a review of land-human relations, mechanization of agriculture in an economic sense, improvement of marketing facilities, communication and transportation must be given primary consideration.

I wish to outline a few recommendations which have come in through the implementation of rural development projects.

Full and rational utilization of production resources depends basically on reduction of the structural problems. In reducing structural problems in developing countries, which basically depend upon agriculture, agrarian reform can be used as an efficient tool.

As has been mentioned in the progress report, the distribution of land cannot add much to the development of the agricultural sector. Agrarian reform to be useful has to be applied on all grounds and on an economic base.

In addition to distributing Government-owned land to the landless or small farmers, measures such as land consolidation, land-use planning, and encouragement of optimal input use, must be followed. For the new settlers to become viable farmers, vocational education and training is also of vital importance.

The distribution of land in uneconomic sizes to landless people does not add much to their well-being. In that case every farm will be equal in poverty; land must be provided on economic grounds. The major objective should be the best allocation of natural resources among alternative uses. The case must be based on an economic argument, not only social or political. Only by keeping this in mind rural poverty can be alleviated in the future through balanced development of agriculture as well as industry. The problem of landlessness is the problem of population pressure on the farm side. Unless this pressure is eased, no easy solution can be formulated.

Jung-II KANG (Republic of Korea): The Korean delegation carefully reviewed the Third Progress Report and the Review of the post-WCARRD decade.

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Secretariat for their preparation of the thorough and impressive reports on this important topic.

It is rather regrettable to know that the intensity of poverty still remains acute in some developing countries. As we are all aware, the elimination of poverty, especially in rural areas, is one of the most crucial aspects for most socio-economic policy measures all around the world. In this context, it cannot be overemphasized that efforts by the Governments as well as international organizations - especially FAO - should be concentrated in helping people define their problems and in finding ways to deal effectively with the problem of poverty.

In terms of the rural credit system, we would like to emphasize that FAO should take steps to help member countries to provide access to credit at reasonable interest rates. Even if we knew that there were financial difficulties, there might be ways to use scarce funds more effectively.

We support the views of other distinguished delegates on FAO's efforts to improve equity and reduce poverty, such as increasing the access of the poor to land, developing and transferring sustainable agricultural technology, expanding non-farm employment, and promoting participation of the rural population, including women. All these activities are effectively designed and appropriately fulfilled up to this point of time.

Finally, the Korean delegation sincerely hopes that the international society will keep an eye on and help the progress made in terms of detailed plans proposed in WCARRD, since the agricultural and rural development is the fundamental basis for overall economic development of developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation had similar problems to other participants, in that it received the papers on this important agenda item of WCARRD only days before the start of this Conference. Hence it was only possible to obtain the hasty and preliminary comments of specialists in economics and women's issues. Any intervention I can make would, therefore, be more akin to a random selection from a menu than a coherent response to an important policy document. Such a piecemeal response would not do justice to the efforts of those who produced document C 91/19, just as the late distribution of the documents did not do justice to the Membership.

I have, however, submitted separately the preliminary comments of the United Kingdom delegation, but these are clearly subject to modification as we develop a complete picture.

Finally, the United Kingdom delegation hopes that it will be possible to discuss papers C 91/19 and C 91/19-Sup.1 in detail at next November's Council. At that time we hope the Secretariat will also produce a Plan of Action with clear objectives, targets and milestones.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the distinguished delegate for the United Kingdom. The Secretariat has taken note of your remarks, Sir.

Ms Robin MEYER (United States of America) : The Report before us is an impressive compilation of information from some 70 country reports and other available studies and sources, including information on the benefits and costs of reform programmes. The United States delegation believes however that greater efforts could have been made to disaggregate the progress made in the past four years from that which may have occurred earlier in the decade.

The United States delegation also regrets the late arrival of these lengthy and detailed reports, a fact which prevents our comments from being as comprehensive as the documents merit.

We also regret that the Report does not make specific recommendations for future programmes. In this regard, the United States delegation supports the suggestion made by our colleagues from Canada and the United Kingdom that the Secretariat prepare proposals for follow-up actions for decision by the Council next November.

The United States delegation would suggest that future reports be strengthened by providing more analysis of the following issues: First, sustainability, not only of production systems, natural resources and the environment, but also of the programmes and projects themselves. Second, agro-business and private sector development. Third, technology generation, specifically for rural people and rural development. And fourth, access by rural populations to productive resources, marketing for their agricultural and other products, and off-farm employment opportunities.

François ROHNER (Suisse): Je voudrais remercier M. Dutia et ses collaborateurs du travail qu'ils ont fourni pour préparer les documents relatifs à ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Je tiens à rappeler ici que mon pays a toujours attaché beaucoup d'importance à la question de la réforme agraire et du développement rural.

Comme d'autres, ma délégation n'a cependant guère eu le temps d'étudier à fond les deux rapports très détaillés qui nous sont présentés. Ces deux rapports montrent que ce sujet n'a en rien perdu de son actualité, bien au contraire. Nous soutenons, à ce stade, la proposition faite par les Pays-Bas et d'autres pays de reporter l'examen de cette question cruciale à la session du Conseil de novembre de l'année prochaine, de même que la suggestion faite par le Canada et le Royaume-Uni d'inviter le Secrétariat à présenter, à cette occasion, des propositions de mesures concrètes. Il s'agirait, à cette occasion, de faire le lien avec un autre sujet important dont traite la Conférence, à savoir la participation des populations.

Inge GERREMO (Sweden): My delegation shares the proposal by the delegation of Netherlands and supported by others to postpone a thorough discussion to the November Council Meeting. Let me however share with you some general views.

The development efforts today seem to focus more than ever on the macro-economic situation in the respective countries. In many developing countries discussions are geared towards how to formulate and implement necessary structural adjustment programmes.

Changing policies in many of these countries towards privatization and liberalization of the economy can be seen. The roles of Governments are being reformulated.

At the end of the 1970s, before and after the WCARRD Conference, the situation was different. The development debate very much tried to emphasize rural development and the integration of both economic and social aspects. At local level poverty alleviation was a key issue.

Experience has shown that a number of these efforts were planned and carried out without a sound macro-economic basis which could provide growth. It is today more clear than ever that growth and equity must go together. There must be a balance between macro- and micro-economic development efforts. Today when emphasis seems to be very much on the macro-economic aspect, it is extremely important that the WCARRD principles are not forgotten.

We have studied the documentation on the WCARRD Programme with great interest, although, as has been the case for other delegations, there has been too short a time for any thorough scrutiny. The themes raised in the Reports are today very critical ones. It could be specifically noted that the issue on environment and poverty has received increasing attention during the last year's environmental discussions, and deserves special priority in the future.

The Progress Report in front of us highlights some very interesting experiences, but generally they are too aggregated to have a meaningful operational value. Their main importance is at national level and below.

The Swedish delegation would like to stress that FAO has an important role to gather and disseminate experiences in the field as part of its increasingly important normative role. FAO should be prepared, as part of its advisory functions, mainly to the developing countries directly but also to donor agencies, to assist in the continued work to implement the WCARRD principles.

It should be stated here that there must be an acceptable balance between the resources to collect necessary information and those who ultimately use the knowledge for operational purposes.

As to specific subjects, two of the most important ones are those of People's Participation and Gender. They will be dealt with separately by the Swedish and Nordic delegations under Items 12 and 13, during this Conference.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to draw the attention of delegates to the fact that the proposal by the delegate of the Netherlands has been taken into account, and we are now discussing the two documents in a preliminary fashion.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Desde el punto de vista de Argentina, creo que el debate que se ha desarrollado anteriormente si bien no nos ha permitido revisar en profundidad los documentos, creemos que es muy importante porque de alguna manera se va a definir el programa de la FAO para el estudio del desarrollo rural en el decenio de los 90. Creo que la experiencia de los 80 es materia muy rica para establecer un poco las políticas futuras. El documento evalúa adecuadamente las experiencias de forma rural, de educación rural y salarios, el problema del acceso al crédito, a los

mercados y a los insumos, la extensión y organizaciones rurales. Esa experiencia, tal como ha sido destacada por otros delegados anteriormente, ha sido especialmente enriquecida por la experiencia de liberalización de los mercados que se ha desarrollado en algunos países en los últimos años, y la Argentina es un ejemplo de esto. Si bien la Argentina es un país con una riqueza agrícola importante, también tiene muchos pobres rurales, y la experiencia que ha tenido la Argentina en los últimos años aconseja que es un tema que debe ser seguido atentamente para ver cómo afectan estas políticas a los sectores más pobres del área rural y cómo tenemos que readecuar los mecanismos de acción para atender las necesidades de los mismos.

Brevemente quiero decir que las reformas se han desarrollado en dos aspectos: primero, con respecto al comercio exterior, tratando de que los productores rurales tengan las señales de precios internacionales; y segundo, con respecto a las señales de regular el mercado interno tratando de evitar cualquier tipo de intervención que no fuera absolutamente indispensable. Esto ha permitido ver claramente que muchas de las regulaciones no beneficiaban a los sectores más pobres, sino a los sectores medianos y grandes, e igualmente con cualquier tipo de control que se desarrollaba.

De esta manera existe ahora el desafío de ver cómo se soluciona el problema de los sectores realmente marginados y más pobres de la sociedad, a los cuales hay que llegar y asegurar llegar a través de la capacitación, de la extensión y de la organización de los productores, a los fines de darles condiciones de equidad para su participación en el mercado. Esto, que está empezando a funcionar en mi país y en otros, creemos que debe ser seguido atentamente por la FAO para intervenir en todas las acciones que que puedan ser necesarias. Creemos que un tema importante que se debiera incluir son las experiencias recientes que se están desarrollando en varios países y, a su vez, un tema que no nos cansamos de destacar, que es el impacto que tienen sobre los pobres rurales las políticas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados que tienden a reducir los precios de los productos agrícolas. Esto tiene un efecto inmediato sobre el pobre rural que no lo tiene sobre los grandes y medianos rurales que, de alguna manera, pueden salvar mejor su situación. Creemos que la FAO tiene que entrar activamente a analizar los impactos mundiales que tienen las políticas proteccionistas de subsidios a la producción y exportación sobre los sectores rurales más pobres del mundo.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My comment will be very short because of the preliminary nature of the discussion. My Government really appreciates the Progress Report on WCARRD presented by the Secretariat. WCARRD is a great challenge for each developing country because it requires political decision to achieve its targets, such as rural development, alleviation of poverty and agrarian reform. All this takes a long time and much effort. We hope FAO will continue to promote efforts which will help us all towards that target.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you, Mr Chairman, that my Government has started to focus its international cooperation on people's participation, including women in development.

Benmakhlouf MOHAMED (Maroc): Le Programme d'action arrêté en 1979 par la CMARADR a permis à de nombreux pays, dont le Maroc, d'adopter des stratégies d'intervention en faveur du développement rural et de la réforme agraire et de mettre en place des politiques économiques et sociales en faveur de la réduction de la pauvreté rurale et de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales.

Le troisième rapport intérimaire qui nous est présenté par le Secrétariat de la FAO, que je remercie pour l'effort entrepris dans la préparation de ce rapport, nous permet de constater que malgré d'importants progrès enregistrés, nous sommes encore loin de l'objectif recherché aussi bien par la FAO que par le Gouvernement, à savoir l'élimination totale et définitive de la pauvreté rurale et de la malnutrition.

Le Maroc, qui a pris des mesures importantes sur le plan économique, social et juridique, depuis de nombreuses années, en faveur du secteur rural, connaît encore des difficultés pour enrayer la pauvreté rurale et atténuer les déséquilibres qui existent entre le milieu urbain et le milieu rural. L'exode rural est encore élevé et l'insuffisance des capacités d'accueil dans les villes entraîne des déséquilibres importants.

La réforme agraire et le développement rural sont une oeuvre de longue haleine, nécessitant la mobilisation de ressources financières importantes et une volonté politique permanente axée sur les ruraux vivant dans les régions les plus déshéritées.

La FAO et les autres institutions internationales intéressées par le développement rural sont appelées à poursuivre leurs efforts d'assistance technique et financière aux pays qui se sont engagés dans le processus de réforme agraire et de développement rural.

D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, I promised you that I would come back later on this evening, and I would like to do so now.

My delegation has received these documents only recently and we have not been able to study them properly. At the moment, we can only make general remarks.

In the document the different matters are split up, which makes it possible to say something about it, but it is difficult to overview different contradictory processes at the same time.

The question is now which conclusion FAO is drawing from the information presented. In this respect the Report of the Review Team gives more clarity.

My delegation would like more attention paid to the consequences of the conclusions and recommendations, especially the challenge for formulating new rules for the relationship between the public and private sectors. Special stress could be put on the aspect of people's participation because of the fact that they have the needed know-how and have to do a lot themselves to achieve sustainable agriculture.

The Netherlands delegation also supports the recommendations of the Review Team regarding WCARRD Policy Missions. Both documents convinced us that technical matters cannot be divided from the people and their institutions if we want technical matters to make a contribution to the alleviation of poverty and sustainable development.

This means that FAO needs to pay more attention to human resource development and institution building in close relation with technical activities. These need to be really sustainable so that FAO can work together with other UN agencies in the field programmes.

With regard to people's participation and women-in-development, we would like to come back later on Agenda Items 12 and 13.

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Les documents C 91/19 et C 91/19-Sup.I traduisent l'importance de la réforme agraire pour le développement du secteur agricole.

Mon pays apporte son témoignage en ce qui concerne l'importance globale et spécifique de ces questions. Nous en profitons pour saluer la FAO et les travaux qu'elle accomplit et nous soulignons l'importance pour les pays en développement de la mise en oeuvre des programmes de réformes agraires. Nous nous joignons à tous ceux qui ont félicité la FAO pour l'excellent travail réalisé dans un domaine aussi capital.

Cependant, devant l'impossibilité d'étudier dans un court délai ces deux rapports, la Délégation portugaise invite la FAO à présenter ce thème de manière plus approfondie au prochain Conseil de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The delegate of Denmark would like to have his statement appear in full in the verbatim report of these proceedings.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Danish Delegation I take the opportunity to express our appreciation of the great work done by the Secretariat on the Third Progress Report and of the consultants in the report reviewing the post-WCARRD decade, and which has been amply commented by the Director-General in Sup.I.

However, like other delegates I find that we can only have a very preliminary discussion at this Conference, for a more substantial debate on the 102nd Council.

I promise to make my intervention quite short, and some detailed comments will be made in the context of the related items on People's Participation and Women-in-Development.

It augurs well for the future of WCARRD Activities, that the historical confrontation of poverty - and equity-oriented views with more liberalistic attitudes now will be followed by more holistic attitudes sponsored by the spread of democratization and market economies and growing awareness of environmental issues. However, as emphasized in the progress report, the

justified euphoria of economic liberalization must not overshadow the basic poverty - and equity-orientated in rural reform and development activities.

We also hope, the liberalization of attitudes will progressively be extended to include adoption and implementation of land reforms.

Mr Chairman, the Danish delegation is very pleased with the Director-General's views and comments on the consultancy report. It is one of the already many solid signs of concurrence with the attitudes expressed from our side on the reform process. Let me mention at random from para 14, and I quote: "(i) spelling out the objectives of each major programme and selecting those objectives where an agency has comparative advantages, (ii) exploring different types and mixes of intervention tasks (e.g. research, training, information sharing etc.), which make up programme content, (iii) assessing the suitability of different modalities (such as pilot projects, consultations, technical assistance, etc.) to accomplish these tasks, and (iv) monitoring of activities and utilizing opportunities for mid-season corrections.

I take these comments as a commitment to give upstream-activities a relatively higher priority.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the revelation of consultants of rivalries between ECOSOC-agencies and IFIs should not be allowed to develop into a new feud in this central area. We must urge the parties involved to cooperate according to decisions made in the ACC and to the principle of comparative advantages.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): May I first of all express my regret that the documents on this important item reached Member Governments at a very late time so that the comments which they would have liked to have made they could not deliver during this Session. I regret it, and I will certainly look into this matter of the lateness of the documents. However, we welcome wholeheartedly the remarks and comments, even though general and preliminary in their nature, that a number of delegates have made on these two reports. We have taken note of the information that several Member Nations have provided to us on the activities they are undertaking in the follow-up to the WCARRD Programme of Action. We thank them.

A very specific question was raised by the delegate of Finland about the use of some figures which are not up-to-date. We recognize that this is a short-coming. This is a limitation, but it arises because of the dearth of very recent quantitative information on a number of important programmes which are part of the WCARRD Programme of Action. We have tried to eliminate as much as possible the previous and very old figures, but still we could not in some cases obviate the need to quote some of the older figures, particularly late-1970s and early-1980s.

Of course, we are trying to improve on the situation by helping developing countries to collect information on the issues that are of relevance in reporting on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme. In particular, we have developed over the last several years the socio-economic indicators. We have circulated these to the Member Governments with a request to collect information on these socio-economic indicators. However, one has to be realistic because of the financial constraints, and because of the fact that in several countries the statistical systems are still not as developed as one would have liked them to be. The possibility of collecting up-to-date information on socio-economic indicators remains limited. However, we are trying our best and as progress is made in this field I hope that in future reports it will be possible to give the information on more up-to-date years.

We understand that the discussion during this Session and during this Conference on these two Reports, and comments that have been made, are preliminary. We also understand that Member Nations would like us to submit these documents once again to the FAO Council for a more thorough and in-depth discussion at its session in November next year. We shall follow this course.

We have also taken note of the request that while submitting these documents for discussion at the November Session of Council, we should also submit information on concrete activities, programmes and proposals on the follow-up to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Review Team, that is, in document C 91/19-Sup.1.

We shall try our best to respond to these requests. We will refer to as many specific activities and programmes as possible, and we will also consult with the sister agencies that are members of the ACC Task force on Rural Development when preparing this report. As you know, the next meeting of the Task Force on Rural Development will take place some time in April, so it should be possible. Of course, to the extent possible we will try to involve the other agencies in this exercise, but this depends on the time that they will be able to spare for this.

Some delegates also referred to some kind of a plan of action to be given. I should like to caution against the term plan of action for this kind of document that we will present to the November Council. First of all, one must recall that the Programme of Action which the WCARRD Conference adopted in 1979 is a plan of action itself. It has very specific suggestions on actions that should be taken in a number of areas that are important from the point of view of ensuring rural development. Further, I would add that there are two important activities within that Programme of WCARRD, one on women-in-development and the other on people's participation. On women-in-development, the FAO Conference has already adopted a plan of action on which the Secretariat is providing progress reports. You will consider the second progress report on this under Agenda Item 13. With regard to people's participation, again, a plan of action was submitted to the June 1991 Session of the Council. That was discussed by the Council, and in the light of the suggestions and comments made by the Council a revised plan of action is being submitted to your consideration under Agenda Item 12. Therefore, I would caution against using a term such as a plan of action, because it would mean going back to basics, in fact, unravelling what has been agreed in 1979 by the largest gathering that has ever taken place of Member Nations to consider rural development, which

adopted the Programme of Action. While I understand the wishes of the Member Nations to get more concrete information on the follow-up that we would be undertaking in response to the recommendations made by the review team, which we will try to do as best we can, let us not call it a plan of action.

I believe I have responded to most of the questions and observations that have been made by the delegates. However, if there is something I have missed out I will be very happy to respond to those questions.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank Mr Dutia for his statement. Are there any comments? Since there are no comments, we can consider that we have concluded the discussion on Item 8 of the Agenda.

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

C

C 91/I/PV/8

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(19 November 1991)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Presidente de la
Comisión I

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I wish to draw your attention to document C 91/DJ/9 which states that we have finished discussion of Item 7, FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development, whereas we are still discussing this item so that we can finish the Draft Resolution submitted by the Netherlands and other countries. The item is still open for discussion.

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 9. Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking: Progress Report
- 9. Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et Engagement international: Rapport intérimaire
- 9. La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional: Informe parcial

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): In introducing this Agenda Item, I wish to draw your attention to Conference document C 91/24, which provides you with a progress report and outlines the related matters on which a decision of the Conference is sought.

With me on the podium are Mr Papasolomontos, the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division. Mr Esquinas, the Secretary of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Jointly, I hope we will be able to give you answers to your questions.

Plant genetic resources (PGR) are vital to the preservation of global biological diversity and the advancement of agricultural production. To make full use of plant genetic resources modern tools of plant breeding and biotechnology have to be applied. Thus there is a clear mutual dependence and need for close interaction between countries which are rich in germplasm, among which are many developing countries, and countries which have reached an advanced stage of breeding and biotechnology. Many developing countries also feature in this latter group.

One of the main purposes in establishing the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the mid 1980s was to facilitate this very interaction between the various groups of countries. The Commission provides an international forum for discussion and negotiation to overcome controversial issues and constraints. The formal framework of cooperation between countries is the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Mr Chairman, may I use this opportunity to commend the atmosphere of harmony and cooperation that has been established amongst the 111 country-membership of the Commission. FAO also recognizes the very constructive contribution made by a number of NGOs in this context. An example is the Keystone Centre which organized a series of International Dialogues on PGR. These allowed the main actors and experts in this field to discuss the issues in their personal capacities and to make valuable suggestions and recommendations that paved the road for the consensus and compromises

reached by the governments through the Commission. The constructive support of other NGOs, such as the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) and Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) are welcomed by FAO.

Resolutions 4/89 and 5/89 unanimously approved by the last Session of this Conference, recognized the rights of both donors of technology (Plant Breeders' Rights), and donors of germplasm (Farmers' Rights), to be compensated for their contributions. These Resolutions have permitted 14 new countries to adhere to the International Undertaking, with just a few yet to withdraw their original reservations. One hundred and three countries have now adhered to the International Undertaking. It should also be noted that a Memorandum of Understanding, to ensure cooperation and coordination of efforts, has been finalized and signed between FAO and IBPGR. Finally, let me put on record that following the request of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources the FAO Seed Laboratory is being transformed into a Global Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources.

As to the safeguarding of genetic resources for future generations, a major objective of the Undertaking, approximately 30 countries have agreed to the free exchange of germplasm and have offered to put their base collections in a network under the auspices of FAO; IBPGR has agreed to merge its register of base collections under this network and to provide the necessary technical and scientific assistance for running it. Within this context, several countries have offered space in their national facilities to store ad honorem truly international collections under FAO jurisdiction. Norway has offered to establish an international genebank, under permafrost conditions, for storing national and international germplasm collections.

Through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources countries are also negotiating other international agreements that will facilitate the safety, exchange and sustainable use of plant germplasm and related biotechnologies (i.e. in matters related to collecting and transfer of germplasm and the use of biotechnology as it affects plant genetic resources).

The Commission expressed the desire to systematize its work through two major activities: a periodic report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources PGR evaluating the current situation and identifying gaps and needs; second, and a Global Plan of Action, based upon the former, to identify priorities and share the tasks among the different organizations involved. The Plan of Action will include specific programmes and projects to be implemented by national, international and non-governmental organizations. First initiatives to fulfill these very important tasks have been taken. The Commission has recognized the far-reaching implications and costs involved in the preparation of these activities, and has requested FAO to convene a Fourth International Technical Conference on plant genetic resources. It also recommended that the Plan of Action be financed through an International Fund.

May I now draw the attention of the delegates to decisions which, according to our understanding, would be expected from the Conference:

Item 1 is the Draft Resolution on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, presented in Appendix B. During the last Session of the Conference, while approving the Agreed Interpretation on Farmers' Rights

Resolutions, a number of countries considered that more negotiations were still needed on inter alia the terms governing the availability of breeders' lines, and the implementation of Farmers' Rights and National Sovereignty over plant genetic resources. The draft Resolution in front of you is the result of exhaustive negotiations which have been carried out through the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the last Session of the Council. By adopting it by consensus the Conference would be recognizing the careful attention and guidance given by Member Nations, which have greatly assisted the Secretariat in drafting this Resolution. The Resolution, once adopted, would emphasize the sovereign rights of nations over their plant genetic resources; it would set out the discretionary rights of breeders in respect of the availability of breeders' lines and the Resolution would also endorse the implementation of farmers' rights through an International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources. The policies, programmes and priorities of such a fund would be determined and overseen by the Commission on PGR, on which the donors of genetic, financial and technological resources are all represented.

The Fund is intended to be utilized by the different national, international and non-governmental organizations dealing with Plant Genetic Resources. This Resolution, once adopted, is expected to become the third annex to the International Undertaking.

Item 2 for your consideration is the International Code of Conduct for Collecting and Transfer of Germplasms which is presented as Appendix C.

The last Session of this Conference endorsed the request of the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources that the Organization draft this Code of Conduct for the Collection and Transfer of Germplasm. The Code will contribute, we hope within the context of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources to the conservation and rational use of biodiversity for sustainable development by providing broad guidelines for plant germplasm collection and transfer, transfer across the borders. A draft has been discussed by the Fourth Session of the Commission and its Working Group and their comments have been incorporated into the present draft, together with the written comments received by the deadline of 1 July 1991 from several members and from observers. The Secretariat trusts that the Conference will find the present text both fair and balanced, reflecting to the greatest extent possible the concerns of member countries.

Item 3 for your consideration is the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and is presented as Appendix D. This Technical Conference will follow the three previous ones hosted by FAO, this may not be known to all of you, in 1967, 1973, 1981 respectively. It will be held after UNCED in order to draw from UNCED's conclusions and recommendations. The Technical Conference will review the first 'State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources' and the 'Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources' to which I have already referred earlier to be prepared before the Conference, which is between now and the Conference, through a number of appropriate expert and regional meetings and with the assistance of an expert working group. The Commission and the FAO Council strongly supported this Conference, and agreed that it should be funded through extra-budgetary contributions by countries, and co-sponsored by other organizations involved, especially the CGIAR. The Secretariat has

calculated that a two-year preparatory process and the holding of the Conference will cost approximately US\$3 million. A few countries have already expressed their willingness to explore supporting the cost of the finance of the preparatory process and the Conference and we appreciate this. The Secretariat is initiating consultation with potential donor countries, but cannot initiate the preparatory process and technical meetings without firm financial commitments; you will understand that I underline this. The preparatory process of the Conference is long and it is important that we initiate it as soon as possible. I would like to encourage therefore delegates from countries that might be interested in financing the Conference to take this opportunity of being here to discuss it with us during your stay in Rome.

Those are my introductory explanations. I look forward to the questions which the delegates may have.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Thank you Mr de Haen for this fine introduction to Agenda Item 9. As you have said, we will be focusing on three main points, namely the draft resolution and the International Undertaking connected from that, as well as the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer and the third question concerns the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources. So ladies and gentlemen, I hope in your statements you will focus on these three specific points so as to enable the Secretariat to take on board what you have to say and then incorporate it in the report of the Commission.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour avoir bien voulu mettre à la disposition de la Conférence ce rapport intérimaire de ses activités sur le système mondial de conservation et d'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques. Nous voudrions en particulier remercier le présentateur de ce document C 91/24.

Ainsi qu'il ressort de l'annexe à ce document, le Congo est membre de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques depuis sa création. Il est également membre du groupe de travail de cette Commission et nous avons donc adhéré à l'engagement international des ressources phytogénétiques. C'est vous dire que nous avons eu plus d'une occasion pour exprimer nos vues sur ce domaine tout au long des différentes sessions, tant du groupe de travail que de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, qui ont analysé l'engagement et procédé à son interprétation.

Pour ces raisons, nous aurions pu nous taire, mais comme nous sommes à la Conférence et que la Conférence est l'organe suprême de l'Organisation et doit sanctionner les différentes activités de cette Organisation, nous avons jugé utile de prendre la parole à ce stade de nos travaux.

Nous pensons que tous ceux qui ne sont pas membres du groupe de travail et de la Commission conviendront avec nous que ce document C 91/24 est très riche en enseignements dans la mesure où il rappelle, depuis leur origine, les différentes activités menées par notre Organisation dans ce domaine à travers les différents mécanismes du groupe de travail, de la Commission, etc.

Cela étant dit, nous allons donc essayer de circonscrire notre intervention aux principales questions qui nous sont soumises.

Parmi ces principales questions, il y a le projet de résolution sur l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui figure comme annexe au document C 91/24. Sur ce point, nous voudrions dire que la dernière version qui nous est soumise ne nous pose pas de problèmes particuliers, dans la mesure où l'accent a été mis sur la reconnaissance des droits des agriculteurs que nous voudrions voir devenir une réalité concrète, et également sur les mécanismes qui pourraient rendre concrète cette réalité, à savoir le Fonds international pour les ressources phytogénétiques, en faveur duquel nous sommes tout à fait acquis.

Je voudrais également profiter de l'occasion pour dire que l'esprit dans lequel les différents textes qui nous sont soumis ont été rédigés nous convient tout à fait, dans la mesure où certaines notions qui n'apparaissaient pas dans la première version y figurent actuellement, notamment la souveraineté des Etats sur les ressources phytogénétiques relevant de leur site.

Le deuxième problème qui nous est soumis est le projet de Code international de conduite qui a été enrichi à la lumière des avis, des commentaires et des suggestions du groupe de travail et de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, qui pendant l'intersession coordonne les activités de l'Organisation et donne des orientations. Ici aussi, nous voudrions dire que nous rendons compte que les avis que les uns et les autres ont émis au cours du groupe de travail, et également au cours des différentes sessions de la Commission, ont été dûment tenus en ligne de compte. On retrouve toujours cet aspect de la souveraineté des Etats sur les ressources phytogénétiques de leur site. Nous voudrions dire que nous sommes très ouverts pour discuter cette dernière version avec les participants à la Conférence, mais d'ores et déjà nous sommes favorables à cette dernière version qui nous est présentée comme annexe C au document C 91/24.

Le dernier point sur lequel nous sommes appelés à nous prononcer est celui de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui serait la quatrième Conférence technique. Comme nous avons eu l'occasion de le dire en d'autres circonstances, nous pensons que le moment est venu pour que cette Conférence se tienne, en mettant l'accent particulièrement sur deux points essentiels, à savoir l'état des ressources phytogénétiques dans le monde et le plan d'action mondial pour les ressources phytogénétiques.

Pour terminer, malgré toutes les difficultés que l'Organisation a pu rencontrer tout au long du processus concernant les ressources phytogénétiques, nous pouvons estimer qu'un certain parcours a été fait, bien que beaucoup de choses restent à faire. Nous pensons aussi qu'à l'instar du domaine des ressources phytogénétiques l'Organisation devrait d'ores et déjà réfléchir pour prendre en charge l'autre domaine qui souffre un peu d'abandon, à savoir celui des ressources zoogénétiques. Nous espérons vivement que, dans les mois qui vont suivre, des dispositions puissent être entreprises par l'Organisation pour faire en sorte que les deux bras fonctionnent, que les progrès accomplis dans le domaine des ressources phytogénétiques puissent également profiter aux ressources

zoogénétiques qui, comme chacun le sait, présentent aussi un certain nombre de problèmes.

Voilà ce que je voulais dire à l'occasion de l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Nous aurions pu, bien sûr, dire beaucoup de choses, mais nous pensons que nous en avons assez dit au sein du groupe de travail et de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques. Nous nous limitons à lancer un appel pour que ceux qui n'ont pas encore adhéré à l'engagement des ressources phytogénétiques puissent le faire et deviennent très prochainement membres de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Thank you for a most welcome statement, delegate from the Congo. I can confirm that the draft resolution we have before us does indeed call upon us to abide by the rights of farmers and the sovereign rights of the governments over their resources.

HUANG YONG-NING (China) (Original language Chinese): First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to Dr de Haen for having presented this report so lucidly.

We are aware that in the past few years FAO has been extremely active through the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and this has contributed to both the protection of those resources and their exchange as well. We can certainly go along with the idea of conducting a study of the global status of plant genetic resources. We find that entirely satisfactory and we believe that the Organization should have constructive cooperation with the IBPGR. We can also go along with the draft resolution which is found in Appendix B.

Turning to the International Code of Conduct for Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, we have already expressed some of our views in this connection and we considered the International Code to be of great importance. We will call upon the relevant ministries and departments in our country to carry out a more in-depth study thereupon. So far we have not actually formally joined this activity, but we are thinking about it most seriously, and we will do our utmost to join the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

Ulf SVENSSON (Sweden): The impoverishment of the biological diversity of the planet is alarming. Genetic erosion is accelerating. Plant species of importance to agriculture are lost forever. The genetic base of the world food supply is under a growing stress. This appalling fact has met with grave concern all over the world. That concern is reflected inter alia in the final report of the important Keystone International Dialogue Series on Plant Genetic Resources.

There is a pressing need for decisive action to conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources. These efforts must not only aim at the domesticated species including the major food crops and the landraces. Of ever greater importance to the development of sustainable agriculture is the preservation of the wild and weedy relatives to the major food crops and even the genetic resources of unrelated wild species.

The build-up of resistance to pests and diseases through plant breeding will make it possible to minimize the use of environmentally harmful chemicals. Food security for a growing world population will to an increasing extent depend on successful plant breeding leading to a sustainable and environmentally sound improvement in the yield of major food crops. Plant breeding is thus, in the view of Sweden, a key field of action in sustainable agriculture and in the efforts to achieve food security.

From this perspective, Sweden considers it of the greatest importance to take action to make the Global System on Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources fully operational. Major components of a global system have been created by FAO. Much work remains, however, to be done in order to improve the capacity of the system, to promote effective and sustained action to stop the alarming genetic erosion in the world. Important proposals for further action are before us in the very substantial progress report on the Global System presented to us by the Secretariat.

Sweden considers the proposal to hold a fourth International Conference that would contribute to the preparations of a report on the state of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a global plan of action to be an important step in the efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the global system.

We are also in favour of the efforts to create a Global Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources. These efforts must, however, be closely coordinated with action that will be taken on this issue by the future Global Convention on Biological Diversity. Sweden further welcomes the very substantive progress made in the establishment of a network of ex situ base collections in close and good cooperation with the IBPGR.

Mr Chairman, an International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer is an important tool in the efforts to make the global system on plant genetic resources fully operational.

Such an instrument will inter alia contribute to ensuring that any collecting of germplasm will only be undertaken with full respect for national laws, local customs, rules and regulations. Sweden, however, is of the opinion that more work remains to be done in the preparation of a Final Draft Code of Conduct. It is being discussed in the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. We suggest that the present draft is referred to the Commission for further examination and final negotiation of this very important future Instrument.

The draft resolution submitted to the Conference in order to become the third Annex to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources has made useful progress in the development of the principles for access to plant genetic resources. It highlights the sovereign rights of nations to their plant genetic resources.

The draft resolution, however, also recognizes that further clarification is needed on conditions of access to plant genetic resources. Efforts to that end are being undertaken in the negotiations of the Global Convention on Biological Diversity. The importance of access to genetic resources on

mutually agreed terms has been stressed in these negotiations. Parties to the future Convention will further undertake to create conditions that will facilitate access and not impose restrictions on access to genetic resources that run counter to the principles of the future Convention.

In the negotiations, a link is being established between the provisions on access to genetic material and those on access to technology relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including plant genetic resources, and to technology that makes use of genetic material - that is, biotechnology.

In future work on clarification of the conditions of access of the undertaking, efforts should be made to harmonize fully the principles of access with those of the future Biodiversity Convention.

The draft resolution submitted by the Council further considers that in situ and ex situ conservation are important and complementary. Sweden agrees with this but would in this context like to submit that as the interest in the wild and weedy relatives of the major food crops and in other wild species is increasing in modern plant breeding, the importance of in situ conservation is growing. This is also the case in many instances as concerns the conservation of landraces. At the same time, we are fully aware of the importance of urgent action to improve ex situ conservation in all parts of the world and in particular of the importance of effective regeneration. This opens up an area for fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation between developed and developing countries. Major efforts are needed to build up safe genebanks in the developing countries. Sweden strongly supports the Council's recommendation that urgent studies should be undertaken by the FAO to identify any possible danger to the germplasm stored in genebanks and to find proper solutions. We are aware of the appalling situation in many of the genebanks all over the world.

The funding of plant genetic conservation and utilization programmes, in particular in the developing countries, is a major issue in the draft resolution. It is clear to Sweden that effective conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetics resources is a pressing and permanent need and that therefore the resources allocated to the relevant funding mechanisms should be substantial and sustainable. This important issue will have to be considered in the light of the UNCED process and of the decisions at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on funding mechanisms for the channelling of new and additional financial resources in particular to the developing countries as well as of the financial mechanism of the future Convention on Biodiversity.

It is quite clear that funding should not only be provided in support of in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources. Programmes on plant breeding and seed production, particularly in the developing countries, must also receive adequate funding. The build-up of the capacity of the developing countries for plant breeding, making use of modern technologies, is of the greatest importance in their efforts to achieve sustainable agriculture and food security. It should be actively supported by the relevant funding mechanisms, including through the transfer of technology on concessional terms.

In the preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) crucial decisions on conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources are being negotiated. This is being done in the Preparatory Committee of UNCED through Agenda 21, the great Programme of Action of Rio de Janeiro, and in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity that will cover both wild and domesticated species including plant genetic resources. The decisions at UNCED on biological diversity and plant genetic resources will have a major bearing on the future work to make the Global System on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources fully operational.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is the only permanent intergovernmental body in the UN system addressing a large portion of the world's biological diversity. Close considerations should be given to the utilization of this body and of the global system on conservation and use of plant genetic resources - including of course the Undertaking - in the implementation of both a convention on biological diversity and the provisions of Agenda 21 on plant genetic resources and biological diversity. This is of particular importance where the conservation and use of biological diversity for sustainable agriculture and rural development are concerned. These considerations should embrace also the institutional arrangements - the role of the components of the System in the institutional follow-up. The Director-General should be asked to convey the above to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity and to the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee of UNCED.

There is a need for FAO to prepare itself to take appropriate action to implement decisions at UNCED on this issue as a matter of urgency. Steps should therefore, in the view of the Swedish delegation, be taken to prepare for the holding of the next session of the Commission prior to the 1992 FAO Council in November of next year, in order to progress toward early implementation of UNCED decisions on biodiversity and plant genetic resources. This session might be an extraordinary session, provided financial means will be available, including from extrabudgetary resources.

Jung Sup CHOI (Korea, Republic of): As a member country in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and a country which also adhered to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the Korean Government fully supports FAO's various pioneering activities in conserving and developing plant genetic resources.

The Korean delegation supports the view that plant genetic resources are important resources for the use of all mankind. Plant genetic resources should be conserved for future generations and made available for scientific purposes for all nations.

The Korean delegation concurs in the agreement by both Commission and Council that it was premature to transform the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources into a binding legal agreement at this stage.

I believe that FAO, in cooperation with other international organizations, including UNEP and UNICEF, should reinforce its programmes and activities on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in less developed

member countries. Furthermore, in order to facilitate technological transfers, the establishment of training programmes for the scientists of developing countries should be considered.

Turning now to a more specific issue, the Korean delegation supports the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer in document C 91/24, page C3. I would like to emphasize, however, as is explicitly presented in the Proposed Chapter II, Article 3.1, that the Code should be based on voluntary participation. Again, the Korean delegation endorses the Draft Code and extends its gratitude to the FAO Secretariat and the Agriculture Department for the preparation of the Draft, in spite of substantial difficulties.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, we have listened with great interest to the points that you have made regarding the fact that it should not be of a compulsory nature.

A. FEBERWEE (Netherlands): The present document provides an excellent summary of the stage reached in the debate on conservation of plant genetic resources. The Netherlands has a large and active plant breeding and seed production industry. Plant genetic resources form the basic raw material of plant breeding and clearly the Netherlands has therefore not just an interest but also a responsibility in contributing to conservation of this natural resource. The Netherlands is well aware that it owes much to plant genetic resources collected in various centres of diversity which are mainly located in the tropics and sub-tropics. In return, the Netherlands has contributed technology and improved varieties which, under Plant Breeders' Right legislation, are freely available for further breeding without restrictions. In addition, the Centre of Plant Genetic Resources in the Netherlands contributes to conservation of genetic diversity, and its collections are without restrictions available to other genebanks and crop improvement programmes the world over, adhering to the FAO Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the IBPGR programme.

The Netherlands delegation is satisfied with the progress made by the FAO Commission and its Working Group. It is especially pleased with the increasingly constructive nature of its deliberations. It has also noted with satisfaction the present good relationships with the IBPGR.

At the previous meeting of the Council the Netherlands has, in principle, expressed its agreement with the need for an International Financing Mechanism to provide adequate and sustainable funding for plant genetic resources conservation. Any global mechanism designed to promote political and policy oversight, mobilization and distribution of funds, and implementation of well-defined tasks should fulfil a number of basic criteria: In the first place, it should have the confidence of all countries which are important repositories of plant genetic resources; secondly, it should inspire support from contributors of germplasm, information, funds and technology; and thirdly, it should be capable of ensuring effective, economic and timely implementation of approved programmes.

Plant genetic resources are part of the overall biodiversity issue. At the UN Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992 this issue will be one of the major topics. The creation of an FAO International Fund for plant genetic resources will be considered positively. Allow me, however, in this context to remind you of the existence of the Global Environmental Facility, which also deals with the conservation of biological diversity. Good coordination between the two fronts should be promoted.

The Netherlands delegation is in general agreement with the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Genetic Resources Collecting and Transfer. It wants to stress that the code should promote rather than restrict collecting activities. In practice, collecting activities of the Dutch Genebank are already adhering to the present Draft Code. There may be a need to differentiate between different objectives of collecting. Some collection activities are narrowly targeted to finding specific characters of direct relevance to on-going breeding programmes. Others are carried out as part of international programmes, amongst others under the aegis of IBPGR to sample overall genetic diversity for the purpose of conservation per se and thus for the benefit of all potential users. Such different objectives may require somewhat different rules and regulations to be reflected in the proposed code.

The Netherlands agrees with the rationale provided for a Fourth International Technical Conference on plant genetic resources. It expects that, whatever the outcome of UNCED 1992, such a technical conference will be needed to move internationalization of plant genetic resources' conservation forward and help the Commission in achieving some of its objectives.

Let me conclude by saying that the Netherlands wants to express its appreciation to the Secretariat of the Commission for the good and thorough documentation it has provided.

Ali ERYILMAZ (Turkey): I would like to express the thanks of my delegation to Dr de Haen for his clear and precise introduction of the agenda item under discussion. I would also like to express our appreciation of FAO for its valuable support to the activities on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources, especially in developing countries. The Turkish delegation would like to emphasize FAO's very important role in the establishment of the Global Network of Plant Genetic Resources and its efforts to reach wider adherence to the Undertaking and wider acceptability of the system.

We fully agree with the objectives of the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources, developed by the Organization since 1983.

Turkey is listed among the countries which adhered to the international Undertaking and became a member of the Commission. Consequently we felt the need to bring our national and international activities under discipline, in view of the fact that Turkey is one of the most important countries on genetic resources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has prepared a set of rules and regulations with due consideration of the views stated in document C 91/24. According to the Regulation for the Collection, Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources in Turkey,

priorities have been given to selected plant groups, areas and international organizations.

The Turkish delegation also supports the views and activities on ex situ Conservation and Networking and in situ Protected Areas and Networking, and considers them to be a positive progress. By these networking arrangements for in situ conservation of plant genetic resources, all ecosystems as well as plant groups including forest trees and genetic resources will be protected by establishing protected areas where the plant species will be evaluated and selected ones will be protected in their own environment. In this way, plant species will be inherited by future generations within their respective ecosystems.

In Appendix B of the document C 91/24, the Draft Conference Resolution Annex 3 to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is well thought out and prepared. However, we would like to propose a minor change in wording. On page B2 the last line of paragraph 3 mentions "Third World". Instead of this, usage of "developing countries" will be more suitable in terms of clarity.

My delegation considers the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer given in Appendix C a well-prepared guideline and offers its appreciation for the work done. This Code will hopefully serve as a point of reference to many individual countries for the establishment of their own codes.

I would like to conclude by saying that my delegation endorses the Draft Resolution contained in C 91/24. We are also pleased to give our approval to the convening of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I think the amendment you have proposed can be supported by everyone.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): Mr de Haen has provided an excellent overview to commence discussion of this item. Many of the issues highlighted in the document before us have been addressed at length in other FAO fora during the past year. Thus, as you suggested, Mr Chairman, most of our attention can be devoted to the matters requiring decision by the Conference.

The Draft Resolution to further amend the International Undertaking has the support of my Government. We participated fully as it was being formulated by the Working Group of the Commission and subsequently refined during the June Council. It contains clauses which are important to both developing and developed countries. The importance of national sovereignty to member countries is clearly evident.

The United States believes unrestricted access is also an important issue that must be identified in the Resolution as a matter requiring further clarification. Funding is always a delicate issue, and the Resolution before us merely notes the importance of resource flows to enable plant genetic resources to be effectively conserved and utilized. The fragile

balance in the Resolution can be undone by any attempt to modify it. We hope the Conference will adopt it.

The United States has provided the Secretariat with a number of general and specific comments on the Draft Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer. They are too numerous to repeat here. Some of them simply request word additions, deletions or substitutions, but others would require more substantial modification. For example, in paragraphs 1.7 to 1.9 we believe too much attention is given to benefits and not enough mention is made of the costs involved. As we have indicated previously, the United States prefers the term "guidelines" instead of "code of conduct".

In view of the magnitude of our own comments on the Draft before us, we suggest that the Commission's Working Group tries to reconcile the various comments members may have on the Draft rather than having the Conference act upon it.

If we can turn briefly to other issues raised in the document, paragraph 8 states that "The Commission functions on the basis of one country, one vote". We would ask, does the Commission act differently from other FAO committees? We do not recall any votes having been taken during Commission sessions. It has operated by consensus as far as we can remember.

Paragraph 15 indicates that one of the most important tasks of the Commission is the development of international agreements. Global prescriptions are not always the best medicine. Focusing on individual country and regional issues is also very important.

The United States supports the timely preparation of the Report entitled State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. Discussion of regional plant genetic resource issues during the 1992 FAO Regional Conferences can contribute to this Report. Both the Report and regional discussions can provide a solid basis for convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, probably in early 1994. The Technical Conference may also be important in determining how FAO can best follow up the results of the 1992 UNCED. We support the steps outlined in Appendix D to prepare for the Conference. Much needs to be done in the plant genetic resource area in the next few years. The Commission and its Working Group should play a vital part in this process; thus, no consideration should be given to widening the mandate of the Commission until after the next International Technical Conference is convened.

The United States has enjoyed representing North America on the Working Group of the Commission since we joined the Commission in 1990. We look forward to continuing that involvement during the next biennium. It is important to have a Working Group which can adequately perform technical reviews on a wide variety of issues between Commission sessions.

Finally, we are in complete accord with the preparation of "insightful" proposals made by the delegate of Sweden.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would agree with the points you have made concerning the draft before us, because any amendment in addition to it at this stage in our work might create all sorts of difficulties which we might not be able to cope with at this time.

With regard to the Turkish amendment, it is really a very simple proposal, as you have heard. It is just a matter of changing one particular term in order to align that text with the normal position of developing countries.

Magnar SUNDFOR (Norway) : On behalf of our delegation, I would like to express our appreciation of the fact that the question of the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources has been given attention in the overall work of FAO. We appreciate the progress made by FAO in establishing a global system for plant genetic resources.

The Fourth Session of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources considered a Draft Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer. The Norwegian delegation thinks that the Draft Code of Conduct provides the guidance needed and gives the required support for the protection of both collectors and donors of germplasm. The Code is voluntary, but carries a strong message to governments, organizations, institutions and individuals involved in collection and transfer of germplasm. Therefore, we find the Draft Code of Conduct complies with requirements in the field and can give it our full support. Nevertheless, we wish to stress that the Code of Conduct must be followed up in the light of the UNCED decisions.

At the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June 1991, a Draft Resolution intended to be included as the third annex to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was discussed. However, some delegations had reservations and it was decided to establish a Working Group to analyse the nature of the reservations. We would like to thank the Working Group for the work done in resolving the matter. Our delegation considers the proposed Resolution is well balanced, and we can support it. In this connection we would underline the fact that the Resolution must be followed up in the context of the UNCED process.

The document presents in paragraphs 19-22 the various mechanisms for the conservation of genetic variations and the conservation of sustainable use of genetic variations. These are of high priority for my Government. At national, regional and international level we support the work on the conservation of plant genetic resources. This is done through participation in the Nordic genebank, through participation in the financing of a regional genebank for the SADCC countries, and support to the IBPGR and FAO, as well as participation in various other multilateral fora.

A couple of years ago, IBPGR and FAO approached the Norwegian Government regarding the possibilities of using permafrost conditions for security storage of germplasm collections. Norway has considered this request positively. My delegation, therefore, hopes that both developing and developed countries intend to benefit from the SIS.

Conservation for the future benefit of species carrying valuable traits is important. The convening of the Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources would therefore be a good idea. FAO should prepare for such a Conference the first State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a Global Plan of Action.

My delegation supports the suggestion from the Swedish delegation that close consideration should be given to the utilization of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and of the global system on conservation of plant

genetic resources in the implementation of both a convention on biological diversity and the provisions of Agenda Item 21 on plant genetic resources. We also give our support to the suggestion that consideration be given to holding an extraordinary session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in 1992.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : As I have an appointment which was made a little while ago, with the permission of the Commission I will hand over the chairmanship to the delegate of Peru who is one of the Vice-Chairmen.

Manuel Vara Ochoa. Vice-Chairman of Commission I. took the chair.

Manuel Vara Ochoa. Vice-Président de la Commission I. assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Manuel Vara Ochoa. Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

EL PRESIDENTE: Siguiendo la discusión del importante tema sobre la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos de gran trascendencia dentro de lo que es la seguridad alimentaria, me es muy grato dar la palabra al representante de Madagascar.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Ma délégation est heureuse de vous voir à la présidence pour l'examen de ce point important de l'ordre du jour. Permettez-nous de remercier le Secrétariat pour la production du document C 91/24 riche en informations. Nous félicitons également M. De Haen pour sa présentation très claire du sujet.

La délégation malgache se félicite de l'adhésion de plus en plus importante d'Etats Membres de l'Organisation à la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Cela dénote l'intérêt qu'ils portent à ce sujet vital pour une agriculture durable et performante, comme l'a précisé si justement la délégation de la Suède.

Madagascar est membre du Groupe de travail sur les ressources phyto-génétiques et, à ce titre, n'a ménagé aucun effort pour promouvoir l'adhésion de tous les Etats Membres de la FAO. Il peut être fier de partager avec les autres membres du Groupe de travail le mérite d'avoir obtenu les résultats encourageants enregistrés aujourd'hui. Bien entendu, nous sommes disposés à conforter ces résultats et à oeuvrer pour que les pays qui n'ont pas encore adhéré au mécanisme le fassent bientôt.

Quelques commentaires à l'endroit du document et des propositions qui y figurent: nous faisons nôtres toutes les propositions et recommandations formulées dans ledit document mais, en particulier, celles relatives au Fonds international pour les ressources phytogénétiques (paragraphe 13 du document). Les justifications concernant ce Fonds sont également données aux paragraphes 29 à 32 du document. Nous sommes convaincus que les donateurs seront encouragés à participer au Fonds car il est démontré que c'est une nécessité si nous voulons aller de l'avant.

A relever que le fonds devra être substantiel, durable et respecter les principes d'équité et de transparence dans ce secteur.

Cependant, ma délégation voudrait attirer l'attention de cette auguste assemblée sur les dispositions pertinentes du paragraphe 18. Le Conseil a demandé au Secrétariat de préparer un projet de Code de conduite sur les biotechnologies. Ma délégation voudrait savoir à quel niveau se trouve ladite préparation et souhaiterait, si vous le permettez, que l'on ajoute un point 5 au paragraphe 43 relatif à ce sujet libellé comme suit:

"Approuve la Recommandation du Conseil sur la préparation d'un projet de Code de conduite sur les biotechnologies."

Enfin, ma délégation donne son appui aux deux projets de résolution relatifs d'une part à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques et, d'autre part au Code international de conduite pour la collecte et le transfert du matériel phytogénétique.

Bien entendu, nous sommes favorables à la tenue de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétiques et souhaitons que des facilités soient accordées aux pays en voie de développement pour leur permettre une participation conséquente. Nous joignons notre voix à celle de M. de Haen pour lancer un appel auprès des donateurs pour le financement des travaux de la Conférence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las interesantes sugerencias del Representante de Madagascar en relación a la asistencia de los países en vías de desarrollo a la próxima Conferencia.

Muy amable por sus expresiones.

Mirza Tasadduq BEG (Bangladesh) : At the outset I thank the Secretariat for the excellent progress report in document C 91/24.

My delegation is pleased to note that the urgent need for conservation and promotion of unrestricted availability and sustainable utilization of plant resources for present and future generations has received the attention and endorsement of at least 128 Member Nations of FAO. Protection of plant germplasm for future generations and its availability for scientific purposes have far-reaching implications in the protection of the environment and sustainable agricultural development.

My delegation appreciates the active role that FAO has been playing towards developing, in cooperation with Member Nations, the global system of plant genetic resources. We would also like to record our appreciation and support to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for the very good and substantive work that it has so far done in collaboration and close coordination with various national, regional and international organizations dealing with plant genetic resources on a sustainable basis.

My delegation is strongly of the opinion that the efforts of FAO, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and other international organizations must not suffer due to funding constraints. The International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources should have all the support it needs for

the implementation of the principles contained in the International Undertaking that was established by Resolution 8/83 of the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference. We also support the idea of preparing a periodic report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, as mentioned in paragraph 25 of the document, which would cover all aspects of activities and programmes being carried out by regional, international and other non-governmental organizations.

Bangladesh, the largest delta in the world, has been bestowed with rich vegetation. Abundant year-round solar radiation, lowland tropical environment and high humidity throughout the year have rendered Bangladesh rich in photosensitive and photoneutral herbs and trees. The frequent devastating floods, tidal waves and cyclones damage and wash away not only our crops but also many other non-crop wild species of plants. The impact of this has not only led to the erosion of genetic diversities of plant species, but also to the extinction and threat to many animal species. However, the threat is more serious for plants than for animals. We might have already lost many species of plants and hundreds of germplasms.

We can hardly overemphasize our concern for the collection, conservation and evaluation of germplasm, not only of cultivated crops and their wild relatives, but also of non-crop plant species. We must find ways to preserve our plant species along with their genetic diversity for future use within the country, as well as worldwide. We need help and assistance from all quarters, the FAO, the IBPGR and all other organizations and donor agencies. It is not in the interests of Bangladesh alone; it is in the interest of all generations of mankind to come.

As a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and among the countries adhering to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, Bangladesh fully supports the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, and calls upon the Conference to adopt it. We also strongly support the recommendations of the Commission and the Council for convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradecemos, señor Representante de Bangladesh, por sus inquietudes presentadas en relación con este tema.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): The Thailand delegation would like to express its appreciation to the FAO for its efforts in the coordinating role of conservation, availability and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources, including its coordination with the IBPGR and the CGIAR.

Our delegation also recognizes the need for a global system for planning and action, as contained in document C 91/24. Consequently, the Thai delegation would like to thank the Secretariat, especially the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and its Working Group, for their intensive work.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources proposed a draft resolution with regard to the questions raised in paragraph 11 of the document concerning: 1, the availability of plant breeders' lines; 2, the implementation of farmers' rights; and 3, the sovereign rights over plant genetic resources.

The Thai delegation has considered these questions and would like to make the following comments.

For the global system, especially its function and structure as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the document, the Thai delegation would like to support the proposed function and structure, but they should be further elaborated in technical terms.

Consequently, the Thai delegation supports FAO convening the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources to follow on the three previous conferences convened by FAO in 1967, 1973 and 1981.

The draft resolution as proposed in the Appendix B of the document, the Thai delegation would like to support this, but for the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, as attached to the document, which covered a wide range of commitment that my government would like to take further considerations in some aspects, especially in the legal term.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hemos tomado nota, señor Representante de Tailandia a través de la Secretaria, de sus inquietudes sobre el Código de Conducta Internacional.

Ms Heather AMYS (Canada) : Canada would like to thank Dr de Haen for his informative introduction to this very important agenda item. The document before us reflects the enormity and complexity of the important challenge of preservation and wise use of our genetic resources.

Canada is pleased to have become one of the one hundred-and-eleven countries that have joined the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and as such, we endorse, in general, the outcome of the fourth session of the commission reported in document C 91/24.

Clearly, the commission has made significant progress in solving various issues where there has been a divergence of opinion, as now, one hundred-and-three countries have signed the international undertaking on plant genetic resources. However, Canada does not yet find itself in a position to sign this undertaking. In 1988, we outlined four obstacles to our acceptance; the potential duplication of work done by the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources; uncertainty about international standards for gene banks; the need to protect lines being used in plant breeding; and finally, the need to ensure unrestricted access to preserved genetic resources.

We welcomed the signing of the memorandum of understanding on programme cooperation between FAO and the IBPGR early in 1990, as this removed the first two of these obstacles. Passage of the draft resolution before this Conference would alleviate our third concern about breeder's lines. We therefore fully support the resolution as it stands, with the amendment proposed by Turkey.

The final obstacle to Canadian acceptance of the undertaking stems from our conviction that the relevance of the undertaking hinges upon the need for international agreement on acceptable terms of access to plant genetic

resources. We believe that it is implicit that countries have sovereignty over the resources found in their territories. The undertaking needs to go one step further - to focus these rights in a common direction - a direction which recognizes the common heritage of mankind. The international exchange of genetic resources is only possible when the countries involved have agreement of conditions for access. This undertaking should, in our opinion, provide internationally agreed upon guidelines on conditions for access. That, as the draft resolution before us recognizes, is the challenge that remains ahead for the commission on plant genetic resources.

Canada welcomes the preparation of an international code of conduct for plant germplasm collection and transfer. We have, though been unsuccessful in obtaining a thorough analysis from our experts, as we only just received the revised text upon our arrival in Rome. We are pleased to see a new and improved draft before us, and in the interest of expediting the important work in this field, we are prepared to endorse, in principle, the provisions of this Code.

Canada favours the convening of the fourth international technical conference on plant genetic resources, planned for late 1993 or 1994. We look forward to further information on the proposed content and objectives of the conference, and are prepared to cooperate in facilitating its preparation. We agree with the need to review the state of the world's plant genetic resources and to develop a global action plan on Plant Genetic Resources. In our view, these activities are integral to the preparations for the technical conference.

As members of both the Commission and the Council, we endorse the recommendation that urgent studies be undertaken to identify, and to propose solutions to possible dangers to germplasm in the countries particularly those of central and Eastern Europe. This occurrence underlines the need for the Global Early Warning System for Plant Genetic Resources which is supposed to address situations such as this one, and which has been in the Commission plan for a number of years.

Much work remains to be done in order to conserve plant genetic resources adequately. The creation of an international fund for Plant Genetic Resources is a credible way to generate money to support genetic resources work, and to "compensate traditional farming societies". However, we feel it would have been useful to specify in document C 91/24, for the members of the Conference, the voluntary nature of the fund, and also to provide more information on the use of the monies in this fund. We believe that the establishment of a transparent and scientifically based project selection, management and monitoring system would attract more contributions to this international fund.

It is well known that UNEP is endeavouring to produce a draft of a global convention on biological diversity in time for the 1992 UN Conference on the environment and development. There are clearly important linkages between the global biodiversity convention and FAO's global system on plant genetic resources. There is general agreement on the need for a international instrument to conserve and protect biodiversity. A workable system of genetic exchanges world-wide is important to the continued research and development of agriculture, food and other biological resources. Current arrangements are ad hoc and different for plants,

animals and micro-organisms. The UNEP biodiversity convention negotiations are leading to a rationalization of the approach. Canada is therefore pleased to note that FAO has made available to UNEP and to the UNCED Secretariat, reports on the global system on PGR. We also welcome the participation of the FAO staff member in the Secretariat of the International Negotiating Committee on Biodiversity. And, we encourage FAO to provide Member Nations with further information about his participation - the extent, the role, the objectives, and so forth.

In closing Canada would like to express our appreciation for the statement of Sweden and we fully support their proposals regarding the role of the FAO generally, and the Commission on PGR specifically, in the preparations and the follow-up to the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

We also concur with the proposal to convene a commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the fall of 1992.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las opiniones de la Representante de Canadá, referente a la interacción de los recursos fitogenéticos y biodiversidad.

La Secretaria ha tomado nota, también, de sus inquietudes en relación con el Código de Conducta.

Tiene la palabra el Representante de España.

José Miguel BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Primeramente, señor Presidente, mi delegación agradece al Dr. de Haen la presentación que ha hecho al tema, concisa y clara. Asimismo felicita también al Secretariado por el documento C 91/24 que une, a la virtud de ser breve, el recoger perfectamente los progresos realizados en el establecimiento del Sistema Mundial de la FAO para la Conservación y Utilización de los Recursos Fitogenéticos.

España viene expresando con continuidad en este foro su preocupación por la necesidad de salvaguardar los recursos fitogenéticos para que puedan ser utilizados de una forma equitativa en beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras. Ha expresado también su convencimiento de que este objetivo sólo puede alcanzarse mediante los esfuerzos y el respaldo conjugados de la comunidad internacional.

Durante el vigésimo periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia, en 1979, año en que España ostentaba su presidencia, la delegación española propuso crear una red internacional de bancos de genes bajo los auspicios de la FAO para asegurar la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos y su disponibilidad para beneficio de todos los países. Esta idea, recogida y apoyada por otras delegaciones, fue germen que ha ido tomando cuerpo y perfeccionándose en los sucesivos periodos de sesiones de la Conferencia hasta llegar al actual sistema global.

Ha sido una labor colectiva en la que ha destacado, justo es recordarlo, el denodado esfuerzo de algunas delegaciones, en particular de América Latina, y de modo especial la delegación de México, que abanderó en momentos difíciles el establecimiento de este sistema mundial.

Desde 1979 la delegación española ha venido apoyando numerosas e importantes iniciativas que se han ido generando hasta alcanzar la configuración que hoy tiene el Sistema Mundial de Recursos Fitogenéticos de la FAO con una participación que, creo, sin pecar de inmodestia, puede calificarse de muy activa en todos los debates que han tenido lugar durante este transcurso de años, tanto en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y su Grupo de Trabajo como en el Consejo, cuando ha habido lugar, y en la Conferencia.

Ha cabido a mi delegación el honor de que un español ocupase la presidencia en la Comisión y la vicepresidencia primera.

España, en colaboración con la FAO, viene organizando una serie de cursos de capacitación para América Latina sobre recursos fitogenéticos y producción de semillas. El próximo, que se celebrará en la Argentina, es el sexto o el séptimo que se imparte.

Digo todo esto como demostración de una trayectoria que puede facilitar la comprensión de la posición de mi delegación ante los asuntos que se someten a la consideración de esta Conferencia.

En relación con el primero de ellos, el proyecto de resolución que el Consejo acordó presentar a la Conferencia, mi delegación apoya su aprobación, con la enmienda propuesta por Turquía, por ser un compromiso obtenido a través de mucho diálogo y buena voluntad de las partes interesadas y aunque la fórmula adoptada quizás no sea la que hubiera preferido cada uno.

Respecto al Código Internacional de Conducta para la recolección y transparencia de germoplasma vegetal, mi delegación está de acuerdo con el espíritu y su contenido, pero considera que podría mejorarse la forma, puesto que en algunos puntos puede resultar repetitivo y, en la traducción española al menos, el lenguaje puede mejorarse.

Sin embargo, la delegación española manifiesta su interés por que, a ser posible, el Código de Conducta sea aprobado por la Conferencia y por que no se demore su aprobación dos años más. Pero hemos visto que alguna otra delegación tiene también observaciones al respecto, y si ello supone dificultades para su aprobación en su redacción actual, propondríamos que, si existe la posibilidad, se cree un grupo de contacto dentro de esta Comisión que permita alcanzar un consenso antes de someter el Código a la Plenaria.

Con referencia a la propuesta de que la FAO convoque la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos, mi delegación desea declarar lo siguiente: El Gobierno español considera del máximo interés la celebración de esta Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional y está estudiando la forma en que puede materializar su apoyo, si bien, antes de concretar su compromiso, espera conocer en qué medida otros países, y en particular otros países miembros de la Comunidad Europea, comparten este interés.

De todos modos, puedo adelantar que, en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, se dispondrá ya de una cierta suma para 1992, que en su momento se comunicará al Secretariado, para aplicarla a las actividades

preparatorias de la Conferencia Técnica, preferiblemente para aquéllas relacionadas con América Latina y el Caribe.

Finalmente, la delegación española verá con sumo agrado que la FAO realice estudios para identificar los peligros que amenazan a la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos en distintos países y que haga las propuestas pertinentes de solución.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las enaltecidas palabras del señor Representante de España, así como el aporte técnico, el aporte de capacitación y los recursos dentro de un tema de trascendental importancia.

Srta. Martha VAZQUEZ (México): Permítanme felicitar al Sr. de Haen por la excelente exposición del documento C 91/24, el cual contiene la evolución y componentes del sistema mundial de FAO sobre recursos fitogenéticos, así como propuestas de interés para mi país.

La delegación mexicana reconoce la labor y los esfuerzos que ha realizado el equipo de la FAO en esta materia para desarrollar un sistema mundial único de recursos fitogenéticos, que contiene el Compromiso Internacional, la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Fondo Internacional. En este sentido, la delegación mexicana, después de haber analizado cuidadosamente el proyecto de resolución contenido en el Apéndice B del documento que nos ocupa, considera que se puede convertir en el tercer anexo del Compromiso Internacional, considera que la cuestión de soberanía sobre los recursos fitogenéticos está correctamente tratada.

Sin embargo, se considera que es necesario seguir analizando dos elementos de la misma resolución, las condiciones de acceso a los recursos, en la cual mi delegación apreciaría que se acepte la idea de un acceso regulado a los recursos fitogenéticos por el país originario; y, segunda, que en el punto cuarto de la parte operativa, relativo al Fondo, al cual se debería señalar la cantidad, así como su carácter: si éste sería involuntario u obligatorio, a efectos de lograr que los países en desarrollo cuenten con la facilidad para la conservación y regeneración de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Por otra parte, y en relación al Código de Conducta, mi delegación considera que es un texto valioso que podría servir de guía necesaria para las actividades que desempeñan los países en desarrollo en esta materia, no obstante haber expresado en su momento la necesidad de que se incluyera la reafirmación de la soberanía de los Estados sobre los recursos fitogenéticos y que se excluyera el término de "custodia", a pesar de que el Código no es vinculante.

Asimismo, nuestra delegación reconoce el carácter voluntario del Código y que las medidas prácticas, técnicas y administrativas previstas en él constituyen una práctica normal. La delegación de mi país considera de gran importancia dicho Código, toda vez que para México resulta importante que se pueda contar con un instrumento para los recolectores internacionales de germoplasma vegetal, ya que, por ser el centro de origen de un grupo importante de especies vegetales y animales, somos objeto, en ocasiones, de continuas presiones hacia nuestros recursos fitogenéticos por los recolectores internacionales.

Por lo que respecta a la propuesta de convocar a la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos, cuyo costo se estima en tres billones de dólares, pudiéndose financiar con contribuciones extrapresupuestales, la delegación mexicana apoya la misma y hace un llamado a los miembros de la Conferencia para aprobar la celebración de dicha Conferencia a fines de 1993. Igualmente considera que la celebración de la Conferencia después de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo daría oportunidad de instrumentar sus decisiones en programas con una base técnica sólida para prestar asistencia decisiva a los países en desarrollo y proteger el medio ambiente.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, a la delegación mexicana no le queda clara la integración del pequeño grupo especial de expertos a que hace referencia, que, según entiende mi delegación, se avocará la preparación del estado de los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo y el plan de acción respectivo, por lo que solicita atentamente a la Secretaría nos aclare esto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las opiniones de México. La Secretaría ha tomado conocimiento de su inquietud en relación al pequeño grupo de expertos.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My delegation would like to congratulate Dr de Haen on his clear introduction of the paper. My country became a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in March of this year and has committed itself further to contributing to the activities in this field as a member of the Commission. We are not yet in a position to adhere to other International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources because my country is not completely convinced on the issue of farmers' rights and breeders' rights, although there has been significant progress on this issue.

My delegation would like to comment on each item presented by the Secretariat. First, regarding the Draft Conference Resolution Annex 3 in Appendix B, we would like to make clear the expected role of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the fifth paragraph of the points on page B2, and also the identification of the appropriate bodies in the same paragraph. We would appreciate being consulted on the members of this body as well as the advice procedure.

Second, regarding the proposed Code of Conduct, Appendix C, we also have some comments. My Government considers that the exchange of genetic resources should not be controlled uniformly because the system of genetic resource conservation now varies among the nations. Therefore, we would like to request that the Code of Conduct remains a voluntary one. However, in the case of Japan, we would like to treat the question of plant genetic collection case by case, not based on a Code of Conduct.

It is understandable to my country that the Code of Conduct mentions that plant genetic resources are such valuable common assets of mankind that they should be protected from reckless collection in the host country. In particular, it has also been our guideline to provide the host country with duplicate sets of all samples. However, given the existing condition of genetic resource conservation in every country, which is quite different, the uniform application of this Code of Conduct would give rise to

problems. It is obvious that the advantage of double conservation, both in collector and host country, could not be effective without proper facilities for seed storage being available in the host countries.

My Government has cooperated in building seed storage facilities for plant genetic resources as well as providing technical cooperation in many countries such as Bangladesh, Chile, Myanmar, Suriname, Thailand, and so on.

My Government has great anxiety about this proposed Code of Conduct. We are anxious that too strict or rigorous a code and duties may hamper the established international system of plant genetic conservation and its use.

Plant genetic collection organized on a governmental base is characterized as an academic research activity and plays a role in research cooperation as well as in the exchange of information between two nations. In this sense, their constructive activities should not be hampered by this Code of Conduct.

Regarding the Fourth International Conference cited in Appendix B, my Government is pleased to participate fully.

EL PRESIDENTE: En relación a su inquietud sobre el proyecto de resolución y código de conducta, ha tomado nota la Secretaría.

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): Mr Chairman, my delegation has examined with interest the documents put before us by the Secretariat; we think this is a very important matter. I am pleased to announce that my country, which was already a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and of its Working Group, has now signed the International Undertaking so that it can fully join in the work of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.

The Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm and Transfer is also an essential tool for promoting and developing plant genetic resources and will enable governments and institutions to exchange germplasm more rapidly and on a safe basis. We also think that special attention must be given to the networks of ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources. We also look forward to the Fourth International Technical Conference and stress the need for a wide consultation between FAO and other international and national organizations on this particular subject.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Con relación al documento C 91/24, la delegación argentina desea hacer las siguientes consideraciones: primera, la negociación actual del Convenio sobre biodiversidad procura asegurar, entre otros aspectos, el acceso regulado a recursos genéticos sujeto al acuerdo entre partes y legislación nacional, la soberanía del Estado sobre los recursos y los beneficios derivados de aplicación de la tecnología a esos recursos para países de origen del material genético. Dentro de ese marco, mi delegación apoya iniciativas dirigidas a asegurar la conservación e intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos dentro del sistema mundial. Sin embargo, no parece conveniente aceptar, lisa y llanamente, el criterio

expresado en el 2.1, párrafo 5, que dice: "... y fomentar disponibilidad sin restricciones ...".

En el párrafo 1 del Artículo 2.1 se considera también importante reconocer tanto los derechos del obtentor como los del agricultor. Ambos deben ser compensados. En ese sentido, el proyecto del Apéndice B parece aclarar y reconocer puntos de particular importancia.

Los párrafos 29 y 30 relativos a "financiación del plan de acción mundial mediante la aplicación de derechos del agricultor", reconocen que quienes están haciendo biotecnología necesitan germoplasma, y se compensa a los agricultores. Esto parece una buena solución, que podría tomarse en negociación del Convenio sobre biodiversidad.

Con respecto al Código internacional de conducta para recolección y transferencia de germoplasma vegetal, el proyecto del Apéndice C requeriría mayor estudio antes de la adopción. En principio, no podrían aceptarse expresiones como "custodios de recursos fitogenéticos silvestres", enunciadas en el Artículo 1º, puntos 8 y 9 y Artículo 2.1. Se trata de propietarios o usuarios de recursos y no "custodios".

Asimismo, el Artículo 2.9 señala qué derechos de los agricultores se confieren a la comunidad internacional. En ambos casos, parece subyacer el concepto de patrimonio común de la humanidad que debió ser aclarado en repetidas ocasiones.

Los Artículos 4.2 y 5.1 deberían señalar, ante todo, la necesidad de acuerdo con las leyes nacionales. En el Artículo 11 podría agregarse un inciso que dijera: "En caso de que se patente cualquier nuevo producto o proceso del germoplasma, la patente debe ser compartida con el país en que se colecciona". Generalmente, se hace un contrato entre la institución que hace de "sponsor" de la colección y la empresa, individuo o institución que colecta, llamado "contrato de vinculación tecnológica".

Con respecto a la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional, la mencionada Conferencia que se realizará entre fines de 1993 y comienzos de 1994 deberá tener en cuenta los compromisos alcanzados en el Comité negociador de biodiversidad y los arreglos institucionales que surjan en UNCED. Los trabajos preparatorios que se espera iniciar no deben duplicar esfuerzos que actualmente se realizan en ese sentido.

Respecto de la reunión del Grupo Especial de Expertos, que se convocara para enero, se sugiere se reúna luego de la sexta reunión del Comité de Biodiversidad prevista para fines de febrero, teniendo en cuenta que de ella se esperan resultados o tendencias firmes. La designación de expertos sólo podrá aceptarse si se trata de expertos gubernamentales, porque son los gobiernos quienes participan en la Conferencia, y además deberá asegurarse una adecuada representación geográfica equilibrada que contemple los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Argentina también insiste sobre la importancia que reviste la regionalización de las actividades para la difusión e intercambio de conocimientos y germoplasma.

Con respecto a la relación, interesa que se mantenga a la FAO como control sobre el IBPGR y el CIRF. Con respecto al Código de conducta, se considera en definitiva que es muy prematuro en relación con el estadio de las negociaciones internacionales.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): On behalf of the Indian delegation, I would like to thank the Secretariat for its comprehensive and informative document. It indicates how the global system on plant genetic resources has been developed by FAO during the last decade and the other components which are still under development. I should also like to congratulate Dr de Haen for his very useful overview of this document.

Availability of plant genetic resources is necessary not only for making advances in crop productivity and stabilizing agricultural production, but also to enable us to protect the environment with sustainability.

Indian interest and concern in the collection and utilization of plant genetic resources dates back to the early decades of this century. In 1976 the Government of India created a separate organization named National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) to coordinate collection, exchange and preservation of plant genetic resources. We also took active interest in the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and we appreciate FAO's efforts in launching the Global System and giving it the requisite legal shape. India is a member of the CPGR and has also signed the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

We believe that all countries enjoy full sovereignty over the plant and animal genetic resources to be found in their territories. Exchange of such resources among countries and international organizations is only possible on the basis of equality and reciprocal advantages.

We also believe that the developing countries have a lot to contribute to the conservation of plant genetic resources and any network of base collections, international seed banks etc. which would be managed by FAO should seek speedy transfer of technology to developing countries and should strengthen the training of their experts. To be successful, such international cooperation should also be arranged on the principle of equality and reciprocity.

Turning now to the proposals in para 43, my delegation was a member of the group constituted by the Chairman of the Council to examine the text of the resolution at Appendix II. Though my country would very much like the international fund for implementing the Farmers' Rights to be mandatory, in the interests of consensus we agree to the draft under consideration. We hope that adequate resources will flow into it for safeguarding the interest of the farmers.

The draft international code of conduct for plant germplasm collection and transfer has been transmitted to our Government, but we are yet to receive an instruction. I am therefore not in a position at this stage to give any indication either way.

We feel that the proposed Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will make a positive contribution. We therefore support the proposal, provided it is financed through extra-budgetary funds. We expect that the

state of the world's plant genetic resources and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources would be available before the Conference.

My delegation endorses the Council's recommendation that FAO should undertake urgent studies to identify any possible danger to germplasm stored in genebanks, and propose a solution. A standing arrangement for tackling such problems should also be identified.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): On behalf of the Danish delegation I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of the efforts made by Dr de Haen and his collaborators to enhance FAO's professional capacity in the realm of plant genetic resources and its twin, biotechnology in general.

It is important that international cooperation is promoted in this area in order to ensure that all nations are in a position to explore the benefits of genetic resources in a sustainable way. Since FAO has got a special competence in balancing the aspects of production and protection, the Organization could play an important role in this context.

Denmark has noted with pleasure the top priority given in the Medium-Term Plan to environment and sustainable development. I hope the Secretariat can confirm that this firm commitment is valid for FAO's work on genetic resources and biotechnology as well. As a matter of fact, we believe that FAO can promote synergy by enhancing its competence in natural resource management and genetic resources by combining, but not necessarily amalgamating, experience derived from these activities.

However, I also have to stress the importance of labour division between each UN agency involved. It should be based on concentration on sectors where each agency has its mutually accepted comparative advantage. We therefore welcome the overall coordination done by the UNCED and UNEP in preparation of a convention on biodiversity. We take it for granted that the UNCED Conference secretariat and the Prep-Com's will draw extensively on FAO's professional skills and experience and that these organizations will also have an open and benevolent attitude to initiatives and suggestions coming from FAO.

The implementation of the decisions taken at the UNCED Conference should be based on the following principles:

We expect FAO to be positive and active in further work on implementation of the Convention.

We also expect close coordination around FAO's work with plant genetic resources and domesticated varieties, and in relation to the Convention on biodiversity.

Finally, FAO is supposed to follow up on appropriate UNCED decisions in this area.

We therefore also support the early convening, before the 1992 Council, of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, as well as a fourth conference as proposed inter alia by the Swedish delegation.

Apart from these views, my intervention will be divided into two main sections: a few questions on the substance and finally questions of a more strategic nature.

Mr Chairman, I would like to put the following few specific questions through you to the Secretariat:

Although Denmark has a very high interest in starting up work on animal genetic resources, we have presently a clear preference for consolidation of FAO's work on plant genetic resources, primarily because animal genetic resources is an enormous and very costly task. I would like to know if FAO concurs with that opinion.

Secondly, as to the draft Code of Conduct for plant germplasm collecting and transfer: the Danish delegation considers the draft to be in the very mainstream of international work on biodiversity and plant genetic resources. However, the draft is very detailed and committing for the parties supposed to be involved, and it could become a rather bureaucratic and unwieldy instrument.

There could be a risk of inhibiting the realization of the PGR objectives of host countries and collectors. In order to avoid this risk we would prefer that the draft is referred to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for thorough examination and finalization, as was mentioned by several other delegations.

Our comments on the proposed draft resolution on farmers' rights are as follows. It is important to recognize that all nations, including both human beings and companies, can contribute and/or benefit from plant genetic resources. There should be no restriction on sustainable - and I repeat sustainable - utilization of resources from all parties. There should be equity of opportunity for participating in utilization, including the necessary technologies attached to their utilization.

The objectives of the proposed resolution on farmers' rights should be those mentioned above. My delegation emphasizes the need for FAO to concentrate on development of its professional skills in the realm of domesticated plant genetic resources and their wild relatives, as well as biotechnology in order to accomplish these goals. Appropriate means of evolving these objectives are, inter alia, special plans for plant genetic resources, special action plans for those plant genetic resources, and the necessary extra-budgetary funds. A special fund should not be considered an aim in itself. Farmers' rights cannot be implemented primarily or solely through a special fund. Therefore, the wording of the resolution ought to be reformulated. I state this as a matter of principle and in the hope that similar construction of resolutions can be avoided in the future. If a special fund is created, it should be integrated in the general funding mechanism being established in the process of a convention on biotechnology. It is an open question whether the Action Plan should be executed primarily or solely by FAO or some other appropriate body. However, we do believe that FAO perhaps is the body best able to play a major role in this context.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las opiniones del Representante de Dinamarca, en relación a su contexto sobre ventajas cooperativas, convenio sobre diversidad y biotecnología y sus inquietudes en relación al Código de Conducta.

Paolo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): May I start by expressing our appreciation at being able to work in this Commission under your able guidance, Mr Chairman. May I also thank the Secretariat for the careful preparation of document C 91/24, and Mr de Haen for his introduction.

The Global System on Plant Genetic Resources of FAO constitutes the main driving force behind the evolving consensus of international cooperation for the conservation and wider utilization of plant genetic resources. FAO has also contributed to a growing awareness at national level of the potential value requirements connected with utilization of plant genetic resources. We are confident that the Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will further strengthen FAO's prominent role in this area, and we look forward to it.

With regard to the draft resolution proposed as a third annex to the International Undertaking, I wish also to express our thanks to all those who participated in its elaboration. The extensive negotiations required for the preparation of the draft illustrates the considerable legal and political difficulties which still exist in this area. These difficulties stem from divergent points of view between holders of technology and holders of plant genetic resources, and also from the peculiarities of each country.

Brazilian legislation on intellectual property, for instance, does not recognize the concept of plant breeders' rights and has no category which could be assimilated in the definition of farmers' rights agreed by FAO. The recognition that nations have sovereign rights over their plant genetic resources is a welcome step forward. However, my Government still considers it to be insufficient without the recognition of the property rights which stem from sovereignty over the resources.

Other parts of the draft resolution also raise some doubts, in particular the reference to other funding mechanisms in paragraph 4. Paragraph 5 especially is not clear. Also, the use of the word "transparency" in this context is somewhat ambiguous.

I do not intend to call into question the carefully worded compromise. Therefore, I will limit myself to one more observation which is more circumstantial than substantial. As mentioned by other delegations, the global system of the FAO will have to be reviewed in the light of the outcome of the current negotiations on a convention on biodiversity, as well as the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development next year. It would be useful if the Conference expressly recognized the need for this review. This could be done through the addition of a sentence to the first "considerandum" of the draft resolution. Its wording could be left to the Secretariat. Alternatively, the Secretariat could suggest a reference to the same effect in our Report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradecemos las opiniones del señor Representante de Brasil en relación a los proyectos de resolución.

Philippe PIOTET (France): M. le Président, au moment où la Communauté internationale se mobilise pour la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement de 1992, la délégation française ne peut que se féliciter des efforts déployés par la FAO pour apporter sa propre contribution à cette Conférence, dans le domaine des ressources génétiques.

Comme le montre bien le rapport C 91/24, préparé par le Secrétariat, l'adoption par notre Conférence, lors de sa dernière session, de résolutions reconnaissant simultanément les droits des obtenteurs et ceux des agriculteurs a permis d'élargir la participation à cet engagement et de lever certaines réserves. Ma délégation se félicite de cette évolution et considère qu'il convient de continuer à progresser dans cette direction plutôt que de chercher à transformer l'engagement international en un instrument juridique contraignant.

Sans entrer dans le détail de toutes les questions abordées par la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques lors de sa 4ème session, je voudrais tout d'abord rappeler l'appui de la France à l'établissement d'un plan global d'action dans le domaine des ressources phytogénétiques, permettant d'assurer toute la cohérence requise entre les divers éléments du dispositif mis en place par la FAO depuis 1983.

Dans cette perspective, ma délégation attache une importance particulière à la bonne articulation de ce plan avec l'ensemble des actions concernant la biodiversité actuellement examinée dans le cadre de la CNUED. A cet égard, je soutiens la proposition faite par le Brésil de prendre en compte les résultats de la CNUED dans les travaux menés par la FAO dans le cadre de ce plan d'action sur les ressources génétiques. Nous sommes également très attachés au caractère opérationnel de ce plan d'action qui devrait en conséquence se concentrer sur les espèces présentant un intérêt pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation et répondre le plus directement possible aux besoins des Etats Membres en matière de développement agricole et d'amélioration nutritionnelle.

En ce qui concerne les moyens nécessaires pour la mise en oeuvre des actions de l'Organisation dans le domaine des ressources génétiques, je me limiterai à rappeler que la France souhaite que les différentes sources de financement internationales existantes accordent une priorité accrue au secteur des ressources phytogénétiques. C'est pour nous la première priorité. C'est aussi pour cette raison que ma délégation estime que le Fonds international pour les ressources phytogénétiques envisagé dans le projet de résolution soumis à la Conférence à l'Annexe B du document C 91/24 doit être alimenté par des contributions volontaires affectées à des projets bien identifiés et approuvés par les parties concernées.

J'en viens maintenant au projet de Code de conduite pour la collecte et les transferts de matériel génétique végétal, présenté en Annexe C au document C 91/24. Ce document a déjà fait l'objet d'un examen rapide dans le cadre des travaux de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques à laquelle mon pays a participé. C'est un document important et assez complexe. La France appuie le principe d'une meilleure définition des procédures à suivre et

des responsabilités des différents partenaires dans les opérations de collecte et de transfert de matériel génétique végétal. Le document proposé apporte donc dans ce sens une clarification et permet de poursuivre les réflexions. Ma délégation a bien noté le caractère volontaire et non contraignant du document proposé. Celui-ci constitue une bonne base de travail pour la mise au point de directives ou de recommandations qui, dans le cas des ressources phytogénétiques, constitueraient, me semble-t-il, la réponse la plus simple, la plus souple et la mieux adaptée aux besoins des Etats Membres.

Enfin, ma délégation approuve la convocation par la FAO de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phytogénétique qui permettrait d'analyser la situation des ressources phytogénétiques dans le monde et d'élaborer le plan d'action prévu dans ce domaine, et aussi de tirer tous les enseignements utiles de la prochaine Conférence de Rio en juin 1992. Cette Conférence technique fournira également une excellente occasion de renforcer les liens de coopération entre la FAO et l'IBPGR, conformément aux accords signés à la fin de 1990 que la France a accueillis avec une grande satisfaction.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): I wish to point out that plant genetic resources is a highly important question not only for Yugoslavia but also for the world at large.

We believe that FAO has an important role to play in this particular field, and in the framework of UNEP in the negotiations on protecting biological diversity. As far as FAO/UNEP relations are concerned, we think that by means of negotiations, FAO should clearly establish the areas wherein it has comparative advantages over UNEP.

We further think that it is premature to discuss the International Undertaking as a legally binding document or protocol.

The setting up of a fund for the effective conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources is a highly important issue, but exclusively on a voluntary basis and not as an obligation of all the members. Furthermore, I would like to point out that it is indispensable to elaborate the criteria for utilizing the Fund's assets.

We support the convening of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, provided adequate financing is ensured.

We are fully aware of the importance of in situ and ex situ conservation of genetic resources. However, we also think that a series of technical and financial difficulties stem from in situ conservation, and believe that the management of those resources should be examined together with other international agencies such as UNEP and UNCED, and that FAO should place greater emphasis on ex situ conservation.

We welcome FAO's initiative to reorganize its seed laboratory and transform it into a Plant Information and Exchange Unit and to expand a seed information system into the Global Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources. I wish to inform you that Yugoslavia has achieved significant results in the field of plant selection (maize, sunflower, wheat) by using native selection materials as a source of adaptability to

growth conditions. However, organized work on plant genetic resources (exploration, collection, conservation and utilization) at the federal level was initiated only three years ago, namely, with the establishment of the national programme with the involvement of 26 institutes. In 1990 we started building a gene bank, as a federal institution with a capacity of 100 000 samples in the base collection.

Yugoslavia participates in the International Undertaking. We are ready to join in the network of gene banks of the base collection. We find contract "C" type with FAO as the best suited for our country. We are also ready to place part of the established premises for keeping the base collection at the disposal of FAO.

I would further like to emphasize that for the full cooperation of the national programme and the gene bank we shall need corresponding professional assistance and partial financial support.

We have concluded a Technical Assistance Contract with FAO. However, due to the present situation in the country - and here I am referring above all to security aspects - we are running late with the implementation. However, we think that some parts of the training programme could be launched even under the present circumstances.

Last but not least, allow me to point out that Yugoslavia supports the proposed resolution with the amendment prepared by Turkey.

Concerning the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, I would like to stress that we did not receive the documents for this item, or for most of them, so that we were not able to consider this item without experts. However, taking into account the wish of most delegations in reaching a consensus on this matter, we will support the Code of Conduct in principle.

Michael CARROLL (Australia) : My delegation appreciates the clarity of the document provided by the Secretariat and the lucid introduction by Dr de Haen, and appreciates the work that has gone on behind the document. The FAO global system for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources is an important initiative that has been the subject of long and careful consideration. The basic principles underlying the system is strongly supported by the Australian Government.

Australia is a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources but has not yet signed the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The reason for this lies with the institutional framework governing genetic resources in Australia. Australia has a network of eight genetic resource centres in different parts of the country dealing with different groups of plant species. These centres are funded and managed independently of the national government. The Australian Government has not been in a position to sign the Undertaking until concerns relating to the ability of the genetic centres to comply with conditions of the Undertaking could be met. Australia's position has been that the availability of germplasm should be on mutually agreed terms.

The provisions contained in the Draft Resolution of Annex 3, Appendix B of the agenda paper would appear to reverse the reservations that Australia has held about signing the Undertaking. Following an internal meeting scheduled for early in the new year, Australia expects to be in a position to sign the Undertaking. Australia is therefore supportive of the Draft Resolution of Annex 3, but has a reservation about the Resolution. That relates to the interpretation as to whether the International Fund in line 1, paragraph 3, page B2, is voluntary or whether it could place an open-ended obligation on Member Nations. Australia would have a difficulty with an unspecified obligation. It is appreciated that we are dealing here with a carefully worked compromise but we commend the issue of clarification of the Fund to the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee.

With respect to the Draft International Code of Conduct for Germplasm Collection and Transfer, Australia would also like to give a positive response at this time. Historically, Australian plant scientists have had a long and fruitful association with scientists in other countries, particularly in the Mediterranean region, in the collection and exchange of plant genetic material. This has been on a mutually agreed bilateral basis. We recognize, however, that the goodwill of cooperating scientists is no longer a sufficient basis for accountability and responsibility in this field and that more formal guidelines are now necessary for the guidance of scientists, institutions and nations.

Australia believes that the Draft International Code will provide the framework for the more formal accountability and responsibility now required in the international collection and transfer of plant genetic material. At the same time, the Code allows for the flexibility and latitude needed by countries to conduct germplasm collection and transfer under bilateral arrangements on mutually agreed terms. Australia therefore endorses the Code in principle but is interested in the observations and amendments foreshadowed by other delegates which we have not had the opportunity to consider.

With respect to the proposed Fourth International Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, Australia believes that the organizers should establish as soon as possible clear and agreed Conference objectives. This will enable Member Nations to assess the nature, level and extent of participation. We therefore support the preparation of the Conference as proposed in Appendix D.

In conclusion, the Australian delegation wishes to confirm its strong support for the principle of a global system on plant genetic resources. With its relevant geographic isolation, developed agricultural systems and its existing network of ex situ and in situ genetic resource centres, Australia is in a position to play a positive role in the future of this initiative.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): We, too, would like to join previous speakers in thanking Dr de Haen for his very clear introduction to this subject. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for submitting a brief but comprehensive and clear document.

First of all, I would like to refer to page 10 of document C 91/24, section 4, paragraph 43. I would like to comment on sub-paragraph (i),

paragraph 43 on page 10. I will recall that we have submitted, in accordance with the decision by the CBPGR, proposals relating to the International Code of Conduct, and we hope that this will be taken into account when the text is redrafted. This refers to sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph.

As regards paragraph 43, sub-paragraph (3), we support the idea of convening a conference on the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, and we would be very happy if the time for preparation could be kept as brief as possible for reasons of economy in order that the Conference could be convened at the end of 1993, or at least at the beginning of 1994.

My third point relates to sub-paragraph (4) of paragraph 43, page 11. At the CPGR session my country announced its support for the carrying out of studies in Central and Eastern Europe. In the light of the wealth of experience and knowledge available in our institutes for plant genetics and crop research in Gattersleben, I would like to state that we are prepared to provide staff to carry out these studies.

Turning briefly to Appendix B of our paper, which is a Draft Conference Resolution, we have a bit of a problem with the form of words, especially in the first section "Recognizing that", which has four sub-paragraphs. We feel that the essential aspects of the whole thing, which is FAO's International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, is still left wide open, namely, the question of unrestricted access to plant genetic resources. For this reason, we would like to propose a compromise wording that would relate to the fourth sub-paragraph of the section. Instead of reading as it now does, it would read with an alternative wording that we would submit to the Secretariat.

We also have a comment on the section beginning "Endorses the following points". Paragraph 1 should be expanded and completed we feel, because at the CPGR session there was an agreement to the effect that sovereignty as such is not sufficient as a concept and that each country has to make a contribution to effective conservation and utilization. We will submit a text to this effect to the Secretariat.

Turning to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the same section, I ask you to note that we cannot agree to the establishment of a further fund that would commit us to further contributions. The question of an international fund for plant genetic resources is something that has to be looked at in close connection, as Denmark has mentioned, with a planned convention on biodiversity within the framework of UNCED 1992, and in relation to whatever funding instruments emerge from UNCED 1992.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco la intervención del señor Representante de Alemania, así como las de los demás señores delegados, en relación al tema sobre los recursos fitogenéticos. La delegación de Myanmar ha hecho llegar sus opiniones por escrito, las cuales serán consignadas en Secretaría.

U. Tin HTUT OO (Myanmar) : On behalf of the Myanmar delegation I wish to add my congratulationsto those of the speakers who have preceded me to the Secretariat for the excellent report presented. We highly commend FAO's initiatives and actions on this very important work.

Myanmar, as a member of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, noted with satisfaction that world interest in plant genetic resources has grown rapidly in recent years. We would like to reaffirm our country's support for this important element for the future generation.

Mr Chairman, it is extremely important to adopt appropriate technologies, adaptable to local agro-ecological conditions in order to generate appreciable increases in productions. The replacement of traditional varieties with HYVs, however, can lead to reduction in genetic diversity and the total reliance on HYV monocultures, are vulnerable to pest and disease and the development of pesticide resistance. Therefore, the need for a well coordinated global system for conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources becomes more critical for sustainable development and for the prevention of environment deterioration.

In cognizance of the importance of plant genetic resources, the preservation of many traditional varieties with desirable genetic qualities which are still in existence in Myanmar and wild relatives of cultivated plants, paddy in particular, has been carried out with the establishment of Seed Bank Project in cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Agency. We would like to offer our national facilities to FAO Commission for the possible establishment of conservation activities and network.

The Myanmar delegation fully endorses the Draft Conference Resolution and Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer submitted for approval by this Conference and also pleased to approve the convening of the Fourth International Technical Conference for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources.¹

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/9

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

NINTH MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE NOVENA SESION

(19 November 1991)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji, Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 9. Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking: Progress Report (continued)
- 9. Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et Engagement international: Rapport intérimaire (suite)
- 9. La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional: Informe parcial (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Before I give the floor to the speakers who have requested it, the representative of Germany wishes to add something to his earlier remarks.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): I was the last speaker this morning, and it would therefore be useful that I should be the first speaker this afternoon.

Given the practical unified opinion on the Draft Resolution to be found in Appendix B to the reference document, my delegation feels that paragraph 4 of "Recognizing..." and paragraph 1 of "Endorses..." should be withdrawn.

However, I still have certain misgivings regarding the funding in the third and fourth sections of "Endorses" and I would like to keep these reservations in place.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Before calling on the list of speakers who have asked for the floor, I would like to inform you that Kenya and Iraq have asked that their statements appear in the verbatim record.

Martti POUTANEN (Finland): Crucial decisions on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources are being negotiated in the preparatory process of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. The delegation of Finland wants to associate itself with those who have urged further constructive participation by FAO in the UNCED process. Alongside with the management of land resources, the conservation and rational use of plant genetic resources is a sector in which FAO has a wide expertise and institution experience that should be fully utilized in the UNCED preparations, as well as in the implementation of the Conference decisions. The Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the well-established cooperation by governments in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources provide a good framework for FAO's contribution.

Finland wishes to support the delegation of Sweden, as already supported by United States, Norway and many others, in proposing that an extraordinary session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources be held in the autumn of 1992, prior to the FAO Council. This decision would facilitate full participation by FAO in the early implementation of the UNCED decisions.

M. Hissem LAHOUCINE (Maroc): La délégation du Maroc tient à présenter ses félicitations à la FAO pour les activités qu'elle n'a cessé de poursuivre en vue de mettre en place un système mondial pour la conservation des ressources phytogénétiques. Consciente de l'importance de la biodiversité dans le développement d'une agriculture durable et d'une sécurité alimentaire, la délégation du Maroc, après avoir étudié le document C 91/24, apporte son appui aux objectifs définis et à l'approche proposée. Ainsi, la délégation du Maroc soutient la proposition de réunion d'une conférence technique internationale en vue de préparer les éléments nécessaires à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action mondial pour les ressources phytogénétiques. Vu la valeur et l'originalité que peut représenter toute ressource phytogénétique pour la sécurité alimentaire, la délégation du Maroc soutient également la proposition d'entreprendre les études urgentes nécessaires pour identifier tout danger possible pour le matériel phytogénétique existant.

Enfin, pour ce qui est du projet de Code de conduite concernant la collecte et le transfert de matériel phytogénétique, la délégation du Maroc, tout en adhérant aux principes énoncés en matière de conservation et d'échange des ressources phytogénétiques, estime qu'il est encore nécessaire d'en approfondir l'examen.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Es justicia que hagamos pública nuestra satisfacción por este excelente documento presentado por la Secretaria, que recoge la labor que ha venido desempeñando la Comisión y el grupo de trabajo en sucesivos años y en donde por fin viene plasmado no solamente la primera aspiración nuestra, que es el sistema mundial de la FAO para la conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos, sino la propuesta del Fondo Internacional y, sobre todo, el Código de Conducta. Nos complace porque están aquí resumidos de una manera casi perfecta los muchos esfuerzos y pensamientos que los miembros de la Comisión y del grupo de trabajo han venido tratando de concretar en un verdadero plan de acción que aquí se delinea de una manera correcta.

Sin embargo, debemos expresar algunas observaciones que nos merece el trabajo como participantes del grupo que en el Consejo pasado fue designado por el señor Presidente para estudiar de una manera más detallada algunas de las dudas que teníamos algunos de los países participantes en ese momento.

Me refiero, en primer lugar, a la definición que se hace al referirse a los agricultores y a las comunidades de agricultores en el uso del término "custodio" de recursos fitogenéticos silvestres. No puede llamarse realmente custodio al propietario de una cosa. Es cierto que el propietario es un custodio, desde luego; con todo derecho. Si son dueños los países y está reconocido por la misma documentación, como en su soberanía, es lógico que ellos sean los custodios, pero no debemos definirlos simplemente como custodios. Por consiguiente, veríamos con agrado, y en eso apoyamos la sugerencia de México, que buscáramos un término un poco más digno para quienes son verdaderamente los propietarios originales de estos recursos fitogenéticos y que ahora ya, por lo menos, les hemos reconocido su derecho soberano como países.

En segundo lugar, por la misma razón que consideramos que este sistema global debe ser generalizado, bien conocido, estudiado, en lo que nos queda por ahora en adelante, vamos a apoyar la idea propuesta por la delegación de España sobre la creación de un grupo de contacto para estudiar más profundamente el Código de Conducta, el cual apoyamos, por lo demás, en todos sus aspectos.

En este sentido, estamos de acuerdo con que la participación para la actuación de este Código sea voluntaria; pero, con relación a los gobiernos, necesariamente tenemos que comprender que un gobierno no puede establecer un código para que cada quién actúe voluntariamente, porque se supone que un código es una ley, el establecimiento de unas normas que deben ser cumplidas, obedecidas, satisfechas, y en ese sentido es un poco incoherente que nosotros vayamos a hablar de un código y, al mismo tiempo, de una participación voluntaria. Dejamos esto sencillamente como una observación de nuestra parte, a merced de que ese grupo de contacto propuesto por España profundice el estudio y la pertinencia de nuestra observación.

Otro punto que queremos anotar - en aras del tiempo, queremos ser telegráficos - es que debemos profundizar realmente el perfeccionamiento de este sistema global propuesto por la FAO, haciendo énfasis en que eso debe llevarnos hasta esta Conferencia que está planeada y que en ella la apoyamos totalmente para lograr que allí, en esa Conferencia, puedan ser mejoradas las pequeñas observaciones y diferencias que estamos notando en este momento. En ese mismo sentido vamos a apoyar la propuesta presentada por Suecia, que contiene ideas interesantes que merecen que las estudiemos y las incorporemos, hasta donde sea posible, en el espíritu de este Comité preparatorio que tratamos de conducir a la convención para la diversidad biológica que tanto nos interesa y que realmente aspiramos a que llegue a una identificación con los propósitos y conceptos de la FAO.

Otro punto en el que queremos ser enfáticos es el que se refiere al libre acceso para el disfrute, uso o investigación de los recursos fitogenéticos. Los participantes en aquella reunión, nombrada en el Consejo pasado, recordarán que estuvimos opuestos a esa decisión, a ese concepto, porque sostenemos el criterio de que los países deben ejercer su soberanía sobre estos recursos, que han sido colocados allí por manos de la naturaleza, para aquellos que no creen en Dios. Entonces, si eso es así, si por razón de nuestra localización en el planeta, o en la superficie de la tierra, nos corresponden esos recursos - que, gracias a muchas circunstancias, todavía no han llegado hasta ellos los depredadores de siempre -, tenemos que protegerlos, debemos reservarlos para las generaciones futuras y que no llegue tan pronto a ellos el uso abusivo que se ha hecho de los otros recursos, que ya han desaparecido y es un leve recuerdo de las generaciones anteriores.

Por eso, pues, estamos en contra de la posición llamada "libre acceso a los recursos" que está recogida, creo que accidentalmente, y por esa razón desearíamos ver que es una revisión, así como se ha escapado aquí, en el Artículo 5, "Los objetivos del Sistema Mundial son garantizar la conservación y fomentar la disponibilidad sin restricciones", creo que Venezuela plantea su posición para ser consecuente y coherente con la posición que tuvimos en la Comisión de los ocho nombrada por el Presidente en el Consejo pasado.

No tenemos ningunas otras objeciones en cuanto a los contenidos en relación con el Fondo. Consideramos que es lógico que todas estas actividades a desarrollar por este sistema necesiten de un fondo, puesto que no sé si accidentalmente o por el destino histórico, la mayoría de los países que aún son propietarios y soberanos de los recursos fitogenéticos, son al mismo tiempo países relativamente pobres, que no cuentan con los ingentes recursos con que deberían contar para poder desarrollar la actividad de conservación y protección y desarrollo de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Nos quedaría por ratificar nuestro apoyo a este proyecto, que esperamos que alguna vez llegue a contener el consenso total para que pueda ser realmente aprobado de una manera definitiva, y ojalá Venezuela pueda participar en las actividades que esperan a este desarrollo del sistema global y al cumplimiento en su territorio, bajo su soberanía, del desarrollo y de las restricciones limitadas o condicionadas, como es nuestro criterio, que deben ser decididas por los gobiernos haciendo uso de su soberanía.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I agree with what the Ambassador from Venezuela said. I think it is important that every country musters its plant genetic resources. We must all undertake efforts here so that we can cooperate, and exchange constructive ideas.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Al referirnos al importante tema que nos ocupa, la delegación de El Salvador desea manifestar, en primer lugar, su satisfacción por los avances que se han hecho, tanto en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos como en su grupo de trabajo, del cual forma parte mi país, por lo que no podemos sino apoyar su intenso trabajo. El Salvador forma parte de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y se ha adherido al Compromiso Internacional, con lo cual deseamos manifestar la importancia que mi Gobierno da a esta importante cuestión. La delegación de El Salvador desea, en esta ocasión, dar su pleno apoyo al proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 91/24, Apéndice B, con la modificación propuesta por la delegación de Turquía en el párrafo 3 de la misma. Esta resolución, como lo dijo el delegado de España esta mañana, es el resultado de intensas negociaciones y representa el consenso obtenido.

Consideramos muy apropiada, por otra parte, la convocatoria de parte de la FAO de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, la cual, como se indica en el numeral 3 del párrafo 43, deberá financiarse con recursos extrapresupuestarios.

La delegación de El Salvador celebra el acuerdo de que en el proceso de preparación de dicha Conferencia se preparen tanto el primer estado de los recursos genéticos en el mundo como el plan de acción mundial sobre los recursos fitogenéticos. A este respecto, nos unimos a las interrogantes que ha hecho la delegación de México.

Nuestra delegación desea unirse, por otra parte, a aquellas que han solicitado que se dé a todo este trabajo el adecuado apoyo financiero con relación a la aprobación, en esta Conferencia, del Código Internacional de Conducta contenido en el Apéndice C del documento C 91/24. Nuestra delegación auspicia su aprobación en los términos planteados, por lo que creemos que, a fin de ultimar detalles que permitan su aprobación sin observaciones, debería analizarse detenidamente la propuesta hecha por el

delegado de España, a fin de que se cree un grupo de contacto en esta Comisión que nos permita llevar un texto sin observaciones a la Plenaria de la Conferencia.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God, on behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran I extend my appreciation to FAO and the Secretariat for document C 91/24. I can support all the statements mentioned by the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela in her statement.

Genes and DNA, the instruments for biotechnology, genetic resources, the heritage of mankind should be freely available for all human beings. In this case, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the global system with respect to the sovereign rights of each Member Nation. We feel that FAO should play the major role in plant genetic resources because agriculture is the main user of plant genetic resources. This is a very important point we have to consider on this issue.

We support the International Technical Conference. We also support the Draft Resolution for a third annex of the Undertaking. We agree with the establishment of an international fund to improve farmers' rights. We agree with the contact group to study the Code of Conduct in order to have sovereign rights for each Member State.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation appreciates immensely the efforts of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in putting together document C 91/24. It is an excellent document. I will make only two comments - one is technical, and the other is not so technical.

My first comment relates to paragraph 2 of page 1 of the Introduction. Here the use of biotechnology is projected as a substitute for conventional plant breeding. No matter what genetic recombination we may be able to produce through genetic engineering for the expression, stabilization and selection of those genes, the use of traditional plant-breeding methods are absolutely essential. Biotechnology is not a substitute for conventional plant breeding. Rather, it is a tool for enhancing plant breeding.

As for the use of biotechnology in conservation of genetic material, it is a highly technical subject and my delegation welcomes the suggestion for manpower training for the developing countries. Also the convening of the Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources will be very useful and we support it.

My second comment relates to the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources. A few countries have done an excellent job but most developing countries have not yet fully appreciated the urgency for conserving and protecting their genetic resources. Only a few countries have established organizations that could cater for the valuable resources in their midst. The genebanks and the repositories established are by and large poorly equipped both in manpower and in material. The Code of Conduct developed by the FAO for collection and sharing of the genetic material among countries and the international agencies, when adopted, will go a long way in helping those countries which are not yet ready.

In this regard my delegation strongly endorses the idea of preparing a periodic report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for wider distribution.

The concept of in situ conservation and the implementation of the farmers' rights in our view are monumental tasks and will require moral and material support. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia have already pledged support and are ready to identify and establish areas for in situ conservation.

Pakistan, under a bilateral agreement with Japan, is establishing a Plant Genetic Resource Centre at Islamabad. This Centre will be operational in 1992. Pakistan will welcome the world community designating this centre as a focal point for a regional network on plant genetic resources.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation congratulates the Secretariat on paper C 91/24 and Dr de Haen for his clear and concise introduction.

The matters on which this Conference is being asked to decide have been discussed thoroughly by the Fourth Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and by the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council. The United Kingdom delegation does not, therefore, wish to reopen the wider discussion, and I will confine my remarks to the four items set out in paragraph 43 of document C 91/24.

The first of these items is to consider and possibly adopt a draft resolution that may become the third Annex to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Whilst congratulating those involved in this delicate piece of drafting, the United Kingdom delegation retains its reservations about the text as drafted for two reasons.

Like the delegates from Australia and Germany, we are unhappy with line one of paragraph 3 of document C 91/24, Appendix B and the reference to an international fund. We would like to see this further clarified by the inclusion of the word "voluntary" in relation to this fund.

Secondly, and more generally, we are disappointed that the general presumption of rights of access has disappeared from the text. This is regrettable since the principle of free access has always been a balancing element to the principle of nations having sovereign rights.

I now move to the second item for decision, the Draft International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer. In the opinion of the United Kingdom delegation the draft Code of Conduct serves the valuable function of drawing together many of the best technical and administrative practices already in wide use by the international community. We would, however, like to see several amendments before being able to consider endorsing the text.

Our major concern relates to Article 8 (e) of Appendix C of document C 91/24. In our opinion, this should be deleted as it appears to be contrary to Article 1 of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which states that it is "based on the accepted principle that

plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind and consequently should be available without restriction".

The United Kingdom delegation also feels that Article 1.8, which is poorly worded in our view, should be deleted or at least amended. At present the text suggests that the transfer and use of plant genetic resources by others necessarily undermines the rights and benefits currently enjoyed by the caretakers of wild plant resources. The United Kingdom does not accept this.

The United Kingdom delegation is also perplexed by the reference under Farmers' Rights (paragraph 2.9) to the rights "arising from the past, present and future contributions of farmers". It is difficult enough to understand how present and future rights might be recognized, but reference to past rights seems utterly impractical. Who, for example, should be compensated for exploitation of the cocoa bean or the potato?

In summary, we support the proposal from the delegate of the United States that the draft Code of Conduct should be withdrawn for further consideration by a working group.

May I now turn to the third item for consideration, which is to give guidance and approval on the convening by FAO of the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources.

We support fully this proposal and note Council's statement that, during the preparatory process for such a Conference, both the first State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and the Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources will be produced. We are also pleased to note FAO's recognition that the outcome of the UNCED Biodiversity Negotiations should be taken fully into account in preparing for the Fourth International Technical Conference.

I move to the fourth item for decision, and that is to consider and endorse the Council's recommendation that urgent studies should be undertaken by FAO to identify any possible danger to germplasm stored in genebanks. I can be very brief. The United Kingdom delegation welcomes these proposals.

Finally, to date FAO has collaborated and liaised effectively with other organizations, particularly UNEP, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, World Conservation Monitoring Center, Worldwide Fund for Nature and the International Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, on issues related to the in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources. We congratulate the Organization on this. However, FAO's proposed future activities in this area carry high potential for duplication of effort if collaboration and coordination does not continue to be of the highest order. For example, the proposed FAO report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources should take account of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre/World Resources Institute work on the production of a Biodiversity Status Report, which will feed into UNEP in the context of the Biodiversity Convention.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : That was a very clear, frank and candid statement, which I think is important in our work. I may agree with some of the points that you raise, but I would take issue with others.

Robert LAMB (Suisse): Nous tenons à remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir mis à notre disposition le document C 91/24, qui paraît très riche en informations. Cependant, ce document n'est pas parvenu à notre capitale avant notre venue à Rome et les différents services nationaux concernés n'ont pas pu être consultés. Nos propos et les commentaires préliminaires qui vont suivre seront donc brefs et se limiteront à l'essentiel.

Pour le premier point, nous soutenons le projet de résolution susceptible de devenir l'annexe 3 de l'Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques, qui est le résultat d'un effort et d'un consensus affirmés.

S'agissant maintenant du projet sur le Code international de conduite concernant la collecte et le transfert de matériaux phylogénétiques, bien que ce Code constitue une bonne base de travail, nous rejoignons l'opinion d'autres délégations et nous pensons qu'il nécessite un travail supplémentaire. À notre sens, il devrait donc être renvoyé à la Commission.

En ce qui concerne la convocation de la quatrième Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources phylogénétiques, nous y sommes favorables et nous soutenons cette initiative.

Nous approuvons également la recommandation du Conseil selon laquelle la FAO devrait entreprendre des études pour identifier les dangers possibles sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour le matériel germinatif et proposer des solutions qui devraient être opérationnelles sur une large base nationale. À ce sujet, nous pensons qu'une approche régionale devrait être approfondie afin de pouvoir faire face aux différents besoins spécifiques en ressources phylogénétiques. Cette approche devrait notamment permettre de stimuler davantage un meilleur usage des connaissances locales. Voilà pour les quatre points essentiels.

Enfin, d'une façon générale, nous aimerions rappeler que nous avons toujours insisté sur une coopération, une coordination et une division étroites du travail de la FAO avec les autres agences du système international des Nations Unies. C'est dans cet esprit que nous soutenons les propositions de la délégation suédoise. En ce sens, nous pensons que les travaux sur les ressources phylogénétiques devraient faire partie intégrante des travaux préparatoires et du suivi de la CNUED, en particulier ceux concernant la conservation de la diversité biologique. Il s'agira, à ce sujet, d'introduire dans ce processus les travaux accomplis qui ont abouti à l'Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques et qui ont fait l'objet d'un consensus après de longues discussions.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): My delegation appreciates the document C 91/24 and we express our thanks to the Secretariat for the introductory matters, even though we received this document at a very late stage. Therefore, the comments of my delegation will be very brief.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and the Council in its last Session, had recommended for the Conference's consideration many important issues covering a wide range of matters on plant genetic resources. The Commission expressed the view that the time is ripe for them to exercise the coordinating and monitoring role provided for in its mandate in order

to assure the comprehensiveness and efficiency of the global system for the conservation and utilization of Plant Genetic Resources; and to allow the optimal use of the currently available resources, and those expected to become available in the near future.

My delegation is pleased to note that a great deal of progress had been made on Plant Genetic Resources activities; however, much remained to be done. In this connection we underline the support of the Councils that FAO convene a Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources and that the first State of the World and Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources be developed as part of the preparatory process. We do believe that this forum will also be valuable to discuss the strategies and methodologies for the in situ conservation of genetic resources.

The principle of nations' sovereign rights over plant genetic resources in their territories is vital and therefore the existence of this statement in various relevant resolutions and documents of FAO should be guaranteed. The efforts to weaken the true interpretation of this statement will not be accepted by my delegation.

My delegation notes with attention the views expressed regarding the need for coordination of works especially between international agencies in order to address the relevant international issues and its necessary follow-ups. My delegation welcomes the wish to strengthen coordination works between FAO and other international bodies in this regard. In this connection we note paragraph 36 of the document C 91/24. However, in the context of the preparatory work for the forthcoming UNCED meeting in Brazil, we note that UN General Assembly had agreed that the UNCED preparatory committee be fully mandated to implement its leading role to organize and coordinate all preparatory works.

As to the follow-up to the UNCED meeting it may be too premature to take any firm decision in the Conference on this matter but depending on the outcome of the UNCED itself we can have discussion on some agenda possibilities.

My delegation supports the views that efforts be increased in order to help build up and strengthen the national and local institutes involved in conservation programmes and activities. We underline the view of the Council on the urgent need to train the scientists and technicians of the developing countries in the use of biotechnologies. Regarding the possible widening of the mandate of the Commission, we note paragraph 38 of this document. We also note paragraph 18 which stated that the Council agreed that the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology should be prepared in a step-by-step manner, in close collaboration with the appropriate organizations.

As had been conveyed to the Council, Indonesia offered their full collaboration in the establishment of well-focused pilot-scale activities on in situ conservation within the framework of activities coordinated by the Commission. As informed, these pilot schemes might serve as focal points for the development of regional in situ networks for various categories of priority species.

With regard to FAO future programmes on plant genetic resources, we support the view that FAO strengthen its programmes and its activities on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in less-developed Member Nations.

We fully appreciate the efforts of Council in preparing the draft resolution on Annex 3 to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Again here we welcome the statement of recognition of the nations' sovereign rights over the plant genetic resources. However, like other delegations we also have some points that need to be clarified. In the draft resolution it is stated on point 2 that the breeders' lines and farmers' breeding material should only be available at the discretions of their developers, etc., etc. We should note that much more effort needs to be taken in order really to make the farmer fully capable of safeguarding their breeding materials.

With regard to matters on implementation of the International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources we should also bear in mind that the international criteria to support the farmers perhaps cannot always be in line with the national policies and therefore there could possibly be a danger of conflict with the criteria of "national sovereignty rights".

With regard to point 4, we note the use of words "substantial" and "principle of equity". We should have very clear interpretations of this point.

Paragraph 12 and paragraph 37 of the document expressed a non-legally binding character of the International Undertaking. Therefore, much more needs to be done if we really wish to see this Undertaking and its annexes to become functional.

With regard to the Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, we follow with attention the Thai delegation's and others' concerns on the consideration of this document. The complexity of the matters and its legal implications to the existing rules and regulations of each of our countries needs a careful and in-depth consideration of concerned parties.

We note from paragraph 17 of the document that the Code is independent of the International Undertaking and that Council agreed that the Code should be of a voluntary nature.

We look forward for possible positive solutions regarding the approval of the Resolution and Code of Conduct so as to pave the way for smooth implementation of FAO's work in this field.

Josaia MAIVUSAROKO (Fiji): May I first of all express our appreciation to the Secretariat of the Commission and to each working group for the very informative document C 91/24 which has been prepared for our discussion on this very important subject.

The Fiji Government supports the work being currently undertaken under the FAO's sub-programme on the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic resources. In particular the progress made to date on the implementation of, and follow-up action on, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic

Resources through the International Undertaking, is particularly relevant in strengthening national and regional capabilities and programmes for the collection, conservation management, evaluation, documentation and use of plant genetic resources.

We have also noted with satisfaction the strong links which the undertaking on the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources maintains with organizations such as the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research centres.

However, we feel that more needs to be done in this area for smaller South Pacific Island countries of which Fiji is a part. We believe therefore that a special sub-regional effort for the South Pacific Island countries is presently needed. Such a Sub-regional effort would greatly enhance the support available to the South Pacific Island countries in strengthening their own plant genetic resource base.

In closing, my delegation would like to express its support to the draft resolution contained in Annex B; and also the convening of the Fourth International Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources.

Manuel VARA OCHOA (Perú): Resaltamos, señor Presidente, el esfuerzo de la FAO y sus vínculos establecidos dentro del trabajo de conservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos como un medio de salvaguardar su utilización en bien de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Apoyamos la realización de la Cuarta Conferencia Técnica Internacional en el marco de la elaboración del primer estado de los recursos fitogenéticos en el mundo y del primer Plan de Acción Mundial para los recursos fitogenéticos.

Apoyamos también el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos, sobre la base del cambio solicitado por Turquía en el punto 3. La fundamentación de la aprobación la realizamos, básicamente, considerando que contiene cláusulas importantes que respetan la soberanía nacional de los países y que se reconocen los derechos de los agricultores.

Resaltamos los esfuerzos realizados en la elaboración del Código Internacional de Conducta para la recolección y transferencia de germoplasma vegetal, sobre el cual existe un consenso, con el espíritu del Congo, a pesar de su complejidad; pero asimismo concordamos en la necesidad de realizar mejoras en la forma a través de un grupo de contacto.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente, señor Presidente, para una pregunta, ya que me quedó la duda de si el grupo de contacto propuesto por el señor delegado de España, al que he dado mi apoyo sincero, será solamente para trabajar hasta esta Conferencia o, si previendo que en la Conferencia no se pueda lograr el absoluto acuerdo, pudiera mantenerse para la próxima. Yo, personalmente, no creo que podamos llegar a un absoluto consenso para el final de esta Conferencia.

Solamente quería hacer esta pregunta, señor Presidente, para aclarar esta duda.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I just wanted to make some remarks on this very point, i.e. on the contact group but I waited so that we could listen to all the speakers. I will come back to this point once we have heard all the speakers.

Ali AYOUB (UNEP): In the run-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development progress towards agreements on the mutually reinforcing conventions of climate change and biological diversity will test our collective commitments to serve the planet resources. While 1992 is a target date no one is willing to sacrifice content for expediency in preparing either conventions. However, in the negotiations towards these two global conventions on the arrangement of necessary financial mechanism and technology transfer agreements in this and other issues we have shifted gear from debating the necessity of cooperative action to defining the details.

There is a wide recognition that the strategies intended to hold ecological degradation 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 but shortsighted economic forces. We will not serve our planet's resources unless, first, ecological considerations become integrated into all facets of economic, fiscal, monetary and industry policies; and, second, market mechanisms are geared towards generating new revenues to address global environmental problems and, at the same time, the real causes of poverty.

UNEP continues to collaborate with FAO on the development and implementation of international programmes for the conservation and management of genetic resources of all types. UNEP has been the main catalyst in raising to a higher status the neglected animal genetic resources. UNEP also hopes that the genetic resources of aquatic systems will begin to receive the due attention they deserve.

Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya): My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent documentation and also to thank Dr de Haen for his illuminating introduction.

We acknowledge the efforts and achievements of CPGR in establishing a global network of genebanks and in situ protected areas, and in preparing a Global Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources exploitation as well as a Code of Conduct for International Collection and Transfer, and a Code of Conduct on Biotechnology.

Kenya subscribes to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and welcomes the new arrangements for programme cooperation between FAO, IBPGR and CPGR under the Memorandum of understanding. The change in status of IBPGR to an autonomous body is another milestone which is fully endorsed by my Government.

We urge IBPGR and the Commission to articulate more strongly the needs of the developing countries, appreciating the preparation of crop-specific guidelines for the transfer of germplasm, but we wish to see a greater involvement of experts from developing countries in the expert groups.

Mr Chairman, Kenya supports the establishment of ex situ base collection genebanks and in situ protected areas. It is for this reason that we have offered FAO a space for a genebank as part of the international network of base collections. FAO should however endeavour to establish minimum standards for all genebanks in the international network and provide adequate resources to developing countries in ensuring the maintenance of requirements.

Mr Chairman, the value of genebanks is in the storage, exchange and transfer of germplasm and the sharing of the benefits of the genetic products. Developing countries, while constituting the main depositories of genetic resources, have benefited little from and often lost their germplasm for lack of technological capacity to safeguard and utilize these resources, lack of some legal mechanism to compensate or protect their interests. We would therefore welcome the establishment of a Code of Conduct for International Collecting and Transfer of Germplasm.

My delegation endorses the establishment of an International Fund for the implementation of Farmers' Rights. We however find it inappropriate at this stage to make the fund mandatory.

We welcome the preparation of a Code of Conduct on Biotechnology which we consider to be a necessary measure for controlled utilization of genetic resources and protection against manipulative or exploitative use of biotechnology. My delegation, however, feels that a Code of Conduct as such does not go far enough to make up for the serious disadvantage of lack of biotechnology know-how suffered in developing countries. We urge for practical measures and programmes for the building or improvement of national capacities through training and improvement of infrastructure and information base in developing countries to enable them to benefit fully from effective use of their own genetic resources for increasing agricultural production.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation endorses the convening of Fourth International Technical Conference on Genetic Resources to assess the state of the world's genetic resources and to map out a Global Plan of Action on the conservation of genetic resources.¹

Amer D. SALMAN (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): We should like to commend the Secretariat for a well prepared document on Genetic Resources. We attach great importance to the provision of advice and expertise to Genetic Resources banks in developing countries, and that FAO and IPBGR should undertake this task

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

We also support the proposal in paragraphs 2-3 concerning the Fourth Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources in view of the vital importance of conservation of these resources, and their deterioration in many countries particularly in the Developing World. As to the principle of farmers' rights and the financing mechanism, it is our opinion that it should be further discussed during the proposed Fourth Technical Conference because of the existing differences and particularities of legislations in the various concerned countries.¹

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have thus exhausted our list of speakers. As far as the question posed by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Venezuela on the contact group is concerned, this was a proposal submitted by Spain. Is there anyone who objects to such an idea of having such a group?

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): If I understand your query, you are wondering whether or not a contact group to discuss the comments on the draft Code of Conduct on Collecting and Transfer of Germplasm is appropriate.

I guess we would question the value of doing that for two reasons. One is that, for our delegation, we would have to go back to our capital to get concurrence on the final Code in any event. Additionally, I thought that there were a number of delegations who very explicitly said that they were not prepared to offer their governments' views until this question had been reviewed in their capitals.

With those two points in mind, our preference would be not to have such a contact group.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Is there anyone who wishes to support what the delegate of the United States has just said? Is there anybody who would agree with him?

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I would like to agree with what the delegate of the United States has just said.

H.E.J. JORRITSMA (Netherlands): I support the United States' point of view in postponing discussions on the code of conduct.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand) : My delegation would like to support the views expressed by the United States.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I do not believe that we have a consensus on this matter. Therefore, I believe that we should not convene a contact group at present.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): On behalf of all my colleagues in the Secretariat, I would like to thank all of you, especially those of you who took the floor, for the support, the suggestions and the constructive criticism which you have advanced. We will analyse this and consider it in our subsequent work. We feel encouraged to continue in our work towards a fully operational global system for conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources and, I would add, always keeping in mind the interests of today's and future generations.

I understand from all your interventions that emphasis will have to be placed in particular on the monitoring of the global and regional state of plant genetic resources, on the development of guidelines, codes and rules for conservation, use and exchange of plant genetic resources, and on action programmes to be developed both in situ and ex situ, both for agricultural plant genetic resources in the narrower sense and forestry resources as well.

We noted the request to collaborate closely with UNEP and with UNCED, in particular as regards the coordination between the Commission's work on plant genetic resources and the relevant legal or funding Instruments for biodiversity which may be the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

We have taken note in this context that several delegates, including Sweden, the United States, Canada and others, have proposed holding an Extraordinary Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in the fall of 1992, to plan immediate follow-up actions resulting from UNCED. We will take this up, but I must say that this will require extra funding, be it through reallocation of funds internally but more likely through extra-budgetary sources which we may have to draw on.

It may also, and probably will, require an internal reorganization of staff time. You are aware of the fact that the Working Group on Genetic Resources has a limited capacity and, as it stands, we are mandated to convene the next regular session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in April 1993.

One of the options which I understand we may have to consider would also be a possible delay in the next regular session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. I feel at least obliged to mention this, and if delegates wish to comment on this, we would appreciate their advice.

Let me now briefly try to answer some of the questions or comment on some concerns raised in connection with the three main items of the discussion. First, on the draft resolution, we noted the general support for the resolution apart from a minor amendment proposed by Turkey to replace the wording "Third World" by "developing countries".

We have also taken careful note of some more general questions and concerns raised by a number of delegates. Before I comment on some of the specific queries, let me say that you may have observed that those who expressed concern did this with the intention of proposing a more committing wording: on the one hand concerning the availability of germplasm without restriction; on the other hand concerning the nature, the amount or the size of the international fund.

On the wording regarding the availability of germplasm without restriction, I would like to stress that this was discussed at some length during the last Council and also during the last Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. A contact group was established during Council which had sessions of five to six hours. The result of these discussions was to propose leaving the wording open on purpose - the wording regarding the availability without restriction - and to propose a wording which was less committing than any other formulation.

The Council, on the other hand, requested the Secretariat to prepare a document on legal matters related to the free access, or access without restriction, to be presented to the next meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and the Secretariat is working on that.

May I also mention in this context that, keeping the formulation of the draft resolution as it stands, we would not preempt the outcome of UNCED regarding any specific forms of access without restriction.

As to the other wording problem with the draft resolution - and that is the nature and the amount of the international fund - here again both the nature and the amount of the international fund were left open, in our understanding, on purpose. Having said this, however, I think I can respond to those delegates who expressed concerns about a fund being voluntary or mandatory. In our understanding - at least in my understanding, and in the Secretariat's understanding - the character of the fund, that is voluntary or mandatory, is a matter to be decided by our governing bodies. However, since there has not been any decision to make the fund mandatory, the Secretariat works under the implicit basic assumption that the fund is voluntary for the time being until an explicit decision is taken. I would like to reassure you of this understanding.

In this context, may I refer you to the concern expressed by the distinguished delegate from Denmark, that the establishment of a specific type of fund is preempted in the draft resolution. The Secretariat notes that any source of funding and any organizational arrangements, including the linkage of the fund to the Global Environment Facility, or for any biodiversity funding which may come out of UNCED, would be compatible with the current wording in the draft wording in the resolution in our understanding.

May I in this context raise a third point regarding Farmers' Rights? - a point just mentioned by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom, who said that the notion of the Fund where rights arose from past achievements of farmers was "utterly impractical". May I refer to Resolution 5/89, which Conference endorsed unanimously in its last Session, and quote from that Resolution which says: "The Conference endorses the concept of Farmers' Rights ("Farmers' Rights means rights arising from past, present and future contributions in"), so this notion of a right arising from past achievements has already been endorsed in the previous Resolution, which is now annexed to the International Undertaking.

In summary, it is our interpretation that the draft resolution could find wide consensus, and if this were so it would be possible for the Resolution Committee to discuss and endorse the draft resolution, possibly with non-substantial minor amendments but not major amendments, and it would then go forward to the Drafting Committee.

As regards the Code of Conduct on Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer, here again we noted wide support, but we also noted that some countries proposed further amendments and refinements. On the other hand, others indicated that they are already using the Code, unofficially, so to speak, as guidelines in their work. But referring to the decision which was reached just before I took the floor, I understand that we may have to refer the whole matter to the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and not to a contact group of this Conference.

Under those circumstances, I do not have to go into too much detail of further questions regarding the Code of Conduct, because it will be discussed in the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its next session.

I come finally then to the Technical Conference, where I can be very brief. We appreciate your full support, and we have noted that some countries - Spain in particular - are offering their support to activities in the preparation and holding of the Conference, in the case of Spain preferably in Latin America and Caribbean Region. In the Report, you have seen that mention is made of an advance group, which would be a technical working group to support the preparation and holding of the Conference. This group would be a group of scientists, not a group of government-designated experts. I just want to make this clear: the intergovernmental body guiding the preparation, execution and holding of the Conference would be the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, not an extra intergovernmental body - at least not to our understanding.

Now that we have your unanimous support for the further pursuit of preparation of the Conference, the Secretariat would appreciate the support of those countries who have already indicated, or may want to indicate, their financial support, because, as I have said in my introduction, we think that about \$3 million will be needed to prepare and hold the Conference. In this context, may I propose that those delegates whose governments are considering support in this regard contact me today or tomorrow so that we may use the opportunity of your presence to go into more detail regarding the further process, including the funding mechanism.

I have come to the end of my replies, but I owe one answer to the distinguished delegate of Madagascar, who asked about the state of preparation of the Code of Conduct on Biotechnology which was discussed in the last Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Just to remind all of us: this Session concluded that it would be premature to endorse this Code, and requested the Secretariat to develop the details of the Code in close collaboration with other agencies and organizations which work on similar aspects, including bio-safety - for instance, UNIDO - and other components. You will recall that this Code not only addresses matters of bio-safety, but mainly aims at the introduction of the sustainable use of biotechnology in the developing countries. The Secretariat is planning a number of meetings with legal and technical experts and with other organizations which have interests and activities in this matter - UNIDO, UNEP, Unesco, WHO, WIPO, UNFPA, OECD, EEC, CGIAR, IBPGR, World Bank, IUCN -I could go on to give you a long list, if you are interested. This is such an acute matter that the number of organizations engaged in this field is almost unlimited. The first draft of the code may be available for discussion by the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources by the end of 1992.

I hope I have answered most of your questions satisfactorily, but of course if further clarification is needed I shall be glad to come back.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Le ruego me disculpe, señor Presidente, pero es que mi delegación quisiera hacer una reflexión sobre la propuesta que se había hecho de crear un grupo de contacto. Como nosotros dijéramos en nuestra intervención anterior, pensábamos que sería conveniente analizar detenidamente la propuesta de España de crear ese grupo de contacto en esta Comisión. Estimábamos que dicho grupo podría ayudar a que se hiciera un primer análisis de las diferentes posiciones que existan y que permita incluso a los países llevar a sus capitales esas diferentes posiciones. Como dijo la delegada de Venezuela, tal vez será difícil llegar a un acuerdo en esta ocasión, pero el resultado de ese grupo de contacto estimaba nuestra delegación que podría dar mayores elementos de juicio a la Comisión y al grupo de trabajo para que analizara esta cuestión en forma más amplia, aprovechando sobre todo la presencia, durante la Conferencia, de los expertos en la materia de los diferentes países. Le solicito me disculpe, señor Presidente, pero sólo quería hacer una reflexión sobre este asunto.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We have already referred to the setting up of a contact group but there was no consensus on that. The Chair is certainly in the hands of member countries. If there were consensus on that, we would of course have taken the necessary steps to set up such a contact group. I asked you to help me in this area, and a number of objections were formulated in this regard.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je n'interviendrais pas sur ce point relatif au groupe de contact, mais si vous me le permettez, je désire simplement remercier M. de Haen pour les explications qu'il a données concernant l'intervention que j'avais faite et je souhaiterais que les précisions qu'il a données figurent dans le rapport; ceci est mon souhait.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Madagascar. The Secretariat will certainly take account of that request.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): I have two points. First, with regard to the resolution, we propose that the complete explanation from the Secretariat be recorded as part of the Conference report. This will assist us in considering this resolution as this matter was not covered during the last Council meeting.

Secondly, with regard to your decision, Mr Chairman, that there will be no contact group: Although there are some points which I would like to raise, I accept your decision and assume that there will be no further discussion on the matter.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): I would like to thank Dr de Haen very much for his exhaustive explanation and the replies which he has given to us. There is however one matter I would like to raise.

We asked for comments on the early convening of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources next autumn. This was a sign of trust and confidence in FAO's abilities, and I would urge FAO to prepare at a very high level in order to respond to possible tasks created by the UNCED. Otherwise, there will be many competitors waiting to take over, and work in the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources would be of just an academic nature - and that would be a great pity. So - please be prepared.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): I would like to support the suggestion of the distinguished delegate from Denmark, to the extent that if we are just pacing ourselves on a timetable and also want to have an extraordinary meeting which would have some point and content, as Dr de Haen said here, and because there will be certain costs involved in this, I think we have to consider that UNCED is going to be held in June of next year, and in March there will be a meeting in New York of PrepCom 4.

Therefore, I think it will be rather difficult for us actually to manage this logistically, to actually have the extraordinary meeting as well.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): While I appreciate very much the concern raised by the delegate of Germany about the capacity of the Secretariat to follow up a PrepCom 4 and UNCED meeting and then prepare an extraordinary meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, I can assure delegates with your support and with the request of several delegates to give this priority we think we will be able to manage. Of course, PrepCom 4 and UNCED are major events which keep the whole Organization busy, but not in particular the Secretariat of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. We have to see these procedures in parallel, and we will try to do our best and convene this session.

I said earlier that this may have consequences for the funding available for the regular session of the Commission planned for April 1993. Whether or not we can stick to the schedule and convene that session as scheduled - we will have to do further homework on it, I would say, which may mean we have to ask some donors for extra funding. A delay of the next Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has another repercussion, because the Rules tell us clearly that sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources should be held in conjunction with the Committee on Agriculture to facilitate the participation of as many delegates and experts as possible, so it has some implications.

However, my intervention is meant to assure you that we will accept and share the priority for the immediate need to follow up on the UNCED and will do our best to convene the extraordinary session of the Commission, as requested by you.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): My delegation made a very clear statement on the issue relating to an early session of the Commission and the outcome of the UNCED meeting. I have given my statement on this matter to the Secretariat and hope it will be considered by them; otherwise we will open the debate on this.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Certainly the Secretariat has noted those remarks, and they will be discussed by the Drafting Committee. If there are no other comments to be made, I shall summarize.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I asked for the floor before your final remarks, Mr Chairman, because sometimes you take a decision before the interpretation comes through. That is why I should like to speak now.

Firstly, I can agree with what was said by the delegate of Indonesia. His point of view should also be reiterated and taken into consideration in the preparation of the Report.

Secondly, I hope you can explain to me whether the draft resolution stands as it is or if it will be taken up in the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I do apologize. I did not see the delegate of Brazil asking for the floor.

The Secretariat has certainly made my task easier. They have summarized practically all the points raised during the discussion. I would simply like to add two points which have warranted our attention during this discussion, particularly with reference to the question asked by the delegate of Brazil regarding the resolution.

The question is whether this resolution is going to be amended or not. In the light of the discussion we have had, this resolution will be put directly to the Drafting Committee. Therefore, the Drafting Committee will be given any draft amendments such as that submitted by the delegate of Turkey. I think everyone agreed on that amendment because it does not really affect the substance of the text.

The delegate of the United Kingdom had a comment to make, and he put forward a number of things regarding the draft resolution. These will also be looked at by the Drafting Committee. This is what I have gleaned during the discussion. All delegates who have spoken supported this resolution.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I have mentioned in my statement that we had difficulties with some points of the resolution, but because we recognized the amount of work in drafting the resolution, we would not present amendments. My position is still the same. If the resolution goes as it is with the amendment of the delegate of Turkey I can live with it, but if there are to be other changes I suppose we will have an occasion to discuss them further, or should I present amendments now?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I do not think any delegation objects to this draft. If anyone does they would have asked for the floor to discuss what those objections were.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I cannot totally agree with the draft as it stands without the word "voluntary" being included, and will have to seek further guidance on that.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Can I ask the United Kingdom delegate to discuss this matter with the Secretariat directly? Thank you. That means we can agree they record this draft resolution depending on the results of the discussion between the United Kingdom and the Secretariat.

As I have said, the Secretariat has facilitated my task to a very great extent. I think that the responses given by the Secretariat covered most of the points brought up during discussion. One point I wanted to add.

I think a number of developing countries themselves have brought up the question of the actual management, the actual monitoring, of plant genetic resources. A number of industrialized countries have asked that they be given facilities so that there can be some exchange of powers or competence in this area. I will not say any more on that. I feel we can now leave this item of our agenda.

- 10. Helping the Least-Developed Countries to Define an Agricultural Development Strategy
- 10. Aide aux pays les moins avancés en vue de définir une stratégie de développement agricole
- 10. Ayuda a los países menos adelantados para definir una estrategia de Desarrollo agrícola

F. RINVILLE (Assistant Director-General, Development Department): First, a correction which has to be applied to the English version only, page 1, paragraph 1, line 6, please read "closely" in place "clearly". And page 5, paragraph 20, line 5, after the words "lead to" please add "growing conflict between agriculture and environment exacerbated by" and the rest of the sentence is all right. The full sentence will now read "FAO is well aware that the energy shortages lead to growing conflict between agriculture and environment exacerbated by a population growth."

Le document C 91/26 que vous avez devant vous est la réponse du Directeur général à la Résolution 1/98 du Conseil de la FAO lors de sa 98ème session en novembre 1990. Le Conseil avait alors demandé au Directeur général de bien prendre en compte, dans le cadre de la FAO, les conclusions de la Deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés qui s'est tenue à Paris en septembre 1990. Il devait en particulier proposer des principes d'action et des mesures qui permettent de mieux associer la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du programme d'action pour aider les pays les moins avancés qui le demandent, de façon à définir une stratégie de développement agricole pour les dix prochaines années. Cela est en ligne avec la paragraphe 86 du Programme d'action approuvé par la Conférence de Paris.

Je me limiterai à présenter les grandes lignes d'action de notre Organisation au profit des pays les moins avancés. La FAO a collaboré avec la CNUCED à la préparation de la Conférence de Paris et y a présenté un rapport sur l'agriculture et l'alimentation dans les pays les moins avancés lors de la dernière décennie relative aux années 80. L'Organisation a fait aussi quelques propositions pour la présente décennie des années 90. Le Directeur général a voulu être présent personnellement à la Conférence de Paris et il y a présenté une déclaration.

Dans le cadre de la collaboration interagence, la FAO participe au suivi et à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action.

Les économies les moins avancées sont principalement agricoles. L'agriculture y représente presque la moitié du produit intérieur brut et emploie près des trois quarts de la population active. C'est dire combien le Programme d'action, approuvé par la Conférence de Paris, fait du développement du secteur agricole sa plus haute priorité et a recommandé des mesures spécifiques dans le domaine du développement rural, de la modernisation de la production agricole, de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'aide alimentaire, du développement des pêches, de l'environnement, de l'atténuation des effets des catastrophes et de leur prévention.

Les mesures décrites dans la section II du document, paragraphes 5 à 28, figurent au programme des priorités de la FAO et entrent bien dans le cadre de ses politiques d'action et ses procédures. Bien que la FAO n'ait pas de programme spécial relatif aux pays les moins avancés, ces derniers sont au centre de ses préoccupations. Par exemple, plus de la moitié des ressources du programme de terrain leur sont affectées et les recettes majeures de l'Organisation au niveau mondial bénéficient principalement aux pays les moins avancés.

La stratégie de développement agricole présente un programme cohérent qui concerne tout le spectre des activités de la FAO. La section III du document détaille les initiatives de la FAO qui concernent les pays les moins avancés. Dans le cadre du renforcement des missions de la FAO dans le domaine de l'avis en matière de politique agricole, tel que l'a voulu et confirmé la Conférence de 1989, la FAO s'est de plus en plus impliquée dans cette catégorie d'activités au niveau des pays, souvent d'ailleurs dans le contexte des programmes d'ajustement structurel. La coopération avec les autres institutions, et particulièrement la Banque mondiale, le Fonds monétaire international et le PNUD, est renforcée. Le Directeur général a en particulier mis en place un système d'information sur les politiques agricoles qui permet la promotion et la coordination de cette nature au niveau des pays.

Dans la même famille d'action, les projets d'assistance à la planification sont développés. Ce sont principalement les études sectorielles, l'analyse des plans agricoles, les politiques et les stratégies et l'impact des politiques sur le développement et les revenus ruraux. En fait, une part importante des activités de la FAO vise essentiellement à améliorer les capacités des administrations publiques en matière d'analyse des politiques et consiste en cours de formation, séminaires, ateliers et diffusion de matériels de formation.

Si les études à caractère régional développées par la FAO, telles que "L'Agriculture Africaine: les 20 prochaines années" et "Agriculture: Horizon 2000", constituent un cadre pour le développement agricole des pays du tiers monde, elles concernent tout particulièrement les PMA.

Une stratégie appropriée de développement agricole est un élément clé de toute politique de développement global d'un pays dans son environnement économique international. Il est essentiel, par conséquent, que les politiques sectorielles et macro-économiques intérieures, ainsi que la répartition des crédits budgétaires ne défavorise pas l'agriculture. Dans le même temps, l'environnement économique international, l'accès au marché,

les flux financiers pèsent lourdement sur les programmes agricoles dans les pays. Telles sont les réalités qui ont été prises en considération dans la préparation et la mise en oeuvre de stratégies de développement agricole. Tandis que le Programme d'Action désigne bien les PMA, comme premier responsable de leur développement, il fait appel à la Communauté internationale pour renforcer les efforts des PMA avec ses ressources d'assistance.

Monsieur le Président, comme le document le montre, les PMA sont les principaux bénéficiaires de tout un ensemble d'activités de la FAO par la nature même du mandat de la FAO, par la nature même des problèmes qui sont principalement leurs difficultés. Les buts et objectifs de l'Organisation ainsi que les activités du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain sont tout à fait en harmonie avec le Programme d'action approuvé par la Conférence de Paris. Le Directeur général souhaite assurer à la Conférence que la FAO, dans le cadre de ses ressources, continuera à intensifier son soutien aux PMA. Mes collaborateurs et moi-même sommes à votre disposition pour tout complément que vous pourriez souhaiter.

Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the comprehensive enumeration and description in document C 91/6 of the activities and measures undertaken by FAO to help LDCs in their efforts towards agricultural development and to assist them to define an agricultural development strategy in compliance with the Resolution of the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs and the FAO Council Resolution 1/98. In the interests of brevity the Philippine delegation shall offer a few comments on the conclusion in paragraphs 45 to 47 which address most concisely the central issues related to the item.

Firstly, the Philippine delegation is in full agreement with paragraph 45 when it stresses the paramount importance for LDCs to adopt an appropriate agricultural development strategy as part of the country's overall development policy and for domestic sectoral and macroeconomic policies and budgetary allocations, not to discriminate against agriculture. In his statement in Plenary the head of the Philippine delegation described our national efforts to evolve an agricultural policy which has a positive bias toward agriculture to encourage activities in small farmers and fishermen to promote agro-industry and export of agricultural products. We are aware that many other developing countries are doing the same in spite of unfavourable conditions. However, as part of structural adjustment of developing countries, developing countries are being asked to reduce the government role in production, pricing and marketing of agricultural products, not without negative effects on farmers' income and ability to produce. Yet in certain developed countries the level of protection and subsidies to agriculture has not diminished and in fact has reached record levels. In the year 1990 there has again been an increase of 12 percent in subsidy equivalent to agriculture which has reached the staggering sum of US\$299 billion

In connection with structural adjustment in developing countries I should like to reiterate our head of delegation's suggestion about the value of impartial advice from a neutral body like FAO to introduce social dimension and food security considerations in structural adjustment.

Secondly, the Philippine delegation agrees with paragraph 45 in its assertion regarding the severely limiting effect of the outflows required to service external debt of the developing countries on the investment required for rural infrastructures and institutional developments which are very necessary prerequisites for any efforts at rural development.

Thirdly, the Philippine delegation notes with serious concern the report that again in 1989 both concessional ODA in total inflows of external financial resources for agriculture declined to a value equivalent in real terms to that of 1986.

Fourthly, the Philippine delegation agrees with the point made in paragraph 45 that the future growth of LDCs inter alia will depend on the conditions governing agriculture, overall trade and market access.

There is no way LDCs can finance their agricultural development efforts if they are unable to export agricultural products where they have comparative advantage because of the high level protectionism which now prevails in world markets. No wonder the agricultural production efforts in developing countries are now faltering and registering a per capita negative growth in food and agricultural production.

Lastly, the Philippine delegation wishes to encourage FAO in its efforts to support developing countries in their efforts at evolving agricultural strategies and in carrying out technical programmes aimed at their implementation.

CHAIRMAN (Original Language Arabic): I welcome the statement by the delegate of the Philippines, especially the point he made concerning protectionism. Many developing countries in actual fact are confronted with this problem. Though they may develop their agriculture, they are still confronted with this protectionist problem.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): We wish to make a brief statement on this important item. Perhaps the root cause of the problem is given in paragraph 12, page 3 of the document. Lines 3 to 5 read: "Many LDCs have traditionally been subject to man-made and natural disruptive events affecting the course of their agriculture and economic development..."

We share FAO's recognition of the priorities of the LDCs and of their peculiar and unfortunate situations. Amongst others, the first and foremost priority is food security and, if I may add, it is their undeniable right to food. This, Sir, is God-given. All other priorities as laid out in the document are more or less related to the first priority. Unfortunately, as has been indicated in the Conference documents, the state of food and agriculture, of food security, is not satisfactory.

As has been conceded too, man-made disruptions as well as man-made barriers, are the main impediments, not only to food security, but to sustainable development in food and agriculture in the developing countries. These work against any developmental activities undertaken by these countries, where the most affected, unfortunately, are the least developed ones (the LDC's).

The fact is that all crises, be it war or, the imposition of tariff, non-tariff and other barriers imposed by the developed countries, directly affect the developing countries; hamper and, at times, totally disrupt the developmental activities undertaken. Interestingly, it is the developing countries which need to protect their trade - whereas, the situation is the other way around. The developed and the advanced countries of the world pursue stringent and ruthless trade protectionism and give subsidies both in production and export. As the Philippines rightly pointed out, this has reached a staggering sum.

Unfortunately, the developing countries, and most of all the least developed ones, have no choice but to import food to feed their people, and these very imports work against them in two ways: one, being short of funds, they have to obtain loans, etc., at terms imposed by the lending countries; and, later, they have to buy food from the loan-giving country at a price fixed by that country which is much higher than the normal prevalent market prices; two, alternatively, these imports constitute a constant drain on their already depleted foreign exchange reserves which they have no hope of balancing through normal trade because of their totally disadvantageous position. In such hopeless situations, the vulnerability of the developing countries, and most of all of the LDCs, to external pressures, is totally exposed.

We feel that it is here that FAO can play an important role by providing an institutional framework to actively assist and help these countries overcome some of their problems. At the same time, the promotion of increased dialogue, technical help and quick response to emergencies is called for.

Finally, we would request that the FAO assistance plans, along with those of other agencies as well as governments, should also cover the middle-income countries, where structures and systems are also built on a fragile edifice.

LI ZHENG-DONG (China) (Original language Chinese): In the first place, I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr Rinvile, for his introduction; and my thanks are also addressed to the Secretariat for preparing such a concise and brief document, namely, *Helping the Least Developed Countries to Define an Agricultural Development Strategy*. This is an important issue which calls for the attention of the whole international community. The undertaking of such work will help to narrow the gap between the North and the South, and therefore is of great importance and significance.

We have noticed that in the last several years this Organization, even without a special programme for LDCs has done a great deal of work to help the LDCs. These LDCs have won certain benefits from FAO's Regular and Field Programmes. By helping the least-developed countries to define agricultural development strategy, FAO can do a lot of work in this sense. We believe that FAO can shoulder an inevitable responsibility. Therefore, FAO should create a favourable environment at regional, national and international level, so as to help these countries in building up their self-development capacity.

The cases and situations of these LDCs vary from one to the other. We believe that international assistance and their indigenous efforts should take into account the existing realities and situations. It is believed that the LDCs and their economic environment should be studied further and this kind of study should be further strengthened. We hope that an integrated report will be presented in the coming meetings.

The international community, especially the countries with potential to help these LDCs, can list the LDCs at the top of their Governmental agenda.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much. Of course, the Organization does have a leading role to fulfil, and it is of the utmost importance that it helps the LDCs, but obviously there must be total coordination with other agencies and other organizations which have similar competence.

Jean-Paul RIVAUX (France): Après avoir eu l'honneur d'accueillir en 1990 l'importante Conférence sur les pays les moins avancés, la France se félicite de l'inscription à l'ordre du jour de ce point qui devrait nous permettre d'examiner l'effort fait par la FAO en faveur des pays les plus défavorisés. Comme vous le savez, l'action en faveur des PMA reste l'une des priorités de la politique française de coopération. C'est pourquoi ma délégation a examiné le document qui nous est présenté avec une attention particulière.

Le document appelle les remarques suivantes:

La première partie récapitule les activités et orientations de la FAO qui coïncident avec les directives de la dernière Conférence des PMA.

Les domaines d'intervention sont traditionnels. Il s'agit de la valorisation des ressources humaines, de l'intégration régionale, de la sécurité alimentaire, de la pêche, de la forêt, de l'environnement.

Sans doute aurait-il été préférable de présenter ces actions dans le cadre d'une stratégie globale et cohérente que ne reflète guère l'examen du rapport du Secrétariat.

Peut-être pouvait-on attendre de la part de la FAO, qui dispose d'une longue expérience dans le domaine de la coopération avec les PMA, un témoignage plus original et plus concret, mettant en évidence les efforts déployés par l'Organisation pour se hisser au rang du conseil effectif dans le domaine des politiques agricoles et alimentaires.

La deuxième remarque du document cherche à mettre l'accent sur l'assistance de la FAO aux PMA pour définir cette stratégie de développement que j'évoquais voici quelques instants. Sans être toujours très convaincant, le Secrétariat passe en revue les actions de la FAO dans les domaines suivants: la politique d'ajustement structurel, la planification et l'élaboration de stratégies, l'amélioration des capacités d'analyse des politiques et la coopération avec d'autres institutions en vue d'améliorer la coordination de l'aide.

Cette analyse trop descriptive pourrait être utilement complétée par une réflexion approfondie sur les conséquences sociales de l'ajustement structurel, selon un souhait maintes fois réitéré dans cette enceinte.

Ma délégation regrette également que le document ne précise pas davantage les analyses et les objectifs de la FAO dans le domaine des stratégies de développement agricole. Le paragraphe 86 du Programme d'action de la deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, cité dans le document, suggérait à cet égard certaines lignes d'action. Je rappellerai, en particulier:

- l'adoption de politiques de prix et de crédits agricoles tenant compte du marché et de la nécessité de prévoir des mesures d'encouragement;
- l'amélioration de la répartition des revenus;
- une participation du secteur public en faveur de l'approvisionnement des zones déficitaires;
- la diversification de la base agricole (intégration agriculture-élevage, promotion de la pêche, amélioration de la productivité);
- le développement et l'application de la recherche agricole;
- la réforme des modes de culture et du régime foncier;
- l'adoption de techniques agricoles tenant compte de la nécessité de protéger le milieu rural;
- la mise en place de services d'appui à l'agriculture (en particulier le crédit agricole).

Ces propositions, qui figuraient dans le document de 1990, pourraient servir de référence à l'Organisation dans la définition de ses programmes en faveur des PMA.

Le document que nous examinons aujourd'hui ne met pas suffisamment en lumière les conditions dans lesquelles les programmes de la FAO s'appuient effectivement sur les orientations de la Conférence des PMA.

Enfin, la délégation française souhaite rappeler qu'elle soutient le principe d'une coopération entre les PMA et les autres pays en développement dans le cadre des institutions régionales existantes.

Comme elle l'a précédemment déclaré, ma délégation se félicite des efforts qui sont faits pour la coordination de l'aide aux PMA et souhaite que la participation de la FAO aux tables rondes du PNUD et aux groupes consultatifs PNUD/Banque mondiale soit favorisée.

Pour en terminer, ma délégation souhaite qu'en dépit des limites budgétaires de l'Organisation, limites que nous connaissons, une priorité plus évidente en faveur des PMA soit affichée dans le Programme ordinaire dont les moyens seront d'autant plus facilement augmentés par des ressources extrabudgétaires que la stratégie et le programme-cadre d'intervention seront plus clairement définis.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Secretariat has listened very carefully to your proposals and suggestions. I believe that the Organization is giving considerable assistance to LDCs. This is very clear from the Programme of Technical Cooperation.

B.P. SINHA (Nepal): Along with my delegation, I fully endorse all the strategies included in the Report of the Director-General. However, we would like to make a few comments on the following:

In paragraph 2, specific measures under the sections dealing with agricultural and rural development, environment, disaster mitigation, preparedness and prevention are clearly mentioned. But in the context of Least-Developed Countries like Nepal there is little reference to policy issues like price support of the agricultural production of the farmers. Imported inputs are very important to increase the production and productivity of agricultural crops. Most of these Least-Developed Countries are importing fertilizers and plant protection chemicals and equipment at very high prices. The market for their products is not remunerative, so farmers are not getting motivated to increase their agricultural production. My delegation therefore believes that some sort of mechanism should be developed, to help these developing countries to have a system of relevant price support for the farmers.

Secondly, the matter of crop insurance: in most Least-Developed Countries, particularly Nepal, agriculture is totally dependent on nature. Frequently we have irregularities of rain, which affect agricultural production. If some kind of mechanism of crop insurance is going to be introduced, then farmers can get help and encouragement to increase their production.

Thirdly, the food security issue. My delegation does not like Food Aid, which gives no incentive to the farmer to increase food production. We would rather that FAO helped us in the establishment of food security and buffer stocks to meet food emergencies. Unless and until, especially in the Least-Developed Countries, people's purchasing power is increased, the provision of food either by import or by food aid will not be helpful or give any incentive to the farmers. It therefore seems to my delegation that this concept of food aid is going to be self-defeating.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind you of a Chinese proverb, "Do not give me a fish to eat, but give me a fishing rod and teach me how to fish."

François ROUX (Belgique): La délégation belge désire tout d'abord remercier M. Rinvile pour son introduction et pour le rapport C 91/26 qui nous est soumis.

La Belgique a apporté tout son soutien, lors de la deuxième Conférence des Nations Unies sur les PMA, à Paris, en 1990, à l'adoption des dispositions du Programme d'action, notamment celles relatives au développement rural, à la modernisation de la production agricole et à la sécurité alimentaire dans les PMA.

Pour mon pays, la Section V du Programme d'action relève d'une conviction fondamentale: la nécessité pour les populations de disposer d'un approvisionnement suffisant et raisonnablement prévisible.

Il se fait que cette question se trouve au centre de la politique belge de coopération au développement. La déclaration gouvernementale de 1988 prévoyait déjà trois priorités dans l'octroi de l'aide. Je les cite:

- concentrer l'aide sur les PMA;
- renforcer les projets axés sur les besoins de base des populations, au premier rang desquels vient l'alimentation;
- accorder la priorité à l'agriculture et au développement des zones rurales dans le cadre des stratégies alimentaires et nutritionnelles adaptées.

Au sein de la FAO, notre pays s'est attaché à réserver la priorité aux pays les moins avancés, notamment lors de la mise en oeuvre de nos projets de développement financés par des fonds fiduciaires. Un important projet forestier connaît un certain succès au Cap-Vert. Un projet régional de développement des cultures maraîchères est en cours au Sénégal avec diverses antennes en Guinée, notamment. En Asie, nous finançons un projet d'amélioration des semences en coopération avec le Danemark.

Enfin, depuis un an, les intérêts que génère notre fonds fiduciaire servent au lancement de projets et de programmes dans l'esprit du PCT. Il s'agit d'une expérience qui, jusqu'ici, a rencontré un certain succès. C'est ainsi que 14 de ces petits projets sont devenus, cette année, opérationnels.

Nous espérons que cette expérience belge fera d'autres adeptes et permettra, à terme, d'assurer la pérennité de l'assistance technique aux pays les moins avancés. Nous sommes cependant conscients du caractère extrêmement limité de cette expérience face aux problèmes des PMA. La Belgique oeuvre également dans d'autres enceintes pour assurer la mise en place d'un système d'échanges stable et équitable et elle a également fait des propositions pour régler le problème de la dette internationale de ces pays.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): The Thailand delegation recognizes that the Least-Developed Countries need help in defining the strategy for their agricultural development. Consequently, the Thai delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of document C 91/26 for our discussion in this Commission. The Thai delegation would also like to support the FAO in its initiative in helping the Least-Developed Countries to define an agricultural development strategy, either through the FAO regional networks or cooperation with other institutions.

The Thailand delegation would like to identify the situation of the Least-Developed Countries by asking the question: "Are the Least-Developed Countries facing the food deficit and the low income of their populations?" If this question is applicable, the Thai delegation would like to suggest that the agricultural development for food and nutrition production, and increasing the income of populations on the basis of the availability of their natural resources, should be in the form of sustainability, a strategy for agricultural development.

The Thailand delegation wishes to express our view that we would like to cooperate with the Least-Developed Countries, either through the TCDC programme or bilateral agreements, in agricultural development for the well-being of the populations in the Least-Developed Countries.

Bo WILEN (Sweden): My delegation has read the Director-General's Report C 91/26 with much interest. We believe FAO is to be commended on the degree of attention it gives the least developed countries in allocating more than half of the resources destined for field activities to those countries. We also are of the view that the Organization made important contributions to the Paris Conference on LDCs in September last year and has participated actively and in a forward-looking manner in the follow up and implementation of the Conference's Programme of Action.

This said, we would like to comment on the chapter entitled Country Policy and Structural Adjustment Work. The last FAO Conference considered that the Organization should focus more closely on sector and sub-sector reviews, and structural adjustment work at country level.

We appreciate that FAO has increased its involvement in work related to these important tasks, but we note with concern paragraph 34 of document C 91/26. It reads: "Lack of assured funding is a serious constraint in assisting LDCs in analysing their food and agricultural situation in the light of their macro-economic environment and evolving appropriate strategies." This illustrates a difficult dilemma. We, the governing bodies of FAO, have in our priority setting created a situation where it lacks money for the Organization to perform its role as a centre of excellence within its mandate, in service for, among others, the LDCs. We, the governing bodies, have created a situation in which the expertise of FAO cannot be exploited fully for policy advice and formulation work.

My delegation does not think that in this case the solution is just more extra-budgetary resources. This is a matter of priority setting and for the governing bodies to get very concrete proposals from the Secretariat in dialogue with the Member States and furthermore, of all Member States fulfilling their obligations with regard to the assessed contributions.

Our view is, instead, that FAO should be further strengthened as regards its role as a centre of excellence. At the sacrifice of what? Of course, FAO also has an important role to play in the operational activities of the development cooperation. But my delegation is of the view that project administration should in principle be performed by the developing countries themselves; with the understanding, of course, that in certain phases in programme or project cycles technical assistance may be needed.

My delegation believes that the strengthening of FAO as a centre of excellence in agriculture, forestry and fisheries must continue so that it is natural for all relevant funding organizations to demand and utilize the expertise of FAO in policy advice and formulation. In that way FAO can act as a catalyst for operational activities financed either multilaterally or bilaterally. This is most important for the LDCs.

To sum up, FAO has a real advantage to act, within its mandate, in the fields of support for country policy and structural adjustment work, planning and strategy formulation, improving capabilities in policy analysis and for strengthening the LDCs capacity to coordinate internal and external inputs. Finance to cover the costs implied may come from UNDP, other international agencies and institutions and, of course, the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO.

To that end my delegation welcomes FAO's efforts to further strengthen the cooperation with other multilateral institutions and bilateral agencies.

H.E.J. JORRITSMA (Netherlands): I have just a few remarks to make. Assistance to developing countries in formulating a development strategy for the agricultural sector is one of the main activities of FAO, and I suppose I have the impression that it will be increasingly so in the future.

The document presented by FAO gives an overview of the projects that have been excluded during the last few years in the sphere of food security, the role of development, fisheries, forestry, and the sustainable development of agriculture in developing countries. However, I have the impression that it is less explicit on the way in which important objectives, as far as our delegation is concerned, like human resource development, institutional development, support of farmers' organizations, and women's participation are realized, and on the concrete results of these activities.

Another aspect I would like to mention concerns the changing roles of government and the private sector in macro-economic development thinking in important institutions like the World Bank. It is not clear from the document what the position of FAO is or will be in this respect, and to what extent adaptations in its activities are foreseen.

In the second part of the document which deals with FAO assistance to the least developed countries, in formulating an agricultural development strategy there are other things lacking. In this context, recent developments in GATT in the field of liberalizing world markets should be taken into account when giving agriculture in developing countries a chance to be ecologically sustainable and economically viable in the long run.

Ms T.F. ADORO (Lesotho): My delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the Programme of Action as stipulated in the Report before us. We also wish to commend FAO for working closely through inter-agency mechanisms in the follow up and implementation of this Programme of Action. However, we are dismayed to learn that FAO has no special programme with the LDCs, a move which would be most welcomed by my delegation. It is our hope that FAO will consider establishing such a special programme in its future activities.

In most of the LDCs there already exists, although on a small scale, some form of participatory development in the form of cooperative and farmers' associations. We can only urge FAO to provide the technical assistance needed to enhance these initiatives and to make viable such things as manpower training.

While aligning ourselves fully with the efforts undertaken by FAO in food security and disaster mitigation, we would urge FAO to increase its assistance through its Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. We firmly believe prevention is better than cure. We applaud FAO for recognizing the interrelationship between forests and energy, and the need for integrating energy into the overall agricultural plans and strategies in the LDCs. My delegation hopes that the important initiative that is already under way in Asia will be extended soon to cover other regions as well, particularly in Africa.

On the question of the environment and sustainable agriculture and rural development, we support the Den Bosch Agreement. We are looking forward to FAO's assistance in helping the LDCs tailor their programmes to meet individual needs, as is stipulated in paragraph 26.

We urge FAO to continue to work closely with regional economic organizations as stated in paragraph 27. These organizations need assistance especially in manpower training in order to meet their goals and objectives.

We endorse fully the contents of paragraph 36. FAO should continue to provide information on this crucial matter.

My delegation applauds FAO on its policy analyses both at government and regional levels. We particularly should support the efforts to achieve this objective by way of training courses, workshops and discussion and training materials. We would be happy to see Lesotho included in these initiatives.

Art WRIGHT (Canada): Document C 91/26 deals with issues vital to the people and governments of less developed countries and therefore we thank the Secretariat for providing us with the opportunity to discuss these issues, and Mr Rinvile for his helpful introduction.

Our own development assistance policy places great emphasis on the interrelated challenges of reducing poverty and stimulating agricultural productivity in the least developed countries. While FAO itself does not specifically structure its programmes to address the unique conditions of least developed countries, the Organization does have significant skills which we believe can be directed to assist least developed countries in devising their own agricultural development strategies.

The approach outlined in the Paris LDC Conference held in 1990, hosted by the Government of France, provides some useful guidelines for the manner in which such strategies can be put forward.

We would associate ourselves very closely with the remarks of the French delegation in commenting specifically on the document before us. Like France, my delegation believes that the Report would have benefited from a greater level of analysis and perhaps less description of projects that have been undertaken.

We recognize that Resolution 1/89 defined very specifically the mandate to be addressed, but we believe much of the document C 91/26 reviews projects and activities undertaken, but does not draw lessons from the experience in a way which is potentially most helpful. We would think that given the extensive experience of FAO, there is a great deal that can be contributed in cooperation with other appropriate agencies and organizations.

Just to illustrate this, it would be useful to reflect that the data that FAO has at its disposal because of its long association with agricultural programmes in least developed countries are perhaps as comprehensive as any particular data bank on these issues that exists anywhere. If these data were more effectively analyzed and perhaps shared with other relevant institutions, it could indeed be of great assistance to least developed countries who are attempting to develop a strategic approach which will

help them realize their agricultural potential. It is often not a total lack of data on agricultural performance, on production, on comparative advantage and market trends (raw data often do exist) but the analysis of these data and the putting of the data into a form useful to the particular problems encountered by individual countries is so often lacking.

If countries are to be asked to increase their efficiency and to assess market trends in a way that takes advantage of their comparative advantage, then they must have access to such analyses. They must also have assistance in assessing their resource base, the skills and financial resources available to them in order to document their own particular strengths and weaknesses. If, indeed, it is essential, as we all believe, for agricultural production to increase and to become more efficient, then it is necessary for countries to develop concrete, practical options that reflect the real world environment and the markets for their products.

These kinds of strategic decisions can only be taken in the context of an agricultural strategic plan. Obviously, that is the intention of many developing countries.

I think where the FAO can make the largest contribution is in working with other institutions that do have access to this basic data and ensuring that it is used in a way that assists countries to use the experience that has been gained in order to develop appropriate policies, local skills and capacities.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): The United States delegation endorses and supports document C 91/26 on helping the least developed countries to define an agricultural development strategy. The review of FAO's work in the area of strategic planning is a continuing process that has as its goal improving FAO's overall institutional effectiveness in promoting worldwide sustained agricultural development. As such, the United States delegation encourages FAO to continue its efforts to build its own capacity, as well as that of the LDCs, to accomplish this goal.

Notwithstanding our support and endorsement of FAO's report, the United States delegation would nevertheless like to make the following observations and suggestions.

Although all of the activities described in the report help toward the attainment of the stated objective of assisting the LDCs to achieve sustained agricultural development, the report does not provide a clear and focused development paradigm upon which critical development constraints are identified and strategic choices are made. The report appears to reflect a broad, diffused approach to the problems of agricultural development, while at the same time excluding such important development issues as, for example, how to promote regional trade, how to improve the commercialization of agricultural inputs, marketing systems, and how to privatize parastatals.

In the critical area of building local capacity to undertake agricultural policy analysis, FAO's approach is one of building public sector capacity. Although this is important to the process, the United States delegation encourages FAO to also look for ways to develop capacities within the

private sector and within the academic community that is involved in the agricultural sector.

With respect to the section of the report on the development of fisheries, the United States delegation also encourages FAO to integrate into its fisheries programmes elements of environmental and natural resources management.

In terms of the energy sector, it is not clear from the report how energy planning is being integrated into overall agricultural development plans. We believe that this section should be improved.

With regard to sustainable agriculture, the US delegation believes that sustainable agriculture is very much a research issue. As such, FAO is encouraged to go beyond the Den Bosch Declaration and to leverage its resources for increased research efforts in sustainable agricultural development, especially on the flatlands of the world.

Finally, the United States delegation would like to suggest that FAO continue to assist those countries implementing major structural adjustment programmes. Special emphasis should be placed on monitoring programme impacts.

The challenge to FAO in its efforts to guide the LDCs will be how to achieve sustained agricultural growth. This will require increased investment not only in strategic planning but, more importantly, in infrastructure, human and physical capital, access to technology and financial markets in order to encourage the private sector to respond to the improved policy environment.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to recommend your request to give the private sector a more important role and to assess the results of the structural adjustment and its impact on the LDCs.

Deddy SUDARMAN (Indonesia): My delegation is very pleased to note from Mr Rinvile's introductory remarks and document C 91/26 before us that, although FAO has no special programme for the LDCs as such, they remain at the centre of FAO's concern in view of their needs with more than half of the resources allocated to field activities directed to the LDCs.

My delegation supports the FAO's activities in helping the LDCs, especially in the sectors related to sustainable agriculture and rural development.

With regard to the economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, which already has proved to be a very effective programme for cooperation among developing countries, such cooperation should be continuously promoted. In this connection, although the primary responsibility to implement ECDC/TCDC lies with the developing countries themselves, the continuing active role of UN bodies and developed countries, as well, is still very much needed and welcomed. My delegation therefore wishes FAO to continue its support on ECDC/TCDC activities.

As far as Indonesia is concerned, we have been extending technical cooperation under the Indonesia TCDC programmes to more than 20 developing countries, including LDCs, annually. Our TCDC programmes cover various fields such as industry, agriculture, public work, mining and energy, social welfare, nature conservation, public relations and family planning. For fiscal year 1991/1992 Indonesia has offered 18 TCDC training programmes facilities which can accommodate not less than 450 participants from other developing countries, including LDCs.

I would like also to state that the Indonesian Government in cooperation with UNDP conducted a TCDC Programming Exercise Meeting in Jakarta last year which was attended by 29 countries from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and Europe, and seven international organizations such as ESCAP, FAO, UNDP, IDB, UNFPA, UNDTCD, and one international NGO, Foster Parents Plan.

In bilateral negotiations during the meeting 219 projects of technical cooperation were finalized. Of these, 165 projects were requested from Indonesia by the other participating countries, and 54 projects were requested by Indonesia to the other participating countries.

With regard to the FAO assistance to LDCs in defining agricultural development strategy at country level, my delegation believes that, in order to be more effective, such a development strategy should be deeply rooted in the conditions, interests, concerns and priorities of the LDCs themselves.

However, the successful attainment of this objective also needs a more favourable external environment, especially the availability of external financing, improvement of imperfect market structures and increased access to technology. All those factors would create a conducive environment for development of LDCs.

Takakata OKAMOTO (Japan): I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for the concise and comprehensive introduction to document C 91/26. My comments will be very brief.

Agriculture is an integral part of the fundamentals of the national economy in the least developed countries, and it is indispensable to ensure sound conditions for agricultural production such as production skill, labour forces and land for cultivation through actual production activities in order to achieve a steady supply of foodstuffs.

We are well aware that many least developed countries have been striving against many difficulties. These difficulties are attributable to such causes as population growth, stagnating productivity of agriculture and inefficient economic management.

The document reports FAO's approaches and measures specifically, and its Conclusion in paragraph 45 indicates that an appropriate agricultural development strategy is a key part of the country's overall development policy. My country quite agrees with this view.

Japan has worked to expand its aid to least developed countries. The Fourth Medium-Term Target during the period of 1988 to 1992 clearly states further increases in its proportion of aid.

M. Virgilio MONALDI (Italie): Permettez-moi de remercier tout d'abord le Secrétariat pour le document intitulé "Aide aux pays les moins avancés en vue de définir une stratégie de développement agricole" qui nous a été proposé, et, ensuite, M. Rinvile pour sa présentation sur ce chapitre de l'ordre du jour. Il s'agit d'un document fort intéressant, qui fait le point à la fois sur la participation de la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action de Paris et aussi sur les différentes formes d'assistance aux PMA pour définir une stratégie de développement au niveau des pays dans le cadre des PAS. Nous estimons que ce document est d'autant plus important dans la mesure où la FAO, bien qu'elle ne possède pas un programme spécial pour les PMA, consacre une part importante de ses ressources à ce groupe de pays.

Cela dit, je voudrais faire quelques remarques concernant l'approche stratégique générale en ce qui concerne les deux aspects susmentionnés, c'est-à-dire la définition d'une stratégie de développement agricole spécifique aux PMA dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action de Paris et le rôle de la FAO "vis-à-vis" des politiques d'ajustement structurel.

Il faut dire tout de suite que nous avons l'impression que les différentes activités menées dans les domaines de compétence de la FAO ne répondent pas véritablement à un dessin stratégique global, mais se concrétisent plutôt dans des actions ponctuelles qui, seulement par hasard et a posteriori, peuvent déboucher sur une stratégie spécifique de développement. Et pourtant, il est connu que les problèmes de la majorité des PMA sont bien différents des autres pays en voie de développement: il ne s'agit pas ici, de "gérer" une économie ou un secteur: il faut plutôt reconstituer les bases de la croissance à long terme, ce qui implique la définition d'une véritable stratégie agricole ad hoc.

Le deuxième volet de ce rapport est étroitement lié aux activités de l'Organisation "vis-à-vis" des PMA en ce qui concerne la définition et la mise en place des politiques nationales dans un contexte d'ajustement structurel. Il est évident que les politiques nationales nécessitent une analyse intégrée et approfondie d'un large éventail de questions touchant au développement (le cadre macro-économique, les politiques monétaires et commerciales, les aspects socio-économiques des politiques, la capacité nationale de formuler, mettre en oeuvre et suivre des politiques agricoles, etc.). Mais pour cela, il faut adopter une approche multidisciplinaire. Et pourtant, la lecture de ce document nous amène à la conclusion que cette approche, quoique dans les capacités de la FAO, ne semble pas s'être encore pleinement réalisée. En effet, il s'agit surtout d'actions isolées, bien souvent très utiles mais sans une véritable vision d'ensemble et qui répondent plutôt à la logique de "l'approche-projet" plutôt que de "l'approche-pays" ou, encore mieux, de l'approche de "développement régional ou sub-régional".

Il faudrait dire, entre parenthèses, que nous attachons, et on l'avait soutenu à plusieurs reprises lors de la Conférence de Paris, une importance spéciale à cette approche sous-régionale. En ce qui concerne plus

spécifiquement le contexte actuel de l'ajustement structurel et de l'action de la FAO à cet égard, il nous semble que des économies fragiles structurellement handicapées et fortement dépendantes de l'extérieur nécessitent un appui technique particulier, original, afin de les aider à définir une politique spécifique pour développer les potentialités agricoles sans, en même temps, risquer une trop forte distorsion de leur économie.

Dans le domaine de la privatisation, soutenue à l'origine d'une façon parfois dogmatique par certaines institutions financières internationales sans tenir compte de la spécificité des pays en voie de développement et en particulier des PMA, il nous semble aussi que la FAO devrait jouer un rôle plus actif pour éviter les conséquences négatives de ce processus. Ce n'est pas une surprise par exemple que dans certains pays une privatisation à tout prix peut marginaliser, et a en effet marginalisé, les zones agricoles à plus basse potentialité.

Avant de terminer, permettez-moi de mentionner encore trois points spécifiques aux PMA: d'abord, et pour ce qui a trait à certains aspects de la malnutrition dans ces pays, il nous semble que l'analyse des tendances de consommation, et plus particulièrement des variations des quantités consommées des différents produits, devrait constituer la contrepartie nécessaire de n'importe quel type de politique portant sur une approche équilibrée entre les besoins alimentaires et les quantités consommées.

Ensuite, il serait peut-être intéressant que la FAO se penche plus particulièrement dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire sur les problèmes de l'accès physique et financier à la nourriture de base pour tous les exclus du développement. Ceci concerne en priorité les nouvelles couches urbaines, sans oublier naturellement la paysannerie marginale.

Finalement et pour ce qui est de l'aide à l'agriculture, il va de soi que la réalisation de projets agricoles implique un montant de coût récurrent par unité d'investissement beaucoup plus important que dans d'autres secteurs. Nous sommes de l'avis que la FAO pourrait attirer davantage l'attention de la communauté internationale sur cet aspect étant donné l'impossibilité pratique de la plupart des PMA de faire face eux-mêmes à ce type de dépenses.

En conclusion, il nous semble que d'une façon générale la FAO devrait développer l'approche par pays et mettre en parallèle un programme d'analyse régionale et sous-régionale tenant compte de l'importance de la structure des échanges entre les pays. Ceci permettrait à notre avis de mieux cibler les problèmes spécifiques des PMA. En même temps, il faut aussi reconnaître qu'il faut que la FAO soit mise à même de pouvoir jouer pleinement son rôle fondamental d'organisation spécialisée dans le domaine agricole. A cet égard, nous estimons qu'il est nécessaire qu'elle soit associée dès le début à la phase préparatoire des négociations dans le cadre des tables rondes du PNUD ou des groupes consultatifs de la Banque mondiale. Il va sans dire que nous attachons une importance particulière à cet aspect. Voilà les quelques remarques que nous faisons.

Jorgen Skovegaard NIELSEN (Denmark): I thank Mr Rinvile for his comprehensive introduction to this item.

Denmark appreciates the response given by FAO on the Programme of Action to help LDCs at their request, to define an agricultural development strategy.

This is a clear sign of FAO's intention to move more into up-stream activities. We have noted with pleasure that the TSS-1 facility established under the UNDP support costs successors agreements are mentioned specifically.

The international financial institutions should not tempt specialized agencies to fall back on their previous habit of expanding project execution at the cost of Regular Programme activities and thereby eroding the technical backstopping capacity of the technical divisions.

We therefore hope that FAO in the execution of World Bank projects is determined to stick to the selectivity mentioned in paragraph 44 on policy capacity building and resource management. This would be in good conformity with the Nordic UN Project.

Finally, let me emphasize that Denmark attaches great importance to sector policy analysis in liaison with economic adjustment programmes. We believe this is one of the most outstanding areas of comparative advantage of FAO.

Jung-il KANG (Korea, Republic of): It is clear to all of us that helping the least developed countries to define their agricultural development strategy would have a crucial impact on their overall development process because agriculture accounts for nearly half of the Gross Domestic Product of those and employs almost three quarters of their labour force.

The Korean delegation firmly believes that the actions taken by FAO in terms of implementing the Programme of Action have been adequate. Among others, the Country Policy Information System was a nice way to assemble relevant information on individual countries' policy work. Various countries as listed on document C 91/26 benefited from the policy-related training of FAO.

We believe, however, that more efforts are required to deal with the food security problems of least developed countries. Even if FAO is helping the LDCs to cope with food shortages, they need more systematic help from FAO to adjust their agriculture. Our delegation consider that the short-run emergency relief should be accompanied by the long-run structural adjustment approach.

In order to help the LDCs, the Korean Government offers to share her experience in agricultural and rural development by expanding training opportunities in Korea.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): J'essaierai d'être bref et d'éviter les grands mots. Les délégations qui m'ont précédé ont fait des interventions bien spécifiques et très analytiques.

Nous remercions M. Rinvile de sa présentation et la Direction générale pour cette réponse à la Résolution 1/98 qui faisait suite à la Conférence de Paris sur les PMA.

Notre délégation se félicite de ce que - et je cite - "les parties du Programme d'action qui traitent de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'atténuation des effets des catastrophes, de la préparation aux catastrophes et de la prévention correspondent parfaitement aux priorités de la FAO". C'est là un très bon point. Nous sommes heureux aussi de cette priorité indubitable qu'ont les PMA tel que précisé au paragraphe 12 et suivant la nouvelle option de la Direction générale.

Haïti fait malheureusement partie du groupe des pays les moins avancés, le seul PMA dans l'hémisphère Nord, et nous approuvons la démarche qui nous est présentée. Nous notons toutefois, aux paragraphes 8, 9 et 11, qu'il s'agit pour la plupart de pays d'Afrique. Nous en sommes heureux pour nos frères africains, mais notre pays souhaiterait également pouvoir bénéficier un peu plus de l'expérience de la FAO en matière d'aide aux PMA. Nous appuyons néanmoins le document.

Cependant, nous ne voyons pas comment le problème du développement agricole concernant l'élaboration de plans nationaux réalistes dans les pays les moins avancés pourra être résolu dans ces PMA qui se voient affublés du programme d'ajustement structurel. Beaucoup de ces pays n'ont pratiquement que leur bonne volonté et leur patience pour tout espoir de voir résoudre les problèmes multiples auxquels ils font face. Ajoutez à cela des conditions macro-économiques discutables.

Toutes les priorités mentionnées dans ce rapport sont très appropriées mais nous nous demandons quelle peut être leur efficacité sans l'établissement d'une échelle de priorités - il y en a tellement! - étant donné l'absence d'un environnement externe favorable tel que l'a mentionné le délégué de l'Indonésie.

Au niveau des conclusions - et toujours pour être bref - présentées dans ce rapport qui est soumis aux Etats Membres, nous devons relever quelques vérités de Lapalisse en ce qui concerne la stratégie du développement agricole, les affectations budgétaires, les politiques relatives à la dette et autres, dans le contexte actuel des préoccupations de la communauté internationale pour venir en aide aux PMA. On se demande, par ailleurs, comment sur la seule base du caractère prioritaire des principaux bénéficiaires, en l'absence d'un programme visant spécifiquement les pays les moins avancés, comme stipulé au paragraphe 47, l'assistance aux PMA pourra être efficace dans les diverses activités. Il y a là un besoin d'analyse interne dans une approche d'ensemble. Faisons cependant une suggestion qui pourrait nous aider à mieux connaître, à l'avenir, l'aide de la FAO aux PMA - disons l'utilisation de certains chiffres un peu plus statistiques. Sur les sommes allouées, par type de programme, aux PMA et aux autres pays en développement. C'est une suggestion, tout à fait gratuite, bien sûr.

Avant de terminer, j'ajouterai que nous avons souvent entendu ici les termes "pays les moins développés" utilisés par certaines délégations alors qu'il s'agit des pays les moins avancés. Je souligne cet aspect parce que la différence est de taille. Il s'agit effectivement, pour les PMA, de passer d'une misère quasi absolue au strict minimum indispensable et non du strict minimum à une multiplicité de moyens. Voilà encore un élément d'analyse pour le choix des priorités et l'orientation du programme.

Pour finir, M. le Président, vous avez cité tout à l'heure le proverbe chinois du poisson et de la canne à pêche, qui était fort approprié, d'ailleurs. Je me permettrai de citer un proverbe haïtien: "Chen gen kat Pat, li kouwi yon sél chemen", ce qui veut dire, en créole: "Le chien a quatre pattes, il court dans une seule direction".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the distinguished Representative of Haiti for his statement, particularly in so far as the proverb is concerned.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat, Mr Rinvile, and the FAO for the preparation of document C 91/26.

As a UN family we are here, hopefully, to help each other to raise food production and to eliminate hunger and poverty. We agree in general with document C 91/26.

I would like to make a comment. The most important and vital help to LDCs is appropriate technology whilst also considering the improvement of traditional technology; education, education and education; training, training, and training; and, lastly, extension, extension and extension.

The emphasis should be strongly on ECDC and TCDC.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The distinguished delegate from Iran was the last speaker on my list for this evening. The United Kingdom, Turkey, Portugal and Iraq have requested that their statements appear in the Verbatim Record of the meeting. We note this.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom Delegation congratulates the Secretariat on paper C 91/26.

The United Kingdom fully accepts the important role FAO can and should play in helping agricultural developments in LDCs. However, FAO is but one - albeit an important - institution involved in collaborating with LDCs in the agricultural sector. It is vital that these efforts are coordinated to ensure that finite resources are used to maximum effect and that LDCs (and donors) obtain value for money.

As drafted the document provides an account of the whole range of FAO's activities from the perspective of the Least Developed Countries. This is, in itself, valuable. What is missing, in the opinion of the United Kingdom Delegation, is any clear indication of FAO's priorities. In times of financial stringency it is clearly important that FAO concentrates its efforts on activities which make the greatest impact and where it is at a comparative advantage over other institutions. Paper C 91/26 would have provided a good opportunity for Members to discuss these very issues.

The United Kingdom delegation considers that FAO should focus on policy, planning and strategic issues at a sectoral level information and normative functions, global or regional coordination and technical back-stopping for LDCs. Such prioritization would be at the expense of implementing country-specific field activities.¹

Süleyman SAYIN (Turkey) : Mr Chairman and the distinguished delegates of the Conference; it is clear that the basic goals and activities of FAO are based upon the agricultural development of the developing countries. That is why the Programme of Action gives high priority to the development of the agricultural sector. Because, agriculture accounts for nearly half of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and, 3/4 of labour force of the Less Developed Countries (LDCs). So, the funds allocated for development must be spent properly and effectively.

Mr Chairman, my delegation has some remarks and views on the report:

- Several aspects of agriculture must be covered for a better development strategy. Each LDC should have a reliable statistics of its existing natural resources including agriculture, forestry, fishery, land, water, mines and others. Human resource is a very important one on the ability to use the other resources that is the main factor for development. The training needs of the human resource must be considered as a part of development. FAO may play a great role for surveying of resources for a basic starting point. This might be done by increasing the TCP funds or creating other resources for larger long term projects.
- Economic and technical cooperation between LDCs and other developing countries and NGOs is very important for strategy making on agricultural development. As we know, some NGOs and developed countries have been helping LDCs in agricultural development efforts but some of them are still poor and in some areas many people are dying from starvation. There would be some mistakes on problems in helping policies.
- First, NGOs can make a global evaluation on the present helping situation. Those sort of technical or financial supports may be studied, evaluated and compared. By this work, it will be better to get some key notes to avoid making more mistakes in helping policies. This can be achieved by doing some office work and checking it in the field to point out the successful! and non successful ones, and the reasons as well.
- Less developed countries might pay more attention to the cooperation with other developing countries. Because, developing countries have some recent similar experiences which may help them.
- Those countries may also cooperate between themselves to gather their powers and possibilities. Some successful experiences can be used in one LDC obtained from other one. Also, the request should be coming from LDCs by their needs.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

- Some NGOs and developed countries are very jealous to support some very positive agricultural projects in developing countries. It is obvious that such projects shall be feeding more hunger people on the world.
- Another important point is to try to define as simple strategy as possible. Several results show that some helps are not effective and successful. There is a lot of bureaucracy in NGOs and this creates very sophisticated procedures and programmes. Some technical helps are very high level. The technology given to the LDCs must be easily acceptable and applicable. Helping ones should not be thinking their benefits only.

In general, most of the points to define a better agricultural development strategy for LDCs has already been mentioned in the report by Director-General C 91/26. I am sure the report will be much improved by the recommendations of the Conference.¹

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Le document C 91/26, en comprenant le rapport de M. le Directeur général sur l'aide aux pays les moins avancés en vue de définir une stratégie de développement agricole, contient une série de points q'ont mérité le plus grand intérêt.

Ainsi, la délégation portugaise se permet de faire quelques commentaires, notamment, aux points 16 et 17, relatifs au développement des pêches.

Le travail que la FAO est en train de développer, depuis quelques années en tout cas, est appréciable et la situation est encore loin d'être considérée comme satisfaisante, en particulier en ce qui concerne l'Afrique, notamment aux pays qui se trouvent dans une situation difficile, résultant de la guerre (Angola et Mozambique) ou d'autres facteurs (Zaire), en quelques uns desquels la structure économique "traditionnelle" doit être reconstruite/restructurée.

Un plus grand effort en termes d'aide, sera nécessaire, notamment aux domaines liés à l'organisation, à la préparation des cadres locaux et à la divulgation.

D'autre part, la situation de crise relative dans le secteur des pêches mondiales a entraîné une croissante concurrence et a provoqué une situation des inégalités en ce qui concerne les activités à des eaux de certains pays côtiers (PMA). La FAO peut donner une importante aide, en stimulant les programmes de coopération bilatéraux (ou autres) dans deux domaines importants :

- divulgation de nouveaux modèles d'accords "joint-venture", type 2ème génération
- création de systèmes de contrôle et vigilance des activités de la pêche sous l'optique d'un certain Etat côtier ou selon un effort conjugué des pays insérés dans une même région.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Une autre question qui nous semble importante et qui est liée aux conditions qui amènent au succès, ou non succès, d'un certain Programme, et qui sont relativement fréquentes: les erreurs résultant de la simple transposition des systèmes d'organisation techniques de travail et d'équipement, les uns et les autres non ajustés aux "cultures" et traditions locales ou même aux conditions climatiques.¹

Amer D. SALMAM (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): The Iraqi delegation has studied this document and is of the opinion that it meets the expectations of the less-developed countries, particularly as related to assisting these countries through the Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture, GIEWS. We are also of the opinion that these countries need further assistance from FAO, especially in the field of information and emergency preparedness.

In this connection, the Iraqi delegation would like to draw attention to an important and a serious issue, that is the severe shortage of foodstuffs experienced in Iraq. While appreciating the assistance provided by FAO to Iraq in this respect, though not enough to satisfy the basic needs of the Iraqi people, we call upon the Organization to provide further assistance in order to alleviate effects of the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

As concerns the development of human resources, serious efforts have been made, through an agricultural extension and education programme, for developing modern agriculture and increasing production. Great strides have also been made for the integration of women in rural development, through special extension programmes and women organizations. After the new developments in the field of reforming land tenure, land reclamation and the establishment of irrigation and drainage networks, as well as providing rural areas with potable water, rural development programmes in Iraq have been accorded greater attention.²

F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Ma

tâche serait difficile, sinon impossible, de prétendre répondre aux commentaires qui ont été faits sur le document que nous vous avons présenté, dans la mesure où ils sont de nature très différente. Les uns sont des compléments dont nous prendrons soigneusement note de façon à améliorer, dans l'avenir, tout rapport que nous ferons sur nos activités; les autres sont des questions, et je m'efforcerai d'y répondre, et au moins de dire pourquoi les réponses ne semblent pas avoir été données dans le document qui vous a été présenté. Enfin, je vous remercie de toutes les suggestions que vous avez faites, qui ont été très positives, comme celles relatives, par exemple, à des fonds fiduciaires en vue de résoudre les problèmes d'une manière innovatrice dans les pays les moins avancés, ou relatives à la coopération technique entre pays en développement.

¹ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

J'ai senti que, dans certaines interventions, l'attente était peut-être d'un autre niveau que celui du document que nous avons présenté. Il nous a été demandé, dans ce document, d'indiquer comment la FAO s'associait à la résolution de problèmes et de questions posés par les pays les moins avancés lorsqu'ils cherchent à mettre en place une stratégie, par exemple, pour les dix prochaines années: quelles sont les actions concrètes menées par la FAO à leur demande, dans le cadre d'une politique de développement qu'il appartient aux pays les moins avancés de déterminer plutôt qu'à un document de la FAO? Quelles sont les solutions qu'il convient d'adopter dans tous les pays, en procédant à un examen complet?

Je m'explique: ce qui nous était demandé, c'était de proposer des principes d'action et des mesures permettant de mieux associer la FAO à la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action pour aider les PMA qui le demandent à élaborer une stratégie de développement agricole pour les dix prochaines années. C'est bien ce qui figure en tête du paragraphe 86 du Plan d'action. C'est le développement qui sera engendré par les décisions des pays eux-mêmes. Il est certain que ce document ne contient pas l'ensemble des débats qui ont lieu à la Conférence de Paris. Il s'agit d'un document de référence dans lequel ont été identifiés l'ensemble des problèmes qui méritent d'être abordés, au niveau de chaque pays, et les solutions appropriées à leur apporter. Nous n'avons donc pas fait de duplication. Nous n'avons pas non plus présenté, dans ce document, ce qui est discuté, par ailleurs, au titre du Programme ordinaire de l'Organisation et des grandes orientations d'activités, notamment des divisions techniques s'occupant des problèmes économiques et sociaux.

Comme je l'ai dit dans ma présentation et comme cela figure au paragraphe 6 du document C 91/26, les mesures recommandées dans le Programme d'action qui ressortent du domaine de compétence de la FAO concordent avec les priorités et les objectifs fondamentaux de l'Organisation qui ont été établis par ses organes directeurs et sont pratiquement toutes couvertes par ses politiques et ses procédures. Le document n'a pas l'ambition de reproduire cela. C'est un choix que nous avons fait car, sinon, il prendrait les dimensions d'un livre et il ne serait plus seulement un document sur les mesures en cours. Ce document ne fait pas non plus un examen exhaustif du Programme de terrain - avec ses annexes ou une analyse pays par pays. Simplement, nous indiquons, comme cela nous est demandé, la manière dont nous nous efforçons de répondre aux demandes des pays. On peut dire que ce sont plusieurs partenaires qui se retrouvent pour répondre à ces demandes: d'abord, le partenaire principal, le pays lui-même; ensuite, la ou les agences sollicitées - comme cela a été dit, il doit y avoir une approche multidisciplinaire et la FAO n'est pas la seule organisation impliquée lorsque nous conseillons les pays les moins avancés, mais il y a également des agences et des institutions financières qui interviennent - et enfin les pays donateurs ainsi que, lorsqu'il s'agit de la mise en oeuvre d'un projet de la FAO, la FAO elle-même. Ainsi, les approches sont non seulement pluridisciplinaires mais aussi collectives, avec de nombreux partenaires. Le document qui vous est présenté reflète donc un certain nombre d'exemples d'action dans les domaines cités au titre du Plan d'action pour les pays les moins avancés plutôt qu'un document complet des actions entreprises globalement par la FAO dans chaque pays, la FAO n'étant pas, comme je l'ai dit, seul partenaire en la matière.

Il est vrai que nous nous en sommes tenus davantage à une sorte de compte rendu des opérations effectuées ou en cours, pour montrer comment elles correspondent à la politique qui a été proposée à la Conférence de Paris. Il est vrai aussi - et j'insiste encore - que les propositions faites à la Conférence de Paris sont, pour beaucoup d'entre elles, superposables aux priorités établies dans le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO.

Il a été évoqué le sujet des activités de la FAO comme centre de documentation d'excellence et centre de fourniture de statistiques qui puissent servir de base à l'action.

La FAO, effectivement, d'une part rassemble toute la documentation qu'elle peut rassembler pour les pays les moins avancés, et a constitué la base de banque de données qui puissent être fiables et participer à la résolution des problèmes des pays les moins avancés. Mais elle s'est en outre lancée dans une action à long terme depuis plusieurs années qui est la mise en place d'un système d'alerte pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, avec des applications qui se font au niveau sous-régional, notamment en Afrique. Ceci est en réponse à une question posée sur les actions qui sont déjà engagées et qui sont relatives pratiquement à tous les pays les moins avancés. Il est à noter que dans la liste des actions qui sont à entreprendre dans le cadre des pays qui ne sont pas dans la catégorie des pays les moins avancés, qui nécessitent aussi des actions du même genre, il n'y a pas d'exclusivité dans la liste fournie. Il n'y a pas de rupture pour les pays en développement intermédiaire.

Il est vrai aussi que le texte que vous avez devant vous, puisqu'il ressemble un peu mutatis mutandis à ce qu'était l'examen du programme de terrain, se réfère souvent à des actions engagées depuis déjà deux ans et souvent avant la Conférence des pays les moins avancés, et peut très bien cadrer avec ses directives, mais il faut aussi que l'ensemble des actions qui sont entreprises, notamment au niveau de l'analyse sectorielle et des conseils en matière de politique, puisse prendre beaucoup plus clairement et lister exactement, en accord avec les pays pour lesquels ces travaux sont faits, les repères qui ont été indiqués, qui sont essentiels, au titre et dans le cadre du plan d'action pour les pays les moins avancés. C'est un processus en cours.

Il est certain que compte rendu serait fait des mêmes problèmes dans deux ans. On veillerait, pour des raisons qui sont liées au plan d'action, mais qui sont liées aussi aux grandes directives et aux grandes décisions qui ont été prises, à avoir une approche beaucoup plus par programme que par projet pour assister les pays beaucoup plus au niveau des analyses sectorielles et des conseils en politique. Vous auriez donc un glissement des activités présentées ici vers cet aspect d'un niveau plus globalisant et plus programmatique.

Je crains de ne pas répondre à quelques questions très précises qui ont pu être posées. L'assistance a été souvent évoquée pour les pays qui sont l'objet de Programmes d'ajustement structurel. C'est vrai, cela est une préoccupation de la FAO depuis longtemps. Les conséquences de l'impact des Programmes d'ajustement structurel sur les couches les plus pauvres de la population dans le domaine de l'agriculture et le milieu rural sont certainement les plus dures à supporter. Nous nous efforçons de participer chaque fois que c'est possible à l'analyse de ces impacts et à la construction de propositions qui permettent d'en réduire les effets, de

façon à donner à ce Programme d'ajustement structurel une chance de réussir sans détruire le tissu social et sans écraser plus encore les couches les plus pauvres de la population. Il est évident, et cela nous a été demandé, que nous souhaitons être associés aux tables rondes du PNU et nous souhaitons être associés aux groupes consultatifs organisés par la Banque mondiale. Cela était d'ailleurs une conclusion de la FAO.

Malheureusement, malgré ce qui nous est rappelé ici par de nombreux délégués et à plusieurs autres occasions, notre souhait d'être associés à ces réunions n'est pas toujours partagé par les organisateurs mêmes de ces réunions. C'est donc aussi dans d'autres enceintes qu'il conviendrait de rappeler ce vœu qui a été souvent exprimé ici. Souvent nous ne sommes pas là et nous n'avons pas été invités, ou nous n'avons pas, malgré notre demande, pu nous faire inviter. Chaque fois que nous le sommes, nous participons activement.

Ayant bien conscience de n'avoir pas répondu de manière complète à chacune des interventions, nous pouvons dire par contre que nous analyserons l'ensemble de ce qui a été dit ici pour en tenir le plus grand compte, en particulier pour mieux préciser dans des informations ultérieures le cadre fixé à l'information, cadre que nous avons voulu coller à la proposition du Conseil de l'année dernière.

Je peux peut-être en terminer là et répondre ensuite à d'autres questions qui me seraient rappelées et auxquelles je n'ai pas répondu du tout.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Rinvile, for your replies to the questions raised. Are there any comments or suggestions concerning the Secretariat's response? If there is any point that you wish to raise, please go ahead. We can then take it that we have concluded our discussion of this agenda item.

The meeting rose at 19.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.00 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/IPV/10

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TENTH MEETING DIXIEME SEANCE DECIMA SESION

(20 November 1991)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Tadeusz Strojwas, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Tadeusz Strojwas, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Tadeusz Strojwas, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION(continuación)
- 11. Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including the PIC (Prior Informed Consent) Clause
- 11. Application du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, et notamment du principe de l'information et du consentement préalables (ICP)
- 11. Aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, incluido el PICP (Principio de la Información y Consentimiento Previos)

LE PRESIDENT: Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, j'ai l'honneur et le plaisir de présider la discussion de ce matin.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, and observers: I am pleased to have the opportunity again to start a new item with you this morning. The main purpose, as I see it, is to bring you up-to-date on activities since the Conference discussed this item at its last session. With me on the podium again are Mr Papasolomontos, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, and Mr Van der Graaff, who is the Chief of the Service for Plant Protection.

The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides has been in existence for almost six years now. Document 91/20 gives a description of the actions taken by the Organization to implement the Code.

The activities of FAO initially concentrated on the development of guidelines to assist Member Governments to implement this Code, and provide technical assistance through trust fund projects and through the Technical Cooperation Programme to strengthen pesticide management in member countries.

In 1989, the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Clause was introduced into the Code, to ensure that international shipments of pesticides that are banned or severely restricted did not proceed without the agreement, where such agreement exists, or contrary to the decision of the designated national authority in the participating importing country. This Clause was introduced in order to protect both human health and/or the environment. To this end a PIC procedure has been established by which the decisions of importing countries are formally obtained and disseminated, in order to establish whether they wish to receive future shipments of such pesticides.

The introduction of the PIC Clause has meant that more resources were required to assist member countries and to implement the relevant procedures. I therefore wish to acknowledge with gratitude the generous provision from the Government of the Netherlands in this respect. I also wish on behalf of the Secretariat to stress the fruitful collaboration between FAO and UNEP, who have set up a joint programme for the

implementation of the PIC procedure. Despite the complicated nature of the preparatory steps, we believe that the process should proceed smoothly, as it has done so far. We have been encouraged by the fact that at present 109 member countries have appointed one or more Designated National Authorities (DNAs) (not to be confused with the genetic term DNA) to oversee matters related to pesticides and industrial chemicals.

The FAO/UNEP Joint Expert Group has met three times so far. It has worked out the procedure for implementing the PIC, and has provided advice as to what should be included under the procedure. At present the Group has recommended the inclusion of pesticides that have been banned or severely restricted, for reasons of health or the environment, by at least five countries. In addition, three pesticides have been included that are reported to present a human health problem or hazard. The initial list was based on UNEP's International Register of Potential Toxic Chemicals, which UNEP is at present updating. You will find information on those lists of pesticides in the Annex to the document distributed to you.

A "Guidance to Governments" document has been produced which includes information on which limitations to pesticide use should be notified to the joint FAO/UNEP Secretariat.

Further, FAO, on behalf of the Joint Secretariat, has sent out "Decision Guidance Documents" to the Designated National Authorities requesting decisions from their governments on these pesticides. A questionnaire was distributed in order to obtain information on other pesticides that may be hazardous in developing countries.

It is a pleasure for me to note in this context that the collaboration with UNEP has been excellent, and we hope it will soon be formalized by the signature of a mutual Memorandum of Understanding.

FAO has discussed the operation of PIC in regional and national workshops. It was mandated to do so by the last Conference. Recently a Joint FAO/UNEP Workshop was organized in Manila, at which 27 member countries from the Asia and Pacific Region participated. The Workshop considered the PIC procedures and various case studies, which have provided useful insights into the implementation of the procedure and which have drawn attention to some important issues that need to be addressed in more detail in the future.

In September 1991 - just recently - the OECD, in cooperation with FAO and UNEP, organized a workshop in Paris on Prior Informed Consent. Representatives of OECD and developing countries participated; the workshop provided very useful information on the status of pesticide management in developing countries and the difficulties that might be encountered with the implementation of PIC.

In addition to this, FAO has also been assisting member countries and Member Governments on other issues related to the implementation of the Code. A Japanese funded project is strengthening the infrastructure of pesticide management in the Asia and Pacific Region and is being extended to the Caribbean. A project for Central America is at an advanced stage of development. A project for Africa is funded by UNDP. Moreover, funding was made available by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States for workshops in Santiago, Chile and in Uruguay. I am sure you will share our pleasure at the progress achieved so far.

Finally, let me address the issue of the conversion of the Code into a Convention. The June 1991 Session of the Council concurred with the view of the Joint FAO/UNEP panel that it was premature to consider the conversion of the Code into a Convention. In the longer term it would be beneficial to make the Code legally binding. It will, however, require several rounds of consultations and discussions to see which provisions of the Code could be amenable to such a conversion. The Organization will keep this issue under review and report to the relevant FAO bodies in future.

I hope that this brief introduction and the report itself will gain your interest and approval, and I look forward to your questions.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr de Haen. We have heard a very good introduction to this agenda item, and I look forward to an equally good discussion.

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Le document C 91/20 relatif au Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides commence avec le rappel de la situation depuis la Résolution 10/85 de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO et poursuit avec des informations sur la mise en oeuvre du système d'ICP, ce qui nous permet d'avoir un bon aperçu des négociations et des éléments que comporte la phase préparatoire du système.

Après la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence de la FAO, le Portugal a désigné le Centre national de la protection et de la production agricole en tant qu'autorité nationale compétente pour les pesticides. A l'heure actuelle, il existe une coopération entre ce centre et la FAO pour la mise en place du Programme conjoint FAO/PNUE sur l'ICP.

Le Centre national de la protection et de la production agricole a collaboré avec la FAO dans l'application du Code et continue à le mettre en pratique tant au niveau de notre pays que des pays africains avec lesquels le Portugal a des relations étroites de collaboration dans le domaine de la protection des plantes.

Dans l'ensemble, nous sommes d'accord avec les efforts faits par la FAO en ce qui concerne la réduction du commerce et de l'utilisation des produits chimiques très dangereux avec, notamment, les programmes, les informations et l'assistance technique fournis dans le cadre de l'ICP ainsi que l'application du Code.

Notre contribution à l'application du Code pour les pays importateurs s'est faite au moyen de notre collaboration avec les pays africains de langue officielle portugaise, notamment par l'élaboration de législations relatives aux produits phytopharmaceutiques.

Quant à la conversion du Code en un instrument juridique obligatoire, nous la considérons prématurée. Nous devons poursuivre les actions entreprises dans le cadre du programme conjoint FAO/PNUE sur l'ICP et attendre une occasion ultérieure pour prendre une décision de caractère plus profond.

Pascal BRIODIN (France): La France a soutenu, dès l'origine, le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Ce Code constitue, en effet, à la fois un cadre pour la coopération internationale et une référence pour l'adoption de dispositions nationales en incitant à une utilisation des pesticides mieux adaptée aux besoins de l'agriculture et plus sûre pour les hommes et pour l'environnement.

Au moment où s'intensifient les préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUED), l'expérience acquise par la FAO dans la mise en oeuvre du Code des pesticides témoigne de la priorité accordée déjà depuis plusieurs années à la promotion par notre Organisation du concept de développement agricole durable.

La délégation française se félicite de ce que les principes de l'information et du consentement préalables (ICP) aient été inclus dans le Code lors de la Conférence de 1987 et que notre dernière Conférence, en 1989, ait pris les décisions permettant à la FAO, en collaboration avec le PNUE d'établir un programme opérationnel pour l'application des procédures ICP.

Nous constatons avec satisfaction que la coopération entre les deux Organisations est déjà bien engagée, qu'il s'agisse de la constitution de bases de données communes ou de la mise en place d'un groupe mixte d'experts chargés de donner des conseils et des avis sur l'application du système ICP.

L'action de la France dans ce domaine s'inscrit dans le cadre des dispositions prises par la Communauté européenne et, en particulier, de la directive adoptée par le Conseil des ministres, le 15 juillet 1991, concernant la mise sur le marché des produits phytopharmaceutiques destinés à la protection des végétaux.

Par ailleurs, mon pays a désigné le Ministère de l'agriculture et le Ministère de l'environnement en qualité d'autorités compétentes pour prendre les décisions en matière d'ICP. Le point de contact chargé de répondre aux demandes de la FAO est le Ministère de l'agriculture, qui dispose de l'ensemble des informations techniques et réglementaires en ce qui concerne l'utilisation des pesticides.

Pour conclure, permettez-moi de rappeler que la France partage pleinement le point de vue exprimé par le Conseil, lors de sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session, selon lequel il est prématuré d'envisager la conversion du Code de conduite en un instrument juridique contraignant. La priorité est, en effet, à la mise en place des moyens techniques et réglementaires permettant l'application effective des textes adoptés lors des dernières Conférences.

La France, pour sa part, est prête à apporter son soutien à la FAO et à renforcer la coopération déjà engagée avec d'autres Etats Membres dans ce domaine.

Inge GERREMO (Sweden): The Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent clause are of crucial importance when addressing human health and environmental problems caused by pesticides. The Swedish delegation notes with satisfaction that the adoption of the Code and the initial phase of the implementation of the PIC programme has been carried out in a very successful way. We note with satisfaction the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP, and welcome the fact that a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations has been elaborated.

In this context I would like to mention that twelve countries and nine international entities upon the invitation of the Swedish Chemical Inspectorate met in Sweden in October this year to discuss issues related to control of pesticides. The evaluation and adoption of the FAO Code of Conduct were mentioned as a landmark for increased safety in the use of pesticides.

There are many reports indicating that banned or severely restricted pesticides are exported from industrialized countries to developed countries. Farmers in these countries often have little knowledge of handling pesticides in a safe way, both for themselves and for the environment. Only the implementation of PIC will pave the way for the solving of these problems. The appointment of Designated National Authorities which function well is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of PIC. Therefore, it is encouraging that thus far 109 countries have nominated DNAs. Hopefully, most of the developing countries are included in this figure of 109. My delegation would like to stress that if DNAs have been appointed, there is no guarantee that they will be capable or even have the resources to implement PIC. This is probably the case in many of the developing countries. Therefore, emphasis has to be put on training and support for these DNAs. Seminars and workshops have already been initiated, and it is recommended that these should continue. Follow-up training in terms of in-service training and technical "backstopping" should also be considered. Even if PIC only deals with issues concerning the import and export of pesticides, we would also like to stress the importance of the fact that DNAs should have an in-country network functioning well both for the receipt and distribution of PIC-related information to the farming community, marketing organizations, extension and research institutions, the pesticide industry, and so on.

When it comes to the revision of Articles 2 and 9 of the Code of Conduct, my delegation supports what has been suggested in the document. The proposed guidelines on the operation of PIC-executing agencies seems also to be relevant, forming an important tool not least for the DNAs in the implementation of PIC.

H.E.J. JORRITSMA (Netherlands): I shall try to be as brief as possible. Earlier this week, in this same Conference room, we had a long and stimulating debate on sustainable agriculture and the elements of a policy framework to ensure the realization of sustainable agriculture.

One of the crucial conditions for sustainable agriculture is a more balanced and ecologically sound use of external inputs such as pesticides and the promotion of alternatives through integrated pest management and biological control.

The implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is an essential step towards sustainable agriculture, as is the so-called Prior Informed Consent clause, which appeals to the responsibility of policy makers and governments in recipient countries and gives them the means to take decisions on the basis of valid information.

Therefore, the Netherlands delegation actively supports the measures necessary for the execution of the Code of Conduct and, more particularly, the procedures that are agreed upon regarding the import and export of forbidden or restricted pesticides.

It has taken some time to develop an acceptable and practical procedure, but the one that is proposed now gives the impression of a balanced piece of work. The time is ripe for its implementation and we look forward to an early report on the first results of this implementation.

According to my delegation, special attention should be given to those chemicals belonging to the Class IA of the WHO Hazard Classification, given the actual health situation in a certain number of developing countries. We cannot exclude the possibility that a specific policy for these chemicals might be required.

Discussion on the need to develop the Code of Conduct into a legally binding instrument is not new. Mr de Haen mentioned it in his introduction. Although at the moment this might be premature, we do not want to exclude the possibility that the need for such a legally binding instrument will be felt in the future. Apart from UNEP/FAO discussions on this matter, I would like to remind you of the ongoing discussions within ILO. Therefore, there really is an urgent need to implement the voluntary PIC procedure and to evaluate its effectiveness in time, in order to have a clear picture as to what extent it will have an impact on the distribution and use of pesticides in developing as well as developed countries.

Finally, allow me to briefly remind you of the problem raised by a number of developing countries during the Den Bosch Conference in Holland concerning the older stocks of pesticides in their countries which are sometimes really becoming a threat to the health situation in those countries.

It is our firm opinion that FAO is one of, maybe the best, placed organizations to develop a programme to work on proposals to solve this problem. We would recommend inviting the private sector to cooperate in such a programme. Several technologies have already been developed but an environmental impact assessment of these technologies is needed.

Ecologically sound project proposals in this field will be considered positively by the Dutch Government. Nevertheless, we would welcome a broad support from the donor side.

Mete BASCI (Turkey): There are seven different ecological regions in our country. Plant protection has great importance as many species and varieties of plants are being cultivated. A world average of 30-35 percent of the cultivated plants will be lost because of the diseases, pests and weeds if plant protection measurements are not taken in hand.

Pesticides have been widely used in our country since the 1950s. Besides many benefits, pesticide use has many negative effects on human and animal health, in other words, on the whole environment. This subject has always been very important in our plant protection activities.

Bearing in mind that the people living in rural areas are not educated, urgent precautions against the acute and chronic toxic effects of pesticides carry great importance. Because of these reasons, we are very pleased to hear that FAO and UNEP, in coordination with WHO and EPA, are reorganizing the use and distribution, importation and exportation of pesticides with a new regulation for human and environmental health.

There is no doubt that the most important precaution in order to minimize or to eliminate the adverse effects of pesticides is to forbid some pesticides or to limit the consumption of some of them.

In our country the use of many pesticides has been forbidden for a long time due to their chemical stabilities, toxicities and teratogenic effects.

The rules put forward by WHO, EPA, FAO, UNEP and such organizations were followed when consideration was given to forbidding these pesticides, and their production, importation and consumption have been forbidden without doubt.

whether or not the materials that are outside of the technical materials purity ratios have any environmental risk are also being considered carefully. For example, in order to use the PCNB technical material safely it must contain the HCB material lower than 0.1 percent.

We are investigating the negative effects of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides by carrying out projects. On the other hand, some studies to determine the effects on human and animal health and also to determine the effects on the natural balance and on the soil structure are being carried on.

It is very pleasing to see that a coding system is being applied indicating the PIC principles. We are supporting the proposals put forward at the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference.

London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information for Chemicals in International Trade is appreciated by us as a very important step. But implementing this guideline must be cleared with a more adaptable method for controlling the chemicals, and this method must have the power of international sanctions.

One more thing must be taken into consideration among the PIC application bases in the memorandum issued in respect of FAO's and UNEP's common programme. That is, if a pesticide is to be forbidden because of its great risk, and if this pesticide is a unique one for the area in which it is being used, alternative pesticides or control measures must be put forward

so as not to cause a problem or lack in control. This is possible with common attempts and support of the Member Nations to search for a suitable pesticide or method.

Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda): I would like to start by thanking the FAO Secretariat for the informative, concise and clear document for this agenda item, C 91/20.

Pesticides with high toxicity are a potential hazard to human health, livestock, fisheries and the environment. Some of the pesticides end up as residues in plant and animal tissues while others leach to lower horizons of the soil, join the water cycle, persist in appreciable lethal amounts and thus make drinking water dangerous.

Our main concern is mainly with regard to those pesticides which have high mammalian toxicity and persist as residues in water, plants and soil.

Our delegation would like to thank FAO for the efforts it has taken to create awareness and popularize the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. My delegation regards this as an important step in the restriction of dangerous chemicals, something which, as you are aware, is of vital importance, particularly in developing countries which, unfortunately, have sometimes been used as dumping grounds for such dangerous chemicals.

FAO is commended for the PIC lists in Tables 1 and 2 in document C 91/20 on pages 6 and 7.

The Uganda Government attaches much importance to the safe use and handling of agricultural chemicals. Matters related to this aspect are handled by the Crop Protection Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. The designated national authority to handle PIC is the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries spearheaded by the Commissioner for Agriculture himself. We therefore strongly support the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent clause.

However, we have the following observations: we concur with the FAO/UNEP Expert Panel that it is premature to convert the Code of Conduct into a binding legal instrument. I think we need more discussion before we come up with something that is a legal instrument.

Secondly, we believe that the success of the PIC will depend on the cooperation of different organizations. We are glad to hear that UNEP has been cooperative in this regard. We suggest that FAO continue its useful collaborative efforts in this regard.

This might sound a little out of place, but I would like to mention it because we feel it is important. We call upon FAO to intensify efforts in the area of integrated pest management with emphasis on biological control in order to avoid excessive use of pesticides that kill or destroy even non-target species.

Ms Guri GRONOLEN (Norway) : Norway has read with great interest the Director-General's paper on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides - Implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) clause.

In our opinion the pursuit of a safer use of pesticides is of vital importance to reduce hazards to human health and the environment. The principle of Prior Informed Consent urges exporters of pesticides to make all relevant information on the actual pesticides available for importing countries. The inclusion of this principle into FAO's Code of Conduct may contribute to a safer use of pesticides and a protection both of the environment and of individual users.

From our point of view, international cooperation is of great importance to solve the environmental problems in the 1990s. In this respect it should be stressed that it is important that organizations coordinate their efforts for the protection of the environment.

We believe that close cooperation between international organizations will contribute to better resource allocation which in the long run may increase international organizations' involvement for the benefit of the environment. Thus, we are pleased to note that for the implementation of the PIC, FAO and UNEP have cooperated closely with each other and other relevant international organizations, including WHO, ILO and GATT.

The establishment by FAO and UNEP of the Joint Expert Group on Prior Informed Consent is of great importance in our opinion to the success of PIC, especially with regard to the developing countries.

So far experience has shown that the developing countries in particular are facing huge difficulties in establishing effective control measures concerning imported pesticides. We would therefore like to express our satisfaction with regard to the technical assistance in implementing the Code and the PIC clause which FAO and UNEP have already provided and the number of activities under way for the benefit of the developing countries.

The Twenty-fifth FAO Conference proposed to the Secretariat to explore the possibility of converting the FAO Code of Conduct into a legal instrument instead of the present voluntary code. Norway finds this proposal interesting but we still agree with FAO/UNEP Panel and the Council in its Ninety-ninth Session that the development of such binding instrument may be premature.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): Haremos uso de la palabra, pero no la habíamos solicitado, señor Presidente. En consecuencia, nuestra poco elaborada declaración puede ocasionar que no digamos todo aquello que teníamos previsto puntualizar en la misma.

Ante todo, deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría la elaboración y la presentación del documento que nos ha hecho. Por lo que respecta a nuestro país, la regulación del Código de Conducta y la aplicación de la cláusula relativa al Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos es aceptada tal como se expone en el documento, pero desearíamos hacer alguna puntualización.

Creemos que es un poco prematura su aplicación, dadas las dificultades que entraña en algunos aspectos de la misma, al igual que han expuesto otras delegaciones aquí presentes, en sus intervenciones anteriores. Igualmente, para España es sumamente importante si hubiera alguna mención o se pudiera incluir el acuerdo aprobado en la Directriz de Londres para el intercambio de información acerca de productos químicos objeto de comercio internacional enmendado en 1989, en su punto 8, apartado Ci.3, que dice que "una estimación de la cantidad que se prevea exportar anualmente, así como cualquier información de que se disponga sobre envíos específicos". Este concepto, enmendado en Londres, creemos que es muy importante, por las dificultades que generalmente entraña todo cuanto hace referencia a las cantidades a exportar y que, dado que ya fue aprobado en el año 1989, podría servir de tónica y mejorar nuestro documento. Esto es todo por lo que respecta a nuestro país, señor Presidente, y a la espera de una nueva posible intervención.

LE PRESIDENT: Et voilà, ce sont les meilleures ... les improvisations, merci beaucoup. Je vous félicite car c'est une bonne intervention. Je donne la parole au représentant du Mexique.

Srta. Martha VAZQUEZ (México): En respuesta a su solicitud, trataré de ser breve, señor Presidente. México ha participado durante todo el proceso de aceptación del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos desde la aprobación, en 1985, del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas hasta la inclusión del PICP en este Código y su enmienda en 1989. Durante este tiempo se ha promovido la aplicación del Código para lograr una utilización más segura y eficaz de los plaguicidas y el aumento de la producción alimentaria. Esperamos que la adopción del Principio contribuya a un uso más inocuo de los plaguicidas, reduciendo los riesgos para la salud humana y para el medio ambiente.

En un principio, la participación de México en estas actividades se desarrolló con la participación de las Secretarías involucradas. Sin embargo, actualmente todas las actividades relacionadas con plaguicidas y sustancias tóxicas son revisadas por la Comisión Intersecretarial para el Control del Proceso y Uso de Plaguicidas, Fertilizantes y Sustancias Tóxicas, en la que participan diversos ministerios del Ejecutivo Federal, como son: de Comercio y Fomento Industrial, de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología, así como el ministerio de Salud. Esta Comisión Intersecretarial, con relación al Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos acordó nombrar dos Autoridades Nacionales Designadas. Una de ellas, en la Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos y la otra en el Ministerio de Salud, para plaguicidas de uso diferente al agropecuario y forestal y sustancias tóxicas en general.

En relación al punto 8 del documento C 91/20, se nombraron las Autoridades Nacionales Designadas anteriormente mencionadas. A principios de 1991, se publicó una lista de plaguicidas prohibidos en el Diario Oficial de la Federación. Esta lista, de un total de veintiún plaguicidas, incluye los productos prohibidos para su importación, fabricación, formulación, comercialización y uso en México, lista que, en su oportunidad, será remitida a esa Secretaría.

Sería interesante para mi país contar a la brevedad con los programas que el PNUMA prepara para computadoras personales, con el fin de tener disponibilidad de la información y que sirvan como documento de orientación para la toma de decisiones, tal y como lo menciona el párrafo 11 del documento que nos ocupa.

Con relación al punto 12 del documento, cabe señalar que México tiene establecido como método de control de las importaciones contar con una autorización de importación expedida por la Comisión Internacional anteriormente aludida. Los requisitos para esta autorización exigen que los productos a importar cuenten con el registro que otorga el Gobierno mexicano y que la empresa importadora esté legalmente establecida. De acuerdo a este mecanismo, los plaguicidas prohibidos señalados anteriormente no podrán contar con autorización de importación a México.

Con respecto a lo señalado en el punto 15, México considera que los tres nuevos plaguicidas incluidos en la lista inicial de plaguicidas sujetos al procedimiento del PICP de la categoría "IA+" no deben ser incluidos en esta primera fase, ya que se considera que requieren un examen más profundo, debido a que no hay productos de la misma accesibilidad económica que puedan sustituirlos inmediatamente.

México ha respondido y está atento a las diversas convocatorias de la FAO en donde se ha explicado el funcionamiento de los procedimientos de aplicación del PICP.

Finalmente, la delegación de México se adhiere al acuerdo en el 99º Consejo y a la recomendación del grupo mixto de expertos, así como a lo expuesto anteriormente por algunas delegaciones, en el sentido de que es prematuro convertir el Código de Conducta en un instrumento jurídicamente vinculante.

Salah BENNANI AHMED (Maroc): La délégation du Royaume du Maroc considère que le Code de conduite est une initiative de haute importance qui a fait l'objet d'une réflexion longue et profonde; nous saisissons donc l'occasion pour exprimer notre satisfaction des actions entreprises par la FAO dans la mise sur pied d'un système visant l'amélioration du circuit et de l'utilisation des pesticides. Ma délégation estime que ce Code est une directive fort utile qui aiderait beaucoup à renforcer la sécurité dans l'emploi des pesticides et à réduire les risques encourus pour la santé de l'homme et pour l'environnement.

En effet, si on se réfère à l'homologation des pesticides on constate que les décisions sont généralement prises à la lumière du dossier toxicologique et au vu des résultats d'essais d'efficacité conduits dans les conditions pédoclimatiques locales. Pour ce qui est des résidus, les données recueillies par les pays en développement restent le plus souvent tributaires de l'industrie.

On comprend donc aisément l'intérêt d'introduire dans le Code de conduite le principe de l'ICP dont la mise en oeuvre contribuerait à intensifier l'échange d'information et à renforcer les capacités des pays en développement à la prise de décisions concernant l'importation de chaque pesticide. C'est pourquoi la délégation du Royaume du Maroc apporte son soutien à la mise en oeuvre de l'ICP.

Il va sans dire que les autorités nationales compétentes (ANC) auxquelles sera confiée la tâche de mettre en application la procédure de l'ICP ne sont autres que celles qui ont été déjà notifiée à la FAO après son enquête mentionnée au point 10 de notre document.

Il s'agit du Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Réforme Agraire et plus particulièrement, la protection des végétaux, les contrôles techniques et les répressions des fraudes. Pour ce qui est de la mise en oeuvre de l'ICP, la délégation du Maroc ne saurait insister sur l'importance des activités entreprises conjointement par la FAO et le PNUE visant à expliquer le fonctionnement des procédures de l'ICP et à former les fonctionnaires nationaux en la matière. Il serait donc souhaitable que ces ateliers soient étendus aux régions qui n'en ont pas encore profité dans les pays du Maghreb. Il serait également souhaitable que la FAO élargisse la gamme des thèmes de ces ateliers et stages de formation afin de permettre aux autorités compétentes des pays en développement d'être en mesure d'évaluer les risques que font courir les pesticides en cause.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne la conversion du Code en instrument juridique contraignant, ma délégation estime que cette proposition est prématurée compte tenu de la complexité du problème.

En conclusion la délégation du Royaume du Maroc salue les efforts accomplis conjointement par la FAO et le PNUE, apprécie l'intérêt de l'ICP et en conséquence souscrit à sa mise en oeuvre.

HUANG YONG-NING (China) (Original language Chinese): Document C 91/20 prepared by the Secretariat gives us a comprehensive review of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides - Implementation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause. It is obvious that the FAO has done a lot of work in this respect and certain achievements have been obtained.

To implement an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is something of a highly technical nature and it is very necessary to provide technical assistance to the countries concerned in order to enhance their ability and competence to conduct their own work. The Chinese delegation is happy to note that over the past years this work has already been done by FAO, and we hope it will be further strengthened in the future.

The point in paragraph 19 of document C 91/20 is in line with reality, that is that it is still premature to convert the FAO Code of Conduct into a binding legal instrument. However, we believe that in terms of protecting the environment and human health, it is highly necessary to enhance the sense of self-discipline in implementing the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the use of and trade in pesticides in all countries should be conducted in an acceptable manner.

SECRETARY (Commission I): We understand the position in Plenary is critical, so we have been requested to adjourn the meeting for fifteen minutes so that our delegates can help them reach a quorum.

CHAIRMAN: Our meeting will then be suspended for a few minutes.

Meeting is suspended from 10.45 to 11.30.

La session est levée de 10 h 45 à 11 h 30.

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.45 a las 11.30 horas.

Ms Heather AMYS (Canada): In the interests of time our message will be brief. First of all, we wish to associate ourselves with the Member Nations who have spoken before us on the crucial importance of this Code of Conduct and specifically on the PIC clause. We are satisfied with the progress the Secretariat has made in implementing the Code and promoting awareness in this important field. We support the rapid implementation of the PIC clause, and encourage the Secretariat to achieve their goal of full implementation in 1992.

As members of the Conference will recall, the concept of PIC is based on the development of a data base on banned and severely restricted pesticides and other chemicals. Canada is concerned that this data base is incomplete. This is by no means the fault of the Secretariat but rather stems from gaps in contributions by Member Nations. Countries with established pesticides regulatory systems, particularly those with regulatory systems which are highly respected, regard control actions to ban or severely restrict pesticide products as critical to the effectiveness of the PIC clause. With this in mind, Canada wishes to take this opportunity to remind the members of the Commission of their commitment - indeed, their consensus regarding this item of drawing attention to paragraph 2 of the document C 91/20 which is before us. This paragraph recounts the grave concerns expressed by the Eighty-seventh Conference on the continuing health and environmental problems caused by pesticides, the serious problems arising out of the continued importation of banned or severely restricted pesticides, and so on. Thus, Canada appeals to the Member Nations of this Conference to contribute information to FAO on their control actions as soon as possible.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): First of all, I would like to thank Prof. de Haen for his brief but very exhaustive introduction of this document.

We welcome and support the inclusion of the PIC procedure in the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The German legislators have, in fact, taken up this Code in their own legislation in paragraph 23 of our specific law, and I quote: Furthermore, in export international agreements, most particularly the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, should be taken into account.

Furthermore, the export of certain pesticides can be banned by this legislation in order to prevent considerable risk to the health of humans, animals, or other risks, particularly for the environment.

In addition, the Association of German Pesticides Producers, to which most producers belong, has taken up the principles of the FAO Code in their Association Statutes and through declaration have committed themselves to maintaining its principles.

By the Conference document before us we have been informed about the setting up of a Joint Expert Group between FAO and UNEP on PIC. We believe that the contribution of this Expert Group should be notified to the Member Nations of FAO. We also believe that the pesticides Parathion ethyl, Parathion methyl and Paraquat should not be included in the list of prohibited pesticides in the PIC list. Because these active substances are not banned or severely restricted but do represent certain difficulties in manipulation in developing countries, we believe that they should be included in a separate list under the PIC procedure.

We also give our express support to the setting up of a Secretariat for International Fund Protection Convention in the years 1992-93. We believe that it is in the interest of everyone that the Secretariat should be set up as soon as possible. Also, we should know what staff it is given and when we can count on it starting to work.

Praphas WEERAPAT (Thailand): The Thai delegation would like to inform the Conference that we are aware of the problems concerning the use of pesticides and hazardous chemicals. The Government of Thailand issued the Poisonous Article Act 1967 for control of the distribution and use of these toxic substances. The responsibility of this Act is shared by three ministries: the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is responsible for pesticides and plant growth regulators used in agricultural; the Ministry of Industry is responsible for hazardous chemicals used in industrial use; the Ministry of Public Health is responsible for pesticides and hazardous chemicals in household use.

The Thai Government adopted the principle of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in 1985. In 1988 FAO and Member Nations in Asia and the Pacific set up a project to implement the Code of Conduct. The Regional Office is located at the Department of Agriculture in Bangkok. After implementation of the project we harmonized our regulations with the principle of the Code and FAO's guidelines as follows: set up ministerial notification for the control of all kinds of pesticides and plant growth regulators in 1989; adopted the WHO pesticide classification by hazard, which was announced in a ministerial notification in 1989; adopted the colour code band and pictograms on pesticide labels according to the FAO guideline in 1990; introduced the FAO specification for analysis for the control of the quality of pesticide products in 1990; and introduced the phased registration system for the control of pesticides in 1991.

Since the Prior Informed Consent was added in the Code (Article 2 and Article 9) in 1989, Thailand has shared the activity as an importing country and the Department of Agriculture was appointed as the Designated National Authority for pesticides under FAO/UNEP joint programme on PIC to cooperate and implement PIC procedure.

Now many tasks on PIC are being done such as: collecting and reviewing the data of the banned and severely restricted pesticides in the country for IRPTC data base; collecting the data for pesticides in the initial list and candidate chemicals for decision-making as to whether or not these pesticides will be allowed for importation in the future; and responding to communications from the FAO/UNEP joint programme as importing country.

Since the Thai Government has adopted the principle of the International Code of Conduct the recommendations of the FAO Guidelines have been harmonized with our regulations for the purpose of the achievement of efficiency and safety to users and consumers according to the Act and the Code of Conduct. The Thai Government participates in the PIC in the Code and, therefore, its processes and procedures have been implemented.

Finally, the Thai delegation appreciates the Secretariat's efforts in preparation of document C 91/20, which leads to the protection of human health and environment. The Thai delegation supports the deliberations of the Code of Conduct as they appear in paragraph 19 of the document. We believe that the document should not be converted into a legal binding document at the present time because it needs further consideration and implementation for international cooperation.

Hassan AL AHMAD (Syria) (Original language Arabic): My country has committed itself to the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the PIC Clause.

Since danger to the environment, as well as to human health, are of continuous concern to us, we hope to be assured that all these steps can be taken.

We also hope that we will be able to participate in the preparation of data bases for use of personal computers, as well as government steps that should be taken on PIC. We hope that this type of information will be available, if possible, in Arabic.

We also hope that regional or national workshops can be organized by FAO to explain in further detail the implementation of the PIC to national authorities in order that they can be properly trained and informed, as well as supporting national efforts.

We also hope that FAO may be able to organize Near East meetings to help governments to implement their own activities and procedures as indicated in the Code.

E.K. KANDIE (Kenya): The Kenya delegation wishes to commend the FAO for all its efforts since the last Conference in implementing the PIC Clause jointly with UNEP, and in consultation with other international organizations.

The Kenya Government has already endorsed the adoption of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and has implemented its provisions through the Pest Control Products Act of the laws of Kenya. It also supports the principle of Prior Informed Consent and its inclusion in the Code.

We have already taken action in implementing certain relevant aspects such as the appointment of a Designated National Authority, namely, the Pest Control Products Board, which is legally responsible for all aspects of pesticides. A similar body is now proposed for industrial and other chemicals headed by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Industry, and others that use dangerous chemicals. We have prepared an inventory of pesticides used and those registered, banned or restricted. On the initial PIC list Kenya has banned or severely restricted the use of 14 out of the 15 pesticides identified for action. Other candidate pesticides not in the initial PIC list are now the subject of scrutiny by the relevant authorities and more than half are already not recommended for use.

The Kenya delegation appreciates the efforts in the provision of technical assistance to implement the Code and PIC Clause. It notes, however, that no training or regional workshops have been held in East Africa for the benefit of the region. We hope this will be rectified soon. We appreciate the preparation of the computer data base for eventual use by the developing countries, and would welcome efforts to strengthen the capabilities of the developing countries in implementing the Code through provision of manpower training, laboratory use and other forms of technical assistance.

In conclusion, Kenya concurs with the recommendation of the Joint FAO/UNEP Expert Panel that it is still premature to convert the Code of Conduct into a binding legal instrument.

Jung Sup CHOI (Korea, Republic of): I thank Mr de Haen for his excellent presentation on this important subject.

As we are all aware, a safer and more efficient use of pesticides deserves one of the top priority concerns in terms of our health and the environment. The steps taken by FAO in conjunction with the UNEP, namely the adoption of Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in 1985, the discussion of the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" in 1987, and the amendment of Articles 2 and 9 of the Code in 1989, show us vividly the continuous progress made on this subject.

We know that we are on the right track; we welcome the full implementation of PIC procedure to be effective by 1 January 1992.

The Korean delegation appreciates the Netherlands and Japanese Governments' actions of financing Trust Funds in order to facilitate projects on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct. I hope that many other nations will participate in these activities and help FAO in this important project.

Let me briefly explain the Korean Government's domestic efforts in terms of safe application of pesticides. First of all, under the "Law of Pesticide Management", every container of pesticide is enforced to attach a label which clearly shows the limits in terms of the number and timing of pesticide application. It helps to minimize the crop residual of pesticides and human intoxication. As a matter of fact it is extremely difficult for Korean farmers to tell one foreign named pesticide from another.

Furthermore, in order to prevent pesticide intoxication, the Korean Government operates a continuous educational programme for farmers, pesticide dealers, and extension workers.

In addition, the Government supplies detoxification tablets through the National Agricultural Cooperation Federation, and subsidizes farmers' purchasing of protection gears.

Pesticides are both good and bad. In order to help countries, especially developing countries, to use pesticides properly and to protect their peoples' health, FAO and other international organizations should devote more effort in the preparation of standards that may be applied in all countries. Also, FAO should consider ways to help developing countries to measure the pesticide residuals.

The Korean delegation supports all activities that FAO has been doing in these regards. The Korean Government has every intention to promote the PIC procedure.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The United States strongly supports the PIC procedures and is taking appropriate actions to implement it within current US legislation.

We applaud FAO and UNEP for approaching this as a joint programme which will avoid duplication of effort and confusion among participating countries. We are particularly pleased that the implementation of the procedure has actually begun with the issuance of the Guidance for Governments document and Decision Guidance documents for the first six PIC pesticides.

We commend FAO for developing and distributing a questionnaire to determine which pesticides might need to be included in PIC because of this acute toxicity in use concern.

The United States has taken and continues to take steps to implement PIC within its national regulatory programmes and respond to the requests of the FAO/UNEP Joint Programme.

The United States always believed that technical assistance and development of national capacity in developing countries to control imports of pesticides and the storage, transportation, use and disposal of those admitted into the country is essential to the long-term solution of problems resulting from pesticide use. We have been active in supporting FAO workshops and training in these areas through the provision of some funding and of technical resources persons. We have also provided support to the Joint Experts Group and cooperated closely on several projects with Central America and Mexico.

The recent and unique OECD meeting on importing hazardous chemicals, unique in that it included 33 developing country representatives in addition to OECD member country representatives from both government and environmental assistance agencies, reached conclusions regarding the need for an expanded role for donor agencies in the area of chemicals management. In this regard, we would encourage FAO to expand its collaborative efforts with the International Programme on Chemical Safety.

Mohammad Hanif QUAZI (Pakistan) : The Government of Pakistan attaches prime importance to the FAO Code of Conduct which is designed to avoid the adverse effects of pesticides on human life and the environment and to prevent accidental poisoning from their improper use.

The Government of Pakistan fully supported the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) which was deleted from the agreed Code of Conduct, but re-introduced for inclusion by the FAO Consultation held on 10-13 January 1989. Since then the Government of Pakistan has continuously extended its support to the inclusion of the PIC Clause in the FAO Code of Conduct at different FAO fora.

The Government of Pakistan in the Twenty-fifth Session of FAO Conference held in Rome from 11-30 November 1989 extended its support to the inclusion of PIC Clause by revising Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The implementation of PIC Clause in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides has been recently supported by the Government of Pakistan in the 99th Session of the FAO Council in Rome during June 1991.

The Government of Pakistan supports the revised Article 2 and 9 (Annex A) of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and approves the guidelines on the operation of Prior Informed Consent.

The Government of Pakistan has designated the Plant Protection Adviser and Director, Department of Plant Protection, Karachi to act as the Designated National Authority for PIC operations concerning pesticides. The Designated National Authority will supply FAO with the notices of control actions taken by the Government of Pakistan and will be responsible for receiving and issuing notices on the decisions whether Pakistan wishes to receive import of pesticides included in the PIC procedure.

José V. ROMERO, Jr. (Philippines): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to address this body on a subject that is very important to the Philippines, although we have moved away somewhat from the use of petroleum-based fertilizers into an organic fertilizer, which is what we are encouraging. Still, in all, it is very important to us to have some guidelines in the use of fertilizer which we have found in the past to have some rather adverse effects on the condition of soil and nutrition.

First of all, let me congratulate the author of this very important paper which we are using as a framework for today's discussions. As far as the Philippines is concerned, our fertilizer and pesticide authority has through the years taken an active role in regional activities related to pesticide regulation and has been recognized for its contribution towards helping other developing countries, especially in the Asia and Pacific region, in developing and implementing regulatory policies on pesticides through study tours, training, and conferences. For a basically importing pesticide country the Philippines' thorough understanding of the concept and implementation of PIC, both technically and legally, is paramount so as

not to pose a barrier to the country's import-export, local production, distribution and use of pesticide, hence our active interest in the subject at hand.

We support these actions taken by this august body and we hope that we will have more initiatives like this in the future.

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): M. le Président, je vous demande tout d'abord d'excuser mon absence de la salle. Je suis allé participer au vote du budget que nous considérons tous prioritaire et qui a été adopté par consensus. Je constate d'ailleurs que de nombreux délégués se trouvent encore en salle plénière.

Pour en revenir au point 11 de l'ordre du jour, qui fait l'objet de notre examen, le document C 91/20 a mérité une attention de mon Gouvernement, compte tenu des renseignements qu'il contient. C'est pourquoi, comme ceux qui m'ont précédé, je félicite le Secrétariat de son excellent travail et, en particulier, M. de Haen, pour le bref résumé qu'il nous a présenté. Je fais miennes les paroles que le Président lui a adressées.

Le document C 91/20, dont l'intitulé est "Mise en oeuvre de la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables (ICP) contenue dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides", est composé de quatre parties: le rappel des faits, la mise en oeuvre du système d'ICP depuis la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence en 1989, l'assistance technique pour la mise en oeuvre du Code et de la clause d'ICP et, enfin, la conversion du Code en un instrument juridique contraignant; sans oublier trois tableaux présentant les pesticides déjà identifiés.

La première partie nous brosse un tableau des faits depuis l'adoption du Code par consensus dans la Résolution 10/85 de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO, en passant par les discussions et l'introduction de la clause d'ICP pour arriver enfin à sa mise en oeuvre après la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence.

Avec ce tableau, ma délégation constate la coopération et la collaboration qui ont toujours caractérisé les relations de la FAO avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies, notamment le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et autres. Nous ne pouvons que saluer l'initiative prise par les deux organisations concernant la base de données communes FAO/PNUE sur l'ICP, tel qu'indiqué au paragraphe 11 du document.

Dans sa deuxième partie, ce document nous montre quelles sont les différentes phases pour la mise en oeuvre du système d'ICP. Le nombre de pays qui ont répondu à l'invitation de la FAO de désigner une autorité nationale compétente démontrent la préoccupation grandissante des Etats Membres, d'une part, d'accroître la production alimentaire et, d'autre part, de réduire les risques pour la santé humaine et l'environnement. L'Angola se trouve parmi les pays qui ont désigné leur ANC.

En ce moment où tous les pays se préparent à participer à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement, je m'étonne de voir qu'il existe encore des pays - je ne sais pas s'ils sont exportateurs ou importateurs puisque le rapport ne nous donne pas la liste actuelle - qui

n'ont pas encore répondu oui au bien-être de l'humanité. Les effets néfastes de l'utilisation sur l'environnement ne s'arrêtent pas aux frontières de nos pays.

Le paragraphe 10 du document nous donne le nombre de réponses reçues mais se tait quant aux résultats obtenus à la suite des contacts établis par les représentants de la FAO avec les gouvernements n'ayant pas encore répondu positivement. Le Secrétariat peut-il nous fournir quelques renseignements pour essayer de dissiper la peur qui peut élever domicile dans nos pays?

En lisant le paragraphe 12, je crois comprendre que le document qui a été rédigé, revu et amendé n'a pas encore été envoyé aux autorités nationales compétentes pour leur permettre de communiquer l'inventaire de leurs mesures de contrôle.

En ce qui concerne la troisième partie, la délégation angolaise félicite, une fois de plus, la FAO pour les actions concrètes qu'elle a réalisées en Afrique, en Asie, en Amérique latine, et aux Caraïbes, avec les autres organisations internationales. Nos félicitations s'adressent également aux pays qui, comme le Japon et les Pays-Bas, ont joint l'acte à la parole, afin de permettre à la FAO de mettre en oeuvre des programmes dans certaines régions de notre planète. Nous espérons que d'autres pays suivront leur exemple.

L'Angola, qui a participé à la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Conseil de la FAO, souscrit à la recommandation du Groupe mixte d'experts FAO/PNUE, contenue dans le paragraphe 19, relative à la conversion du Code en instrument juridique contraignant.

Nous félicitons M. de Haen pour avoir donné des informations complémentaires qui ne se trouvent pas dans le document C 91/20.

Robert LAMB (Suisse): Nous tenons d'abord à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 91/20 fort complet et riche en informations. La FAO a rempli un de ses rôles importants dans l'activité qui concerne l'établissement de normes. Cette activité pour nous revêt un rôle prioritaire; à notre avis, elle s'intègre dans une stratégie générale de développement de l'agriculture durable. Le Code de conduite n'est donc pas un instrument isolé, mais il doit soutenir, être le complément d'autres activités telle la lutte intégrée. Nous saluons, à cet effet, les efforts entrepris par la FAO dans ce dernier domaine, notamment en Indonésie, où le programme qui a eu beaucoup de succès concernant ce champ d'activités a permis de réduire un usage abusif des pesticides pour leur bonne utilisation, grâce également au Gouvernement indonésien qui est très actif dans ce domaine.

En ce qui concerne certains points particuliers du document, nous nous félicitons de la modification du Code international de conduite par la clause du principe du consentement préalable que nous soutenons et que nous nous attachons à mettre en oeuvre au niveau national.

Cependant, nous aimerions rappeler que cette clause n'est qu'un élément du Code et ne doit pas faire oublier d'autres principes importants dans la mise en oeuvre de ce Code. Ce principe concerne l'assistance technique qui doit être complémentaire aux efforts des pays concernés.

Quant à la mise en oeuvre du Code, il me paraît important que la rigueur regardant les pesticides importés soit également appliquée aux pesticides produits localement.

Concernant la conversion du Code en instrument contraignant, nous approuvons la recommandation du Conseil. Il est prématuré de transformer le Code en instrument contraignant. Nous aimerions souligner que la forme non contraignante du Code permet un contrôle par les médias et les ONG qui permettraient une évaluation de ce Code et qui ont un rôle important à jouer dans ce domaine. La forme juridique contraignante ne permettrait peut-être pas à ce rôle de s'exprimer. Il est important également que la FAO procède, avant de considérer une conversion en instrument contraignant, à une évaluation de l'efficacité et de l'efficience actuelles et futures du Code.

Un autre élément important que nous aimerions voir renforcé concerne l'évaluation des risques pour pouvoir définir des politiques au niveau national. Cet aspect concerne notamment une évaluation quantitative et une information sur les problèmes et accidents liés aux pesticides sur le terrain. Une telle évaluation devrait permettre de déterminer où et dans quel contexte les risques sont plus élevés pour l'environnement. En ce sens, la collaboration avec l'OMS et le PNUE devrait être renforcée.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): Gracias, señor Presidente, por permitirme volver a intervenir en segundo lugar y, a su vez, ruego disculpen esta nueva intervención mía. Queríamos hacer uso de la palabra para indicar que en España, por su pertenencia a la Comunidad Económica Europea en la actualidad, al igual que los otros países miembros de la Comunidad, están afectados por el Reglamento 1734/88 que regula las importaciones y exportaciones actualmente en vigor hacia los países que perciben estos productos. Dicho Reglamento, que actualmente está en previsión de modificación y que la regula en la actualidad, no obstante desearíamos que se tuviera en cuenta, o se intentara mejorar en la medida de lo posible algunas de las situaciones que en estos momentos se producen, tales como la ausencia o el desconocimiento en numerosas ocasiones del responsable o la autoridad local que debe recibir los productos que, en ocasiones, están afectados con la categoría de peligrosos o de nocivos.

Desearíamos, dentro de las posibilidades de esta Organización, se recomendara que los países que en la actualidad no han indicado o suministrado el nombre del organismo, de la autoridad o de las personas responsables a nivel sanitario de la recepción de estos productos, hicieran llegar a la FAO, para incorporarlo en los documentos, los nombres de las personas afectadas o, repito, del organismo afectado al objeto de mejorar en la medida de lo posible todas estas particularidades.

Igualmente desearía indicar que en nuestro país la responsabilidad de los productos de pesticidas afectados por el PICP está compartida por los Ministerios de Agricultura y de Sanidad, que es de quien depende todo lo que concierne a los efectos toxicológicos y ecotoxicológicos de los productos pesticidas.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, desearía agradecer a la FAO y al UNEP la elaboración de los dos magníficos documentos conocidos como "Guía para los Gobiernos" y "Guía de documentos", por su magnífica elaboración y su completa y perfecta documentación en su interior.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My Government appreciates the Secretariat's continuing efforts which have brought the PIC clause to the point of implementation.

My Government sincerely hopes that the harmful effects of pesticides on human health and the environment will be reduced through the safer and correct use of pesticides and the implementation of PIC. To support FAO's activities on this matter, my Government has been financing a trust fund such as was introduced by the Secretariat.

In my country, the marketing of pesticides has been strictly controlled based on a Pesticide Control Law through a registration system for produced and imported pesticides. To prevent the exportation of unregistered pesticides from my country to other countries, we provide custom officers with the list of registered pesticides to check the applicable pesticides, as well as issuing instructions to private companies.

My country is happy to cooperate with the countries who need technical assistance on pesticide management, whether it is from an institutional or scientific perspective.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to congratulate FAO for the informative document C 91/20, and also Dr de Haen for his useful introduction.

We believe in, and generally support, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides - Implementation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause. I would, however, like to make a few comments.

Smoking is not good. It is hazardous to health. Many national and international governmental and non-governmental institutions and organizations alarm people to the hazardous effects of smoking. Smoking will hurt one individual, but pesticides destroy the environment and endanger the lives of many people as well as living things.

I have some data which may interest you. The amount of active ingredient pesticides in the whole world in 1985 was 2 425 000 metric tons. The developing countries used 507 000 metric tons of that total in the same year. That means that the developed countries are using nearly five times more pesticides than developing countries, and are destroying the environment to a far greater extent than are the developing countries. I am sure we all agree that they have to pay for it.

PIC will inform us about the pesticides which are banned, the nature of the chemical, and so on. That is good, no doubt, but I hope that the Conference will appeal to the people of all the exporter countries of pesticides not to produce the banned pesticides and not to bring them to the market. If there are such banned pesticides, they should be eliminated with the help of the exporter countries.

In this connection the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to make a suggestion parallel to the PIC, which I hope will receive the support of delegations here at the Conference. The suggestion is for the establishment of a very strong international cooperation on biological control of pests, and that FAO should take the initiative for such a suggestion. It is vital to all aspects of human life, to the environment, and to all living creatures.

It is our hope that more attention will be given to the improvement of extension services, particularly in the use of pesticides.

Mohd. Fadzil AKRAM (Malaysia): My delegation would like to thank and congratulate Dr de Haen for the introduction and the Secretariat for the preparation of the Report.

Malaysia supported the adoption of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution of Pesticides during the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference by way of Resolution 10/85. In addition, during the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference in 1987, Malaysia supported the adoption of Resolution 5/87 calling for the incorporation of the principle of PIC in the Code. Malaysia also supported the adoption of Resolution 6/89 on the amendment of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In this Conference, Malaysia wishes for the fourth consecutive time to give its full support to the adoption of the Code and the inclusion of the principle of PIC. At the same time, the Malaysian delegation wishes to inform the Conference of recent actions taken by our country in implementing the Code.

Malaysia has nominated the Pesticides Board as its Designated National Authority (DNA) to handle pesticides, and the Department of Environment as its DNA to handle other chemicals.

Malaysia is an active participant in FAO's Asia and the Pacific Regional Project for the implementation of the Code. In addition to participating in the various workshops organized by the project, Malaysia has also contributed experts in the sphere of various pesticides, in support of the activities of the Project.

With regard to the principle of PIC, although Malaysia will not benefit by it as much as other developing countries, primarily due to its pesticide registration system, Malaysia will give its wholehearted support to the implementation of PIC in the form proposed.

The Malaysian delegation also supports Category IA+ for chemicals included in the PIC list, as these are particularly hazardous to farmers in developing countries.

Ms Katalin BAKK (Hungary): I would like to support the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate from Iran. I think that it is very important, and an excellent idea, to establish international cooperation on biological pest control.

Mme Ioanna EFSTATHIOU (Greece): I intend to make a brief statement on the item concerning the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including the PIC Clause.

We welcome the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP, as well as their efforts to assist the countries through the exchange of information for chemicals and pesticides.

We also support the different phases that are proposed in paragraph 8 for the implementation of PIC.

My country intends to further promote its cooperation with the PIC procedure, because we are very much aware of the negative effects of the rise of chemicals and pesticides.

As my country is a full member of the EEC, we have to ensure that the harmonization of the legislation within the Community will lead to a common pesticide control concerning all Member States.

Another point that should be underlined is the withdrawal of banned and severely restricted pesticides. Undoubtedly the rise of chemicals and pesticides causes severe problems. However the question of their stocking when they are withdrawn needs also to be examined, as it causes equal damage in the regions where they are stored.

We believe the conversion of the Code to a binding legal instrument to be premature, as is mentioned in the document in front of us. Under this framework the Code is more flexible, providing mutual understanding and promoting cooperation among Member Nations.

CHAIRMAN: The list of speakers is now exhausted. The delegations of Yugoslavia, Australia, Myanmar and Venezuela have provided the texts of their interventions to be included in the verbatim report of this sitting.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): On behalf of the Yugoslav delegation I would like to express our support to the work of the Joint FAO/UNEP Expert Group on Prior Informed Consent. Thanks to their work, conditions have been created for the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We are also pleased to note from Mr de Haen's statement that FAO will be ready to officially start the programme. Yugoslavia agrees with the findings of the FAO/UNEP Expert Group that it would be premature to introduce a legally binding instrument on PIC at this stage.

As a country signatory of the International FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Yugoslavia has ensured conditions in its legislation for implementing the provisions of the Code, which also refers to its Article 2 on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) on pesticides in international trade.

Before pesticides may be traded in Yugoslavia, certain obligatory testing has to be carried out (determining the chemical and physical properties and biological effects of every preparation, as well as toxicological assessments of preparations produced on the basis of a new active substance for Yugoslavia). This has been stipulated by the Law on the Protection of Plants Against Diseases and Pests Affecting the Whole Country as well as the Law on Trade in Poisons, as well as the by-laws adopted on the basis of those laws. Licences for trading pesticides as plant protection agents are issued by the Federal Secretariat for Agriculture, while those for their use in public hygiene are issued by the Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health, Veterans' Affairs and Social Policy. In addition, the import of final plant protection products must be preceded by the granting of a special approval of the Federal Secretariat for Agriculture for each individual imported shipment. This implies that the given product has already been registered for trade in our country. That was one of the reasons for setting up national focal centres attached to these bodies, about which FAO has been informed immediately upon the receipt of the letter.

The procedure for the registration of plant protection chemicals prior to their marketing has been in effect since 1954. Thus, the adoption of the FAO Code on Pesticides and its implementation in our country does not cause difficulties.

The number of registered preparations and active pesticide substances used for their formulation varies from year to year: in 1991 some 730 preparations and about 270 active substances - out of which 20 are synthesized in the country - were registered. Out of the 18 pesticides from the initial PIC list only 3 are in reduced use in our country. They are preparations with organic mercury (liquid formulations for wheat seed disinfection only and exclusively until the end of 1992), parathion-ethyl and paraquat. Preparations containing inorganic mercury, fluoracetamylde and EDB were not even registered, while for the other pesticides licences were revoked (for chlorinated hydrocarbons) in the period between 1972 and 1987. I would like to point out that, from the initial PIC list until 1972, Yugoslavia synthesized only DDT in the country.

Yugoslavia expects that the revival of the implementation of the Code tenets, particularly those related to the prohibition or limitation of the use of certain pesticides in the importing countries will considerably contribute to human and environmental health protection in countries importers of pesticides. We further express the readiness of our competent authorities to take an active part in and cooperate actively with the FAO/UNEP in the implementation of the Code.¹

Michael CARROLL (Australia): Australia supports the principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and is encouraged by the progress that has been made to date in developing guidance documentation, data bases and providing advice and assistance to countries who have indicated their intention to participate.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

The continuing community desire for more information on pesticide hazards, concern over the possible adverse effects of pesticide use and occasionally the trade in sub-standard products makes the exchange of information between governments essential. PIC will significantly help in this process.

Moves within Australia to provide for a single national registration authority under Commonwealth administration will help to ensure that timely information is made available to countries through FAO under the PIC provisions of the Code of Conduct.¹

U. Tin HTUT OO (Myanmar) : Mr Chairman, may I, on behalf of the Myanmar delegation, express our satisfaction to FAO for its outstanding activities in this field of crucial importance. We are also very pleased to note that FAO is closely collaborating with other related agencies, and now will sign with UNEP in the near future.

Mr Chairman, may I now make a brief statement on PIC activities in our country.

Pesticide business in Myanmar was in the hands of the Government till the time of deregulation in 1989. Pesticide manufacture, importation and marketing has been opened to both private and foreign participation since then. With the anticipated increasing involvement of the private sector and ultimate free access to various chemicals, the safe and efficient use of pesticides has become more critical in the country. As a measure toward commensurate administrative control, necessary laws and regulations were enacted in 1990 and 1991.

The Government has approved for the formation of the Pesticide Registration Board to grant use permits for various pesticides. The registration will be based upon evaluation of comprehensive scientific data demonstrating that the product is effective and not unduly hazardous to human health or the environment. Unregistered products will not be allowed to be marketed in the country. The Pesticide Registration Board may withdraw registration or restrict the use of any pesticide in the event that the data obtained either in the country or abroad indicates that the pesticide is harmful to human beings, animals, crops and environment. Information received under Prior Informed Consent procedure may be considered by the Registration Board for banning or restricting the use of any particular pesticide.

Mr Chairman, Myanmar is willing to participate in the PIC procedure and consequently has participated in the regional workshop on the implementation of PIC held in Manila this year.

We would also like to support the distinguished delegate of Switzerland in pointing out the need to strengthen the capabilities and efficiency of DNAs in the developing countries, particularly through the in-service training and technical backstopping, while regular training and seminars should be continued.

1 Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion, the Myanmar delegation reaffirms our country's support to FAO in its deliberations on the Code of Conduct and the PIC procedure, and endorses the Ninety-ninth Council Session's recommendation that it was premature to consider the conversion of the Code of Conduct into a binding legal instrument.¹

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela mantiene su respaldo al documento presentado por Secretaria.

Apoya los conceptos presentados por la delegación de México en cuanto a los procedimientos a seguir en la práctica de la Aplicación del "Principio de Importación Previo Consentimiento", conocido como PIPC.

Quiere hacer énfasis en la necesidad de solicitar de aquellos gobiernos de países desarrollados en los cuales existan empresas fabricantes y exportadoras de los plaguicidas, insecticidas y fertilizantes a que se refiere este Compromiso, que urjan a sus empresas nacionales para que cumplan y se sometan a los requerimientos que demanda el Compromiso de la FAO, como una manera de contribuir a la salud de las poblaciones que habitan y trabajan en la agricultura en el medio rural.

Queremos así ser consecuentes con la posición que hemos mantenido a lo largo de las discusiones de este proyecto.²

CHAIRMAN: With your permission I now offer the floor to the distinguished representative of the Environment Liaison Centre International.

Ms Barbara DINHAM (Observer for the Environment Liaison Centre International): The Environment Liaison Centre International is a participant in the Pesticides Action Network and would like to welcome the progress made in developing, and making the PIC provisions of the Code operational. We believe this is a very practical and workable scheme to transfer information, and to allow governments the choice of prohibiting the import of hazardous pesticides.

We would like to stress that such measures are increasingly important against WHO estimates of 20 000 unintentional deaths from pesticides each year. Pesticide use is also estimated to expand in developing countries over the next 20 years. Without intense and committed measures, the health and environmental problems associated with pesticide use will continue to increase. Pesticide Action Network participants in 19 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have been carrying out research which confirms that this problem is not diminishing and indeed shows severe health and environmental problems caused by pesticides not yet on the PIC list.

We believe the only way forward is through a commitment to reduce pesticide use. We therefore welcome the initiatives to introduce the International Cooperative Programme Framework for SARD. We support the points raised by

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

² Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa

the delegates from Netherlands and Switzerland, and the PIC provisions should be seen in the context of the need to develop a truly sustainable agriculture, based on integrated pest management and low external inputs.

To support this, donor governments need to prioritize funding for work on non-chemical alternatives and sound agricultural practice to increasingly replace chemical pesticides. This recommendation was put to the OECD Workshop, which has been referred to several times, which was held in Paris in September, with a request to go forward to Development Assistant Committees. Without this work, countries wishing to prohibit the import of PIC chemicals will be severely hampered and sustainable agriculture will just remain an abstract ideal.

We also support the observation made by the Netherlands on the problem of disposal of unwanted stocks. This leads to the conclusion that in future much greater care must be taken in pesticide trade to ensure that orders for hazardous pesticides and excessive orders or donations are avoided.

We support the ongoing work for further implementation of the Code, and the need to keep fully under review the possibility of legally binding instruments to further strengthen measures to protect health, safety and the environment.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all, on behalf of the Secretariat I would like to thank all those who unanimously supported and encouraged FAO to proceed with the work of the Code of Conduct and the PIC procedure. We have witnessed an outstanding example of consensus in the various comments, explanations and declarations that have been made.

Secondly, we note our activities in implementing the Code received the approval of the Commission, including the implementation of the PIC procedures, activities in training, support of our activities in helping developing countries, institutional thinking for decision making, regulatory policy making and implementation. Those who spoke underlined that you consider success in the implementation of the Code as a step towards sustainable, environmentally friendly and human health supporting agriculture.

In this context, I am pleased to report in reply in particular to the delegate of Uganda, that one particular technology of environmentally friendly agricultural production, IPM - Integrated Pest Management - is in fact receiving high priority in the FAO Plant Protection Programme. With regard to your question whether we should not do more in support of IPM in African countries, I can say that FAO has a project on IPM for cotton in the Sudan supported by the Netherlands. FAO is taking steps to enlarge the IPM programme in African countries. It is currently making an initial study of pesticides use and misuse on vegetables in African countries. We hope this will finally result in an IPM programme for vegetables in those countries.

Also, FAO is supporting an international working group on IPM which will organize, meetings in West and East Africa on IPM, and finally a national project to strengthen plant protection purposes. FAO aims at stimulating IPM in the African countries.

In summary, I can confirm that particularly with regard to IPM we are trying to support efforts towards more sustainable agricultural practices using less pesticides.

May I just comment on some particular questions which we have recorded, and also on comments which delegates have offered. Regarding the intervention by the delegate of the Netherlands, we noted with gratitude the indication given to us that they would support our programme on the disposal of obsolete pesticides. We will be in contact with the Government of the Netherlands and I can confirm such a programme is already under preparation. We are consulting with other donors as was suggested in the intervention. We consider this programme - particularly in African countries - which would aim at the disposal of large quantities of obsolete pesticides stored in several of these countries, has and should have a high priority and importance.

The delegate of Canada mentioned that she found the data base on existing pesticides and existing bans or severe restrictions incomplete. We agree with this, but can report that UNEP on behalf of the joint Secretariat of FAO/UNEP has requested an update of this list of banned and severely restricted pesticides. I take this opportunity to ask all countries who receive this UNEP request and questionnaire to reply to it at their earliest convenience.

Regarding the intervention made by the delegate of Germany, seconded by the delegate of Mexico, who expressed concern as to the justification for the three pesticides parathion ethyl, parathion methyl and paraquat to be on the initial PIC list, this group of three pesticides was identified by the Panel of Experts. This panel consists of experts representing a wide range of recognized expertise who also represent a wide geographical distribution. FAO does not normally give countries such lists officially, but in reply to the question from the delegate of Germany, the names are not secret and we are happy to offer them to those of you wanting a list, if you so wish.

In this context I would mention that industry and environment group observers were present at the final sessions. The inclusion of pesticides of acute toxicity which give problems in developing countries - and these three fall into that category - was decided by the last Conference. I thought it important to underline this in this context. The Panel of Experts, in reply to a request from this Conference, has reviewed such substances and accordingly has recommended that these three compounds be included in the initial PIC list. Other highly toxic compounds that may be considered in future are the subject of a questionnaire sent to developing countries in October this year.

The delegate of the United States proposed that FAO should cooperate closely with the International Programme on Chemical Safety - IPCS - and the delegate of Switzerland supported this suggestion. In reply, may I say that such cooperation exists. There is also the issue of cooperation on chemical risk assessment; the two things have to be separately considered but looked at in conjunction. This cooperation has been considered in the UNCED process. There will be a meeting in London of government-designated experts at the invitation of the Executive Director of UNEP on behalf of this International Programme on Chemical Safety. The meeting will discuss the establishment of an inter-governmental mechanism on chemical risk

assessment and management and on inter-agency cooperation. FAO recognizes the need for cooperation between agencies, and will actively participate in the discussions on strengthening the existing structures, and future arrangements. FAO will participate in that meeting.

The delegate of Angola had a question regarding paragraph 12, in which documentation including updates of national control measures is mentioned. Guidance to Governments is now available in English, French and Spanish. The English and French versions of our document have a slightly different wording on this but I can now inform you that Guidance to Governments is available in these three languages. The request for updates on rights of national pesticide control action has been sent out by UNEP on behalf of the Joint Secretariat to English-speaking countries, and are now being sent out to French- and Spanish-speaking countries.

Finally, let me give a first reply to the proposal made by the delegate of Iran concerning an international organization for the biological control of pests. There already exists such an international organization. It is an international professional and non-governmental organization and is called the International Organization for Biological Control. We cooperate closely with this organization, and it has recently organized a joint expert meeting on the introduction of biological-control agents. Biological control is part of IPM, of course, and therefore has had the full attention of the Organization for quite some time. We continue to actively cooperate with this and other organizations, agencies and institutions working towards the banning of pesticides and the more environmentally friendly application of pesticides.

I hope I have answered all the questions put forward by delegates.

CHAIRMAN: Throughout the discussion this morning we have had the general approval for the measures undertaken by FAO in the implementation of this International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides including the PIC clause. Many speakers have praised the cooperation between FAO, UNEP, WHO, GATT and possibly other organizations in the United Nations system, and possibly some other non-governmental organizations in the implementation of this question.

The point has been raised in the discussion that it would be premature to convert the Code now to a binding legal instrument.

Robert LAMB (Suisse): Excusez-moi d'intervenir à cette heure tardive. Ma question s'adresse à M. de Haen qui a répondu de manière exhaustive à de nombreuses questions, ce qui explique peut-être qu'un ou deux commentaires et questions que j'avais exprimés n'ont pas trouvé de réponse. Nous aimerions avoir la précision, en ce qui concerne l'évaluation future de la mise en oeuvre du Code. Ceci est une question que j'avais posée. Et nous aimerions savoir comment la FAO compte évaluer la mise en oeuvre de ce Code.

Le second point: nous avons exprimé également quelques commentaires concernant un aspect qui nous semblait important sur l'évaluation quantitative et l'information sur l'étendue des problèmes liés aux accidents des pesticides sur le terrain. Je suis persuadé que cette

information existe. Mais je pense que lorsque nous traitons ces questions un résumé devrait exister, ou au moins une information dans ce domaine.

H. de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I regret that my first response was not fully satisfactory, and I fully accept your point that on your particular question regarding future intentions to evaluate the Code, I did not give an exhaustive answer.

FAO evaluated the Code about four years ago by sending out questionnaires and by assembling comments and experiences with the Code. It is intended to repeat this exercise next year. At this point in time we cannot yet say which particular questions and criteria for evaluation will be used, but with the increased attention on the risks to human health, as well as to the environment, arising from inappropriate use of pesticides or from misuse of pesticides, I can assure you that this will be part of the evaluation.

As regards accidents by the improper use or misuse of pesticides, we will have to do this in close cooperation with the WHO. We also expect to be able to draw conclusions from the meeting that I mentioned on risk assessment to be held in London. We think that we should wait for a further period of months in order to be as up-to-date as possible based on the experience of ongoing and future negotiations dealing with risks, in the use of pesticides. To be brief, this evaluation is planned for next year.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/I/PV/11

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
UNDECIMA SESION

(20 November 1991)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la undécima sesión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you to this sitting. First of all, on your behalf, I would like to thank the members of the Bureau and His Excellency the Ambassador of Peru and the Representative of Poland for their assistance.

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 12. Plan of Action on People's Participation
- 12. Plan d'action pour la participation populaire
- 12. Plan de acción sobre participación popular

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to introduce Agenda Item 12, the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development. As the Chairman has mentioned, the main document for this item is C 91/22 but I would like to add that this subject was also discussed at the informal meeting of the international non-governmental organizations which was held on 12 November, and their report is also circulated as Document C 91/INF/1, and paragraphs 15 to 25 of that report summarize the discussions on this subject at that meeting.

The Plan is a revised version of an earlier draft which was considered by the 99th Session of the Council in June earlier this year. Changes have been made to reflect the views expressed during the Council by Member Nations. We have also given more detailed information in the Plan that is now before you on FAO's activities in support of the Plan's objectives. This is contained in Section IV of document C 91/22.

The overall aim of the Plan is the achievement of sustainable rural development with equity. The active participation of rural people, including disadvantaged groups, acting through voluntary, self-reliant organizations of their own choice, is seen as one of the most primary means for sustainable rural development. Without such participation, rural development initiatives are unlikely to be sustained in the long run on rural inequities to be redressed.

In order to achieve rural development with equity through people's participation, the Plan that is presented for your consideration proposes that action be carried out in seven areas as listed in paragraph 14 of the document. These areas include the promotion of greater awareness of the role of people's participation; the creation of a favourable legal and policy framework; strengthening the internal capacities of rural people's organizations; decentralization of government decision-making; promotion of increased dialogue and technical collaboration between governments, development agencies, non-governmental organizations and people's organizations, the introduction of appropriate operational procedures and methods; and monitoring and evaluation of people's participation.

Actions proposed in each of these seven areas are outlined in Section III of the document. Each section begins with a summary description of the main issues and problems, which is then followed by specific recommendations. These recommendations are addressed to Member Governments and to the FAO: to Member Governments because they would have the primary responsibility for implementing the policies, programmes and activities advocated in the Plan; and to FAO because the Organization can and will need to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the Plan of Action. It is clearly recognized, as stated in paragraph 11 of the document, that the policies and programmes for the follow-up to the Plan of Action must fully recognize and respect the sovereignty of the Member Nations. The Plan envisages FAO acting as a catalyst and as an advocate to encourage and assist Member Governments and people's organizations in promoting participatory activities. In this context, FAO will use the traditional instruments of development intervention; that is, information gathering, analysis and dissemination, training, institution-building and exchange of experience, as well as policy advice.

Equally important is FAO's technical assistance, supported by extra-budgetary resources, to government programmes in support of the Plan of Action. This assistance would aim not only at promoting people's organizations as essential instruments for promoting participatory rural development actions, but also at introducing well-defined components for promoting people's participation in wider projects in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. FAO's role in support of the various action areas of the Plan of Action is discussed in paragraphs 45 to 63 of the document, with reference to both Regular Programme-funded activities as well as field activities supported by extra-budgetary resources.

I would like to stress that people's participation is even more relevant today than it was a year ago when preparatory work on developing this Plan began. The difficulties faced by many governments in raising living standards of the poor, using traditional development approaches, have awakened new interest in using more decentralized and participatory methods to reach marginalized rural people. Similarly, growing disenchantment with the economic performance of state-led development models has also given new impetus to participatory approaches. In short, the policy environment for implementing the Plan of Action for People's Participation which is now before us has improved significantly.

Finally, I would like to point out that, although the recommendations of the Plan are addressed only to governments that wish to promote people's participation, the successful implementation of the Plan will crucially depend on the availability of external funds for development. The financial difficulties and severe resource constraints of many developing countries are likely to hinder progress in promoting a participatory development process. In this context, the international community can make a critically important contribution by providing external resources support to the implementation of the Plan.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to the consideration by delegates of the Plan of Action and its eventual adoption by the Conference.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Dutia, for your introduction. Before I give the floor to the first speaker, I would like to express a view on this subject.

The Plan was discussed by Council in June, and there were interventions at that time from Member States. We now have a Plan which has been amended in accordance with the views expressed at the Council meeting in June.

My second point is that I would like to request speakers on the subject to focus on Item 14, because the Secretariat would like to know the points of view of member countries on the seven areas proposed, as it was a subject which raised particular interest at the Council meeting. I think that paragraph 11 explains that every country is sovereign in its decision-making and decision-taking.

I am simply voicing ideas which have occurred to me.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): I would like to thank Mr Dutia for his very comprehensive introduction to this item on our agenda.

While deploring the lost decade for rural development, Denmark fully concurs with the timely initiative of FAO to exercise a lead agency role by launching the Plan of Action on People's Participation.

There are good reasons to believe that the methodological experience gained in recent years by FAO, combined with a much stronger commitment to democracy - under national sovereignty, of course - allows for practical progress to be made.

One of the major roles to be assumed by FAO in the sphere of environmental policies is undoubtedly the management of natural resources by development of sustainable production systems. In this context, it is an indispensable prerequisite that people's participation is enhanced. It is not just a question of increasing awareness of environmental issues. It is also a matter of mobilizing experience of local people on farming systems that are ecologically more geared to local agro-ecological conditions, but whose potential is often neglected. Further, it is a question of diffusing risk aversion against even the smallest and economically sensible investment in inputs or implements and necessary borrowings for that purpose. It is generally recognized that extension services often have to be adapted for these reasons.

This is fundamentally a question of combining social and cultural sustainability with economic and ecological sustainability. It goes without saying that integration of women is a very dominant issue in this context.

However, social sustainability cannot be achieved if a network of institutions and private professional organizations and an appropriate management culture are absent. Poverty orientation and more equal access to property and means of production are also indispensable elements. This requires difficult choices between different political options, but hasn't the world reached political maturity to make these choices today, adapted of course to national history and traditions and sovereignty?

Finally, a few questions!

What kind of targets has FAO set for the Plan of Action, and at what time limit? What kind of methods will FAO use to reach these targets? How will FAO establish a network with other UN agencies and NGOs in order to achieve the targets in common? How does FAO organize the evaluation systems in order to inter alia report to the governing bodies on the performance of the Plan of Action and the cooperation with others? Does FAO feel that implementation of the Plan of Action is an upstream activity deserving reimbursement according to the new UNDP support cost successor system? And finally, what is the ultimate goal of FAO's activities in the sphere of People's Participation?

These are questions that FAO currently has to report on, if the credibility of the Plan of Action shall be retained in the longer run. Under these conditions, Denmark can participate in adoption of the Plan, although we do consider it somewhat complex and perhaps over-comprehensive - but we fully support the adoption of the Plan.

CHAIRMAN: We thank the distinguished representative from Denmark. The role of FAO will be that of a catalyst, and it will assist the member countries.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): This document is important for it emphasizes the need to recognize direct and fuller participation by the village people of the developing countries in the developmental activities that is supposed to benefit them.

As I pointed-out earlier during discussions on other subjects, only those plans and policies are viable and workable and have transformed aims and aspirations into real successful situations on the ground, so to say.

Direct, active, real and continuous participation of the people of the village in all policy formulation and in all decisions that are eventually going to affect their lives, and in the eventual implementation, is perhaps the bottom line of the whole exercise. This is both a challenge and a problem at the same time.

Another important question is: who constitutes the village people? The local bureaucracy, the local elite, the self-appointed local political leaders? - or, the local and simple people of the village in the developing countries?

The main issues then become: (1) What is to be done about the local power structures? (2) How directly and seriously have the village people been involved? (3) Have the village people been allowed to determine their own respective problems? (4) Have they been asked to find solutions for these problems? - or, is someone else telling them what their problems and the respective solutions are?

After this has been determined, only then can a structural framework be developed. In fact, these must form the inherent components of the said framework.

It may be added that after the village people have outlined their priorities, only then should the technical and financial inputs be made.

In Pakistan, successive governments, including the present one, have taken many initiatives in this respect. It has been realized that policies and programmes would have limited impact unless participation at the grass roots is ensured. A private sector organization, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in Pakistan has perhaps been able to find the answers, and is the only set-up that can be quoted as a successful experiment in ensuring participation of the people of the village. In their set-ups, the local bureaucracy has a subsequent, supportive role - and comes in only after decisions have been made by the village people themselves. In the first place, the local people determine their own priority or priorities in a group situation, where all decisions are taken together and priorities determined.

Later, committees are formed from amongst themselves to formulate plans and to contribute initial finances. Subsequently, the organizers of the AKRSP where, again, the local people are in a majority, come forward with technical and further financial inputs.

It should be pointed out that this Programme is the most successful example of people's participation in a Plan of Action that affects people's own development. Village people have greatly benefited from this Programme. After successful operations in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, it is being carried forward into other areas. Perhaps this is the first time that effective participation of village people has been ensured at the rural scene. In the end, it may be said that this programme contains almost all the lines of action as given in paragraph 14 on page 4 of the document under review.

Mohd. Fadzil AKRAM (Malaysia): My delegation would like to congratulate and thank the Secretariat and Mr Dutia for preparing and introducing the Report.

With regard to document C 91/22 Malaysia wishes to endorse the proposed Plan of Action on People's Participation in Rural Development. Malaysia has always been supportive of FAO's attempts towards these goals. We agree that the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing the policies, programmes and activities advocated in the Plan of Action rests with the governments of individual countries. As far as Malaysia is concerned, some of the action areas proposed in the Plan are already being implemented in our country. We support the call for national policies for agricultural and rural development to encourage full and effective participation of rural people in decision making, implementation and evaluation of the process of rural development.

François ROHNER (Suisse): Je tiens également à remercier M. Dutia et son équipe pour le document qu'ils nous ont présenté.

La participation populaire est un sujet qui a toujours été très cher à mon pays étant donné le système politique qui lui est propre. Nous avons aussi toujours attaché beaucoup d'importance à la question dans le cadre de notre coopération. Nous sommes heureux de voir la Conférence consacrer un point particulier de son ordre du-jour au sujet en question. Nous avons par conséquent examiné le document préparé par le Secrétariat avec beaucoup d'attention.

Quant à l'importance de la participation populaire en tant que droit de l'homme fondamental et élément indispensable en vue d'arriver à un développement socio-économique durable, le document contient un nombre de rappels et d'affirmations tout à fait pertinents. Je ne m'étendrai donc pas sur ce sujet.

Pour ce qui est du Plan proposé à proprement parler, nous appuyons ses grandes lignes de force. Il nous paraît cependant encore bien académique et un peu bureaucratique dans sa formulation et trop souvent conçu de haut en bas dans son approche de la problématique ainsi que des mesures envisagées.

Une plus forte priorisation à mener par la FAO sera nécessaire, tenant compte des actions menées par d'autres bailleurs de fond bilatéraux et multilatéraux.

La FAO doit se concentrer, comme vous l'avez dit, Monsieur le Président, sur un rôle de conseiller, de catalyseur, de facilitateur de dialogue entre partenaires en présence: gouvernements et ONG, tout autant qu'entre ONG. Ces organisations non gouvernementales ont beaucoup à apprendre les unes des autres au niveau local mais aussi aux niveaux sous-régional, régional et même interrégional. Les ONG nationales et internationales possèdent une riche expérience en la matière. La FAO doit donc chercher à pleinement valoriser ces sources de savoir et d'expérience dans son travail.

Je ferai finalement remarquer que l'élaboration d'un Plan d'action aurait sans doute profité de commentaires des populations directement concernées ou de représentants de celles-ci.

Rappelons, dans ce contexte, que la Suisse s'était engagée à l'égard de la création, au sein de la FAO, d'un Comité des organisations paysannes, initiative qui avait pour but de les faire participer plus directement que cela ne leur est possible dans la situation actuelle aux activités de notre Organisation.

Pour ce qui est de l'organisation du travail au sein de l'institution, nous attachons beaucoup d'importance à ce que la mise en oeuvre du Plan se fasse en étroite collaboration entre tous les services concernés. Nous souhaitons donc voir la FAO poursuivre son action en faveur de la participation populaire - participation plus large et plus active - et nous invitons le Directeur général à faire rapport sur l'action menée par l'Organisation à la prochaine Conférence.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): The United States delegation appreciates the comprehensive nature of the FAO Plan of Action on this important topic. The action areas are appropriate and the division of labour between governments and FAO are clearly articulated. With more attention to specifics of participation and the realistic requirements of the implementation involved, the Plan would be greatly strengthened.

We would suggest several modifications to the Plan. Within the introduction the Plan of Action should reflect a careful characterization of intended beneficiaries and also the social relations which influence the type and quality of participation. Without overtly recognizing elite domination of communities many people's organizations and even NGOs, the Plan fails to minimize important impediments to population participation. In the light of

declining government resources, the Plan places great faith and potential resources at the disposal of NGOs. However, a reminder is needed that NGOs are not an all-purpose panacea capable of replacing government-provided services. We would like to see the Plan differentiate types of participation, for example decision making, implementation, benefit distribution and evaluation.

With respect to the implementation of Section 4 of the Plan of Action, we believe this Section should be revised to include greater specificity. In June we suggested the Plan of Action should reflect prioritization for action, division of labour between multilateral, bilateral and national government agencies, identification of FAO sectoral focuses and greater attention to budgetary items. We had hoped for a realistic budget which would reflect the commitment of FAO and the expectation of other donors. We expressed particular concern about how to minimize external financing and dependency relationships, while maximizing mobilization of internal resources of organizations which foster population participation. Thus, we re-emphasize here that although the international community and external resources can play a catalytic and facilitative role, we believe that paragraph 64 of the Plan overstates the importance of external resources. It is quite clear that as indicated in the first two issues of the UNDP Human Development Report, for example, there is room for reallocation in government budgets and that, in fact, greater participation can itself lead to reallocation which better serves the interests of the population. In an area as critical to national sovereignty as this, governments should not be dependent on external resources and support.

Focus on international trade, external debt and the external flow of financial resources implies that developing countries' difficulties can be overcome solely by external factors or external assistance. In fact, improved domestic economic policies are a fundamental first step to achieving economic recovery and growth. Underlying every success story are strong reform efforts by developing countries themselves. The will and commitment for achieving the objectives of the Plan cannot be generated from outside. They must come from within.

My delegation believes FAO may need to begin to reward project designers and managers by encouraging participatory projects. Our experience of our own economic programmes shows there is great potential for achieving much of the Plan's agenda through more efficient and enhanced programmes and project design.

Finally, the United States shares the interests of FAO in sustainable rural development with equity. We support the laudable principle embodied in the Plan of Action and hope that this Plan can serve as a vehicle to harmonize the efforts of multilateral and bilateral donors. With greater definitional and implementation specificity, the Plan has the potential to be implemented as a donor model in the future.

Ms Charlotte SEYMOUR-SMITH (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation welcomes the report which has been prepared for this Conference on the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development. We wish to thank Mr Dutia for his useful introduction to this agenda item.

We were given the opportunity to comment on an earlier version of this document at the Council meeting in June, and on that occasion my delegation expressed its satisfaction at the increased awareness within FAO of the need for fuller participation of local people in rural development.

The Government of the United Kingdom, in its bilateral aid programme, promotes poverty focused development strategies which benefit the most disadvantaged members of society. Increased people's participation is a key element in ensuring that poverty focused development actually reaches the population for whom it is intended. People's participation is also an important factor in good government, again, a priority in the United Kingdom aid programme.

The United Kingdom and other Council members, in commenting on this item at the June Council meeting, asked for further details from the Secretariat on the specific and workable mechanisms which will ensure that the laudable aims and aspirations of the Plan will actually be translated into reality at a local level. We note that the Secretariat has taken into account these comments in preparing the revised version of this document that is before us today, and which gives us more detail on FAO's role in support of the Plan of Action in paragraphs 45-63.

My delegation would like to stress that there are strong links between this topic of people's participation and that of women in development, which is to be discussed as a separate agenda item. These links could be brought out more clearly in the document before us now, which makes little mention, other than in passing, of the specific problems facing women in achieving effective participation.

Paragraph 64 of the document deals with the role of the international community in promoting people's participation through FAO's programmes, and calls for external resources in support of the implementation of the Plan of Action. Nevertheless, many members at the June Council meeting laid emphasis on the fact that more than a budgetary provision, people's participation should be seen as an attitude which should permeate development organizations.

The United Kingdom strongly supports the notion that rather than diverting resources from other areas of activity, people's participation should be conceived of as involving different and better ways of using resources and of carrying out development activities so as to reach those populations who are most in need of their benefits.

Mr Gürsu OKURER (Turkey): I would like to join others in expressing our thanks to Mr Dutia for his, as usual, clear and concise introduction to the item under consideration.

We have studied the Conference document C 91/22 on the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development with due attention. We are aware that the Plan itself is the product of a lengthy process that has led to this comprehensive and analytical study and which has taken into account the views and recommendations of the relevant FAO bodies, as well as the orientations adopted by other intergovernmental organizations.

My delegation agrees with the basic premise that the "top-down" approach characteristic of traditional development strategies has largely failed to reach and benefit the rural poor. It is also true that due to lack of resources, deteriorating terms of trade and issues of mounting external debt repayments, all of which simply result in resource outflows, many developing countries view people's participation as an important alternative mechanism for promoting rural development.

In this context, the Plan of Action, whose overall aim is to ensure active participation of people in the achievement of sustainable rural development, establishes a suitable general framework for future activities and provides useful guidelines for interested governments to facilitate the process of people's participation as mentioned in the Council report.

Having said this, we would now like to present our general remarks on the strategy, action areas and implementation of the Plan.

First of all, my delegation endorses the view expressed by the Council that the Plan of Action should fully recognize and respect the sovereignty of Member Nations. In this respect, we note with satisfaction that this view is reflected in paragraph 11 of the Conference document.

The conditions specified in paragraph 12 for the promotion of people's participation is generally well defined. We would have liked, however, to see among the conditions cited the need for appropriate resource allocation, which would have complemented it in terms of a more balanced approach and also would have highlighted the importance of resource dimension to which several references were made elsewhere in the document, namely, paragraphs 43, 44 and 64. Since the concept of people's participation is evolved substantially on the basis of the requirements, among others, to overcome structural impediments and to reduce the cost to governments of providing development assistance, we deem it useful to look at the resource aspect of the issue among the conditions specified in order to make the Plan operational.

The proposed seven areas for action are generally suitably selected in order to achieve the goal of sustainable rural development with equity through people's participation.

We, in particular, endorse the proposals on promotion of greater awareness, creation of favourable legal and policy conditions for people's participation, and strengthening internal capacities of the rural people's organizations at local and national levels. We view the proposed actions in sections (a), (b) and (c), in particular, the paragraphs 16 to 20 and 22 to 28, as the top priority areas for action.

My delegation, in general, considers the proposals with regard to decentralization of government decision-making, promotion of increased dialogue and technical collaboration between governments, development agencies and people's organizations indicated in sections (d) and (e) from the perspective of the specific conditions of each country.

As for section (f) concerning the introduction of appropriate operational procedures and methods, proposals for action recommended to governments in paragraph 38 are in line with the preceding two sections, and we would

again like to refer to the differences of specific conditions in various countries. Paragraph 39 of this section deserves our endorsement.

In section (g) on monitoring and evaluation of people's participation, we are of the opinion that the proposed action foreseen in paragraph 41, (ii) needs further clarification. We endorse the remainder of that paragraph, as well as paragraph 42.

On Part IV of the document, my delegation is pleased to give its approval to paragraphs 43 and 44, which in general deal with the implementation of the Plan and paragraph 64, which covers the role of the international community.

We also note with satisfaction FAO's role in support of the Plan as mentioned in paragraphs 45 through 63. In this respect, we would like to underline the importance attached by FAO to people's participation in Tropical Forestry Action Plans, in fisheries development and management schemes and in the proposed International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

My delegation is similarly pleased to note FAO's continued willingness to closely collaborate and coordinate the activities with other relevant UN agencies, including the Rome-based food and agriculture organizations on the implementation of the Plan.

In conclusion, the delegation of Turkey fully approves the basic approach towards promoting rural development with the participation and for the benefit of rural people of both genders on equal terms as an essential basis for the Plan of Action.

Mrs Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): This agenda item and document C 91/22 cover a broad range of issues. My delegation would like to inform the Commission that we appreciate the importance that the FAO has given to rural development, particularly to the issue of people's participation and the development of rural communities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is well aware that the lack of peoples' participation not only often results in lack of continuity in pursuits of development activities, but also leads to subsequent problems of income distribution, of an unbalanced growth of the agricultural sector and lack of sustainability in natural resources utilization.

In promoting people's participation, Thailand has already taken initiatives suggested by the seven Action Plan areas identified by FAO, which are: (1) promotion of greater public awareness of the role of people's participation and people's organizations in agricultural and rural development; (2) creation of favourable legal and policy framework for people's participation; (3) strengthening internal capacities of the rural people's organizations at local and national levels; (4) decentralization of government decision-making; (5) promotion of increased dialogue and technical collaboration between government development agencies and people's organizations; (6) introduction of new operational procedures and methods to facilitate wider participation; and (7) monitoring and evaluation of people's participation.

On each of the above Thailand has already taken initiatives in setting up planning and budgeting procedures. Budget has been allocated to the provincial and sub-provincial levels to finance development activities at the local levels, which are generated by their own initiatives as well as monitoring and evaluation of impacts.

It is generally acknowledged, nevertheless, that in implementing these Action Plans the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives still lack clarity of approach and would thus like to seek the assistance of FAO in the following two aspects: (1) clarification of strategies in adopting sustainable agriculture in two distinct modes of agricultural production i.e. on a subsistence production and on a commercial basis; (2) formulation of a suitable form of people's participation that would allow for active involvement of NGOs in the development, as well as the conservation of natural resources use.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): La delegación de Argentina, señor Presidente, apoya el Plan de Acción sobre participación popular en el desarrollo rural y considera que este Plan de Acción implica recomendaciones de política que brindan un marco adecuado a las iniciativas que la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca de la Argentina está llevando a cabo en materia de desarrollo rural: crecimiento con equidad, descentralización institucional y producción de un desarrollo participativo para apoyar las actividades a nivel de la comunidad, las cooperativas rurales y las iniciativas de los agricultores.

En efecto, los Programas de Crédito y Apoyo Técnico para pequeños productores del Noreste y el Programa de Apoyo a pequeños productores del Noroeste, Estrategia de Proyectos Locales, que coordina esta Secretaría con los Gobiernos provinciales del Norte Argentino, encuadran precisamente en esos lineamientos de política. En este sentido se coincide plenamente con la afirmación que se establece en el Plan de Acción sobre participación popular en el desarrollo rural, acerca de que "es posible, mediante programas y actividades basados en la participación, movilizar conocimientos y recursos locales para un desarrollo autónomo, reduciendo al mismo tiempo el costo que la asistencia para el desarrollo tiene para los gobiernos.

También resulta pertinente la relación con el Plan de Acción de FAO para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, que esta Secretaría ha comenzado a ejecutar en el marco de dicho programa de desarrollo y también con el desarrollo rural sostenible, entendido en sentido amplio como un mejor ordenamiento del medio ambiente, la educación comunitaria y técnica, la erradicación de la pobreza y el desarrollo de nuevas fuentes de energía renovable.

Por último, la promoción de la cooperación técnica horizontal entre países en desarrollo y el papel facilitador que puede jugar la FAO en ese sentido, es otro punto a destacar en este tema. Esta Secretaría de Estado ha respondido favorablemente a una primera convocatoria de FAO para participar en la Red Regional de Instituciones de Desarrollo Rural y en la Red Regional de Apoyo a la Mujer Rural de América Latina y el Caribe, en la reciente Conferencia de Cochabamba y El Salvador, restando únicamente la formalización de dicha participación.

Mirza Tasadduq BEG (Bangladesh): Promotion of participatory development is vital for achieving the objective of growth with equity which was emphasized in the Second U.N. Conference on LDCs. The critical need for people's participation in agriculture and rural development at the grass-roots level has been recognized in recent years in the developing world. FAO has also undertaken a number of participatory programmes.

My delegation has read with great interest the revised Plan of Action for People's Participation that the FAO Secretariat has prepared. We also believe, as has been mentioned in the document, that the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing participatory development policies and approaches rest with the governments of the individual member countries. Considerable progress has been already achieved in many developing countries in developing and strengthening the self-help capabilities of rural people's organizations. In this connection my delegation is happy to mention that Bangladesh, where more than 80 percent of the population live in the rural areas has successfully initiated a number of important policies with regard to the participatory development approach. Our Fourth Five-Year Development Plan has ensured active participation of local people in the decision making process regarding planning and implementation of development programmes. Recognizing that NGOs can and do play a catalytic role in promoting participatory development, the government has worked out a collaborative framework under which the NGOs can function as partners in progress and development.

The Plan of Action for People's Participation contained in the document under discussion incorporates key elements that are essential for attaining the ultimate objective of growth with equity. My delegation endorses the plan and hopes that FAO would continue to assist the member countries particularly the LDCs in enhancing people's participation in all aspects of the development process.

Ahmed Khalil GARTAA (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Might I be permitted to inform you on the extent of people's participation in my country in the decision-making process concerning the agricultural sector hoping it will be useful to this Commission.

In my country, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, agriculture is run by people's committees starting with the committee on Agrarian Reform and Land Development at the level of the smallest administrative unit "Al Mahallah" the people's committee at the township and municipality level up to the General People's Committee on Agrarian Reform and Land Development at the country level. The latter has a secretariat, which is equivalent to the Ministry of Agriculture in the traditional systems of government. At the top of the General People's Committee on Agrarian Reform and Land Development, there is a secretary who chairs its meetings and is the equivalent of the Minister in other countries. The Committee is composed of Agrarian Reform secretaries in municipalities, heads of companies in the agricultural sector and representatives of trade unions in the field of agriculture, poultry and animal husbandry. The Committee also includes representatives of agricultural cooperatives and faculties, heads of institutions such as the Water Institution and Agricultural Research Centre. Agronomists, agricultural technicians and veterinary doctors are also represented through their trade unions.

The same structure of the General People's Committee is reflected in the people's committee's structures at the lower level.

These committees at the various levels are empowered to discuss all agricultural issues and take the necessary decisions to promote agriculture. They are also entirely responsible for laying down agricultural policies. The committees constitute an integrated entity from the base to the top.

Now, as you can see from what I mentioned above, people's participation extends throughout the system from the local and the municipal levels to the central level.

Jung-II KANG (Korea, Republic of): The Korean delegation confirms that the participation by the people in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is a basic human right and a necessity for achieving an effective rural development.

As a matter of fact, Korea has had an experience with people's participation in rural development for more than two decades since it has launched the Saemaul Movement, in other words "New Village Construction Movement". We are in a position to fully understand that overcoming the "top-down" approach of rural development is the major point to achieve a vital rural society as well as sustainable agriculture.

We welcome the proposals of action for people's participation. In addition to the help of international organizations such as FAO, Korea is always willing to share its experience in the area of rural people's participation.

We believe that FAO's action of monitoring and evaluating people's participation as part of its regular World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) has played an important role in encouraging its Member Governments to implement the proposed plan of action.

We are all aware that the principles of people's participation have been implemented in many FAO field activities such as the Regional Integrated Pest Management and the Tropical Forests Action Plan.

My delegation expects FAO, with the help of member countries, continues to assess the practical procedures implemented by the member countries.

M. Benmakhlouf MOHAMED (Maroc) : La délégation marocaine a étudié avec intérêt le document préparé par la FAO et félicite le secrétariat pour le travail accompli et pour l'intérêt qu'elle porte à une participation populaire effective à un développement rural durable dans l'équité.

Mon pays s'est engagé dans cette voie au lendemain de son indépendance, en 1956. Il avait pris des dispositions juridiques et financières visant à promouvoir la participation populaire dans le développement rural à travers des organisations représentatives.

La délégation du Maroc, tout en adhérant au plan d'action sur la participation populaire dans le développement rural proposé par la FAO, souhaite attirer l'attention sur certaines conditions de mise en oeuvre de ce plan:

La mise en oeuvre d'un tel plan est une oeuvre de longue haleine, nécessitant au départ la définition d'objectifs clairs, l'élaboration d'une stratégie d'intervention à long terme et l'estimation des ressources financières nécessaires.

Ce plan d'action ne pourra être exécuté pleinement qu'avec l'adhésion des populations elles-mêmes; ce qui suppose d'une part la prise de conscience des populations rurales sur le rôle qu'elles sont appelées à jouer dans le processus de développement et des responsabilités qui en découlent, et d'autre part la volonté de ces dernières à s'organiser dans des institutions autonomes qui les représenteraient auprès des instances gouvernementales et des organismes de développement. Une action soutenue de formation et d'information à la base des populations rurales et de leur sensibilisation devra être engagée.

L'objectif de consolidation des capacités internes des organisations populaires rurales en matière d'autofinancement et d'autogestion ne pourra être atteint que par des actions à long terme de formation des gestionnaires de ces organisations et d'appui pour la consolidation des ressources financières propres à ces organisations.

Ceci nécessite, à notre avis, dans une première phase, une aide financière de l'Etat en vue de promouvoir d'abord la constitution de ces organisations et ensuite de leur permettre d'avoir une assise financière suffisante pour continuer leurs activités par leurs propres moyens financiers.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs il faudra que l'Etat, selon les moyens, mobilise des moyens financiers et engage des programmes de sensibilisation, de formation et d'encadrement technique à long terme.

L'appui technique et financier de la FAO et d'autres organismes concernés aux pays en voie de développement soucieux de favoriser la participation populaire du développement rural est souhaitable pour la réussite de ce plan.

Takakata OKAMOTO (Japan): We would like to express our appreciation to Mr Dutia for his introduction of this item.

WCARRD in 1979 affirmed that participation by people in the institutions and systems which govern their lives is a basic human right. Chapters III and IV of the document proposed action areas and implementation of the Plan of Action. Japan understands that the overall aim of the Plan is to ensure active participation of the people in the achievement of sustainable rural development.

My delegation believes that people's participation should be a prerequisite for any aspect of agricultural, forestry and fishery development and better living conditions in a rural society. In this regard, my delegation supports a Programme of Action.

Japan is also of the view that coordination between FAO and other developmental agencies is important. In this regard, Japan is pleased to see the part at paragraphs 33 and 34. Japan must stress that we are fully supportive of paragraph 11. It is obvious that the primary responsibility for implementing the policies and programmes advocated in the Plan of Action rests with individual member countries. Nevertheless, we are pleased to state that Japan has assisted, through bilateral frameworks, etc., in the encouragement and facilitation of people's participation, particularly with grass-root cooperation through the NGOs, in rural development.

C. Sivasothy POOLOKASINGHAM (Sri Lanka): The document that is under review today - the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development - may rightly be considered as the central thread running through the entire fabric of FAO. This document correctly reflects the FAO involvement in this subject. It has both the conceptual background based on sound practical field experience as well as projection for the future, which is presented in the form of an Action Plan.

No Action Plan can be one-sided. As a matter of fact, this plan has encompassed all agencies, the donors, recipients, governments, NGOs, etc. The important factor in this connection is that people must be convinced and should be ready to accept this concept.

My delegation is happy to note that this document reflects all these salient points.

We are greatly encouraged to observe the FAO taking a positive line in implementing one of the principal recommendations of the WCARRD, which was affirmed by all the Member Nations. The Plan of Action as presented in this document has seven points. This Plan has percolated down to the field level of the respective governments, as well as in the FAO system, in identifying specific areas of activities.

To implement a people's participation programme, there should be one cardinal factor, that is the recognition and the commitment of the country on investing in the most important asset, the people. In Sri Lanka this has been acknowledged by our Government. It is stated that people are the best asset. They should be partners in development. They should also be the designers and the implementors as well as evaluators of their own programmes.

The Plan of Action, as set out in this document, is appropriate in the present context of some of the governments, like Sri Lanka, exploring ways and means of reducing the high administrative cost of development by cutting down the cadres of personnel as part of the structural adjustment policy.

We have realized that the most cost-effective way of development is to organize the people as effective recipients. The power that is in them is dormant. It should be waken up and activated, and they should be made effective partners in development.

A participatory approach has proved to be very effective. In Sri Lanka, we have designed several projects such as Participatory Forestry, Small Farmer Development Project, Irrigation Rehabilitation and the establishment of Farmer Organizations on the lines envisaged in this document.

One word of caution based on the Sri Lankan experience: my country has been implementing the Small Farmer Development Programme, based on the principle of people's participation, for quite some time. I am happy to say that the group of small farmers who were not even cared for earlier have now realized and recognized their strength. They have organized themselves into a power to be reckoned with. These groups are now surging forward in sustainable programmes which are largely income-generating activities. These groups have developed into Village Boards where small groups of people within themselves have taken over functions such as health and nutrition, housing and welfare, infrastructure development, education, etc. These groups have federated themselves upwards and are having representatives in the local level administrative structures.

Before we developed ourselves into this position, we encountered difficulties. When the poorest, the neglected, not cared for, unrecognized groups were identified by us, trained, and the power of the people and their self-reliance was restored to them, there was opposition, firstly by their own areas; and thereafter by other forces, both political and economic. The newly-formed groups were not a welcome sight in their eyes. It is understandable that, when the existing power cells faced threat and opposition in their own domain, they tended to do whatever is possible to crush the poor people being organized as a power group.

We overcame this situation by convincing them by a process of awareness and by educating them. Through this process, we were able to repel their fears and integrate them with the other groups so much so that some of the economic and trading activities were shared by these groups.

This opposition is bound to come up at any level. I am happy that the FAO has correctly identified this aspect, the fear that is now lurking in the structures of this programme. In this document it has been specifically stated that the follow-up to the Plan of Action must fully recognize and respect the sovereignty of Member Nations.

The approach of the FAO is clear and transparent. It is only a facilitator who is deeply committed to this programme. The Member Nations are, of course, free to select the most appropriate methodology in implementing this programme based on their own priorities.

My delegation would like to add one word on the involvement of non-governmental organizations. It is increasingly clear that the Member Nations cannot continue to shoulder the administrative cost of providing these services. The NGOs can, of course, come forward to relieve the governments of this burden, but it should be the responsibility of the governments concerned to select the NGO which, according to its wisdom, is the most suitable. It has been our experience that the locally-funded NGO has been more sympathetic and understandable in implementing people's participation programmes.

It is our view that we should place emphasis on training and skill development in organizing these groups of people to be self-reliant. The experience of our country can be made available to be shared by others in this regard, and the FAO could be the most effective intermediary for this purpose. Awareness at all levels, commitment at all levels and training at appropriate levels should be the basis for the Plan of Action for people's participation.

My delegation wishes to thank the Netherlands Government for their generous support in the implementation of this programme in our country.

Sra. Mayra IVANKOVICH ANZOLA (Panamá): En primer lugar, permítame agradecer al Dr. Dutia por su clara introducción al tema en examen, el Plan de Acción sobre participación popular en el desarrollo rural. La delegación de Panamá desea hacer algunas observaciones, debido a la importancia que para nuestro Gobierno tiene la participación popular como mecanismo de promoción del desarrollo rural. Compartimos el concepto de que la participación popular debe comportar una intervención activa de la población rural y, sobre todo, de las clases marginales, como una respuesta concreta a sus necesidades. De allí, el vínculo conceptual y operacional entre la participación popular y las organizaciones populares y cooperativas.

En este contexto, la delegación de Panamá agradece a la FAO las acciones de apoyo al desarrollo de las cooperativas agrícolas en Panamá. En el último lustro, la FAO ha preparado varios estudios que han contribuido a precisar el papel importante que estas organizaciones desempeñan en el desarrollo rural, favoreciendo a los pequeños agricultores, incluyendo a las mujeres del campo. Sabemos ahora que, en efecto, la mayoría de los asociados de cooperativas agrícolas son pequeños agricultores y que las cooperativas tienen un papel importante en la producción de los alimentos básicos del país.

De gran importancia ha sido la asistencia relacionada con el mejoramiento de las estadísticas sobre cooperativas. En especial, Panamá agradece el apoyo recibido de la FAO en la realización de un censo cooperativo, que ha sido un insumo fundamental en la planificación y monitoreo del desarrollo cooperativo. Un dato que emerge del censo cooperativo y que anotamos con satisfacción es que en el cooperativismo nacional y rural de Panamá, el aumento relativo a mujeres socias es mayor que el de los hombres.

Recientemente, Panamá solicitó apoyo técnico de la FAO para formular un programa de fomento a la organización campesina, en un empeño por incorporar un alto porcentaje (cerca del 80 por ciento) de los pequeños productores.

El año pasado, en ocasión de una convención latinoamericana sobre el crédito cooperativo celebrada en Panamá, los directores de departamentos o institutos cooperativos de cinco gobiernos latinoamericanos firmaron un acuerdo para promover la estructuración de un mecanismo que promueve el intercambio de experiencias entre los países. Exhortamos a la FAO a que intensifique el apoyo al programa de cooperativas en la región, incluyendo la posibilidad de promover la cooperación técnica entre los países de la región, en el marco de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, a través de algún mecanismo como el que acabamos de mencionar.

Para finalizar, deseamos apoyar los conceptos contenidos en los párrafos 1 al 14 del documento, incluyendo las acciones que se propone realizar la Organización en el próximo bienio.

Inge GERREMO (Sweden): The objectives of the FAO activities in the field of people's participation are in close accordance with the main objectives of Swedish development assistance.

The work in the field of people's participation carried out so far by FAO and other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations, as well as efforts by governments of developing countries, have resulted in increasing awareness about the importance of participation for sustainable and environmentally sound development of agriculture. The work in this field during the 1980s has also produced new methods, techniques and procedures for operationalization of people's participation at the local level. Most of the efforts and experiences with popular participation to date have been made in small-scale and/or NGO settings.

New political conjunctures from the beginning of the 1990s, established through the spread of democracy in Europe and Latin America and repercussions in Africa and Asia, have contributed to a revival of people's participation on the agenda of development agencies and governments in developing countries. The increased attention given to environmental issues within the international community has created awareness of people's participation as a necessary prerequisite for solving environmental problems and attaining a sustainable use of the environment.

The mentioned factors, particularly the firmer commitment to democracy by many governments and the methodological development achieved in the field of People's participation, seem to constitute a favourable basis for the launching of the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development. Since People's participation constitutes a long-term process it is important to continue, deepen and spread already initiated efforts. This argument, together with the factors mentioned, constitute, we believe, sufficient basis for recommending Swedish support to the present plan.

One specific suggestion could be made, regarding paragraph 27(iv), p. 8, "Establish self-control mechanisms, audit services and modes of financing which strengthen self-reliance capacity of people's organizations". To this paragraph, or separately, should be added considerations on mechanisms or procedures for: accountability (economic and otherwise) of leadership functions and of periodical circulation of leaders.

It would be a considerable step forward if this Conference could adopt the presented Plan of Action, not only for agriculture development and production per se. but also for people's well-being and for democracy in general.

Let us, however, remember that people's participation is primarily an attitude towards development and definitely not a scientific exercise.

It is important that we as government officials are fully aware of the positive potentials of people's participation in development.

Governments shall provide a framework within which these forces can act. Too keen an interest in the details of how to promote people's participation could however be counterproductive.

The case of agricultural cooperatives might in many developing countries be the most striking example of how good intentions can sometimes be destroyed by too intensive government involvement.

Francis MBEWE (Zambia): There is great improvement in the present document, having translated the prescriptive ideas into a Plan of Action which is contained in the document presented to Council. The document provides a basis for individual Member Nations to compare their present status vis-à-vis people's participation against what is contained in the Plan of Action and subsequently determine the areas requiring attention.

As already noted the whole concept of people's participation is a complex one. In our view it is embedded not only in the realization by the people of their felt needs and subsequently acting together to achieve those needs, but equally in their realization that their efforts today, in whichever direction, have substantial bearing on what the future generations will inherit in terms of the structures of both the government and the economy. We have found this aspect central to the whole concept of people's participation. Unfortunately in many developing countries people have been made to be less independent of government regarding their very existence. The majority of our people perceive the role of government as more than that of a facilitator - they see it as a doer as well. This has been cemented by the style of implementation of development projects, particularly in Africa, which glosses over the real needs of the people.

We therefore note with satisfaction that the Plan of Action for effective people's participation has zeroed down to sensitizing those privileged to decide the fate of the silent majority who in their ignorance see government employees - politicians, bureaucrats, technocrats - as their saviours rather than their servants. It is important that those involved in initiating development efforts be sensitized to the fact that successful project implementation and self-sustenance thereafter are crucially dependent on full participation of the people perceived to be the recipients of the development effort.

In this regard turning the policy makers, bureaucrats and technocrats into agents of "people's participation" will in the long run be the major sources of success in the implementation of the Action Plan elaborated in document C 91/22. We will therefore be looking forward to FAO participation in areas of action regarding promotion of greater awareness of the role of people's participation in development, strengthening internal capacities of people's organization and decentralization of decision-making particularly as it relates to the project cycle.

In the absence of a budget item associated with possible involvement in the Plan, it is essential that FAO provide Member States with the necessary guidelines on how Member States can call upon FAO to play its role in one or more of the seven areas of action proposed in the document. We hope that Mr Dutia can shed some light on this process.

My delegation endorses the Plan of Action and recommends its adoption by the Conference.

E. CHENGU (Zimbabwe): First of all, I would like to commend the FAO Secretariat for the clear and precise introduction and for its committed, persistent and passionate interest in the subject of rural development and poverty alleviation which Zimbabwe itself places very high on its policy priorities.

Zimbabwe has been implementing participatory programmes with the assistance of NGOs and donor organizations. Rural farmers have formed grass-roots groups for borrowing credit under the group-lending schemes. Cooperatives have been formed in the Land Resettlement Programmes. Self-help groups have been formed with the assistance of NGOs and other local development agencies. However, it is becoming increasingly clear on analysing the results of Zimbabwe's experience that for participatory groups to succeed they must be self-initiated by farmers who clearly understand the goals and objectives of participation as well as the risks involved and, of course, the benefits to be reaped at the end.

Cooperatives and groups should not be regarded merely as channels of political mobilization of rural people, but more importantly they should be seen as means of empowering people, marshalling human and natural resources as well as providing tangible economic benefits to the participants.

Zimbabwe considers that the need for people's participation as a mechanism for promoting rural development is now of paramount importance, especially in view of the winds of change blowing across the whole world, with the likelihood that there will be a reduction of aid in-flows to Africa for rural development purposes as more aid is redirected to other regions such as Eastern Europe. The weak African economies will find it difficult to fund poverty alleviation programmes, as they have to battle first against problems of mounting external debt, dwindling of foreign currency resources, growing unemployment and zero economic growth as well as the need to implement structural adjustment programmes which require that there be cuts in government spending. In the likely event that many governments will turn to people's participation as a mechanism for rural development, and when the Plan of Action has to be implemented by Member Governments, guidance and assistance will be required by development agencies such as the FAO which has the expertise and capacity to coordinate and facilitate the exchange of information and experience among Member Nations.

We therefore hope that FAO itself will be strengthened with financial resources and also that budgetary priority will be given by FAO and other donor agencies to this important item of poverty alleviation to enable FAO to act as a catalyst and to assist those Member Nations wishing to implement participatory rural development.

Zimbabwe has carefully considered the Plan of Action for People's Participation and agrees with the Ninety-ninth Council Session and the FAO Secretariat that the Plan constitutes a suitable framework for future action and provides useful guidelines for interested governments. Moreover it respects the sovereignty-of Member Nations and therefore should be endorsed and adopted by the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

LI ZHENG-DONG (China) (Original language Chinese): We have studied the document very carefully. In general terms, we take the view that this Plan of Action for People's Participation and Rural Development is acceptable as amended. The seven areas covered are extremely full. As far as the activities proposed are concerned, we should remember that both for governments concerned and the FAO there are some difficulties which are far from negligible as far as implementation goes. Accordingly, we suggest that the actions proposed should be divided up according to their priority. We believe that is the only way to safeguard their implementation.

Specific situations vary from country to country. Therefore, one does not want to go into too great detail as far as the advice for individual governments is concerned. It should be for the government to draw up an action plan according to the conditions which apply there. Implementing this Plan requires not only stable long-term policies, but enough money. That is why the international community and governments must devote their particular efforts to social, economic, environmental and human resource terms, both international and national.

We would like the Secretariat to tell us more about the follow-up to the Plan of Action, and the system for periodic review.

Olav LINDSTAD (Norway): The Norwegian delegation finds document C 91/22 very interesting and instructive. The conclusion of our brief remark is that people's participation should be both a means as well as an aim in agricultural development.

My delegation certainly appreciates a number of statements made in the document, such as in paragraph 23, regarding proposals for action on the government side. I quote: "establish a legal framework which provides a basis for free association of rural people in organizations of their choice". People's participation, in our opinion, must be the major element in both formulation and implementation of a strategy for agricultural development.

During recent years there has been an increased drive for privatization also regarding activities in rural areas. My delegation welcomes efforts in this direction in the hope that the private sector inter alia will be able to operate business-wise more flexibly and efficiently than parastatals and government-dominated cooperatives. But we do not believe that privatization is the solution to all problems in rural areas. No doubt, the farmers will need to work together even in the future, in a variety of formal and informal groups and organizations.

Governments and donor communities all over the world do support farmer and rural development organizations for several reasons. This sounds good, but we know that there are hidden thorns in the roses.

Firstly, when talking about financial support, too much money might easily reduce or even kill the self-help spirit in an NGO. The document gives a justified warning on this point in paragraph 27 at the top of page 9. As a consequence there should not be much talk of extraordinary funds or budgets, but more about the-need for a constructive and cautious encouragement by the Government and a lot of patience among all those involved in such activity.

I mentioned government encouragement, and that takes me to my second comment. In many countries the Government has to a large extent used organizations, e.g., cooperatives, as development tools. Often a cooperative is given tasks by the Government, supported by foreign aid, that are on the sideline or even outside the real object of the organization. This might in the short run benefit the local community, but it might easily give the members the feeling that the organization is a government agency and not an undertaking belonging to and run by themselves.

My delegation strongly endorses the statement made in paragraph 8 laying particular emphasis on growth with equity and people's participation. This is essential to any rural development effort, but it is certainly not an easy endeavour.

Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba): Permítame, a nombre de mi delegación, felicitarlo a usted en su calidad de Presidente de esta importante Comisión y, a su vez, extendiendo mi agradecimiento al Sr. Dutia por la valiosa presentación de este documento. Es cierto, como él bien lo decía, que a este Plan de Acción, que se nos presenta en este 26º periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia, se le han introducido los cambios que nuestras propias delegaciones plantearon durante el 98º periodo de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, entre ellas Cuba y se le han añadido, además, informaciones valiosas en aras de enriquecer el mismo, lo que acogemos, señor Presidente, con gran beneplácito.

Mi delegación apoya este Plan de Acción sobre la participación popular porque cree fehacientemente en la fuerza que ejercen las masas populares en el desarrollo de cualquier país. Estamos conscientes de su fuerza en el diseño de modelos donde la voluntad de la mayoría sugiere las transformaciones necesarias en bien de la comunidad y la sociedad en general.

Me es grato expresarle que en mi país no hubiera sido posible el logro de las transformaciones que cualitativamente hemos realizado en el orden económico, político, social, sin la unión voluntaria de la voluntad política gubernamental con la voluntad política popular.

Ha sido la participación popular en diversas tareas la que ha permitido en el país un movimiento ascendente hacia el desarrollo, protagonizando estas diversas organizaciones campesinas de mujeres, de jóvenes, etcétera, a su vez, uno de los ejemplos y pasajes más ilustrativos dentro de nuestro proceso de cambio.

La delegación de Cuba, señor Presidente, reitera, por tanto, su apoyo a este documento y cree oportuno expresar que este Plan de Acción debe contemplar como protagonistas a los amplios sectores de población que tienen que ver con el desarrollo rural de nuestros países; a saber: las organizaciones campesinas, las cooperativas, las asociaciones de mujeres y trabajadores rurales; por lo que sería acertado, además de contar con los instrumentos propios de la FAO y que están expresados en este documento, se tuviera en cuenta otros instrumentos jurídicos, tales como la Convención Nª 87 y 141, así como la Recomendación Nª 149 de la OIT, que se refiere a la libre asociación y a la participación sindical de los trabajadores

rurales que, a su vez, tienen en muchos países un peso específico en el desarrollo nacional.

En este sentido señalamos, señor Presidente, que la Conferencia Mundial sobre Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria así lo reconoció en su Capítulo III A.

Finalmente le expreso, señor Presidente, a nombre de mi delegación nuestro reconocimiento a la FAO por la decisión de retomar este tema de tanta importancia para nuestros países.

Puede la FAO, sin duda alguna, contar con la decidida ayuda de Cuba para su implementación. Esperamos que esta Conferencia apruebe este importante instrumento de valiosa ayuda para el fomento del desarrollo rural sostenible.

Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): First of all I would like to point out the importance of putting this issue on the Agenda of the General Conference. We are aware that the success of development projects in any field, including rural and agricultural ones, crucially depends on the interest and participation of people who are to enjoy the fruits of this development.

The proposed Plan of Action on People's Participation was elaborated so as to encompass numerous issues of the development process in countries at different levels of social and economic development and with different cultural heritages, which is why the basic characteristic of the Plan is its generality.

Yugoslavia is fully aware of the need to include as large groups as possible of village population in rural development. Since we agree with the view expressed in the Plan of Action that the larger-scale participation of rural inhabitants in the development process crucially depends on their being in a position to create, freely and voluntarily, adequate organizational forms, the Law on Cooperatives was adopted in 1990. This law reaffirms cooperative ownership in Yugoslavia and provides a legal basis for free and voluntary organizing, with a view to achieving independently defined profit and non-profit goals.

This and other laws and regulations have removed legal obstacles in Yugoslavia to the free and voluntary organizing of rural and other populations and their active and self-initiated participation in development processes.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to some ambiguities in the Plan as we see them. First of all, they concern the manner in which this mechanism is to function. How will it be translated into operational activities? Or more specifically, in what way should assistance be organized and extended to cooperatives or other rural organizations in their business and other activities, for example, networks of extension services, technological modernization, management, training, etc. FAO expert assistance would be indispensable here. Furthermore, the Plan Of Action does not clearly specify the position of some groups of people who live in rural areas but are not agricultural producers, as well as people who engage in agriculture on a part-time basis.

Many questions have been raised by a lot of delegations - I mention only Pakistan, Denmark and the United Kingdom. I will not repeat all of them, but I support them. We are looking forward to hearing the answer from the Secretariat. I would also like to support the United States' comment concerning the difference between the types of participation.

Finally, I wish to underline the indubitable importance of the Plan of Action. For developing countries it can be an incentive for development, and for the developed countries a useful mechanism for research and for the promotion of rural life. Lastly, I would suggest that, in spite of some ambiguities, my delegation support this Plan.

Mme. Evelyne SENG SUWAN (France): J'aimerais, en premier lieu, remercier le Secrétariat pour la présentation du Plan d'action pour la participation populaire.

Il s'agit d'un sujet complexe, connu généralement sous le thème du "développement participatif". La contribution de la FAO permettra d'approfondir la réflexion qui est également menée dans d'autres instances internationales.

L'objectif d'une stratégie fondée sur la dimension humaine du développement suppose une évolution du rôle de l'Etat tant dans l'activité économique que politique à travers la reconnaissance de la société civile comme acteur et bénéficiaire du développement.

Dans cette perspective, les politiques de coopération doivent changer. La mobilisation, au Sud comme au Nord, des acteurs de développement, à travers notamment la coopération non gouvernementale, doit être encouragée.

Bien évidemment, cette forme de coopération doit se faire dans le respect de l'identité et de la souveraineté des partenaires.

Le plan d'action de la FAO s'inscrit pleinement dans cette problématique et définit des orientations générales pour promouvoir l'organisation du monde rural à travers la constitution ou le renforcement des communautés rurales.

Mais l'organisation du monde rural se heurte à des difficultés d'ordre politique, économique, social ou technique. La FAO situe son action au niveau de ces différents points de blocage. Cependant, les mesures envisagées sont présentées dans des termes généraux. Elle aurait intérêt à définir des priorités afin de renforcer l'efficacité de son action. Ainsi par exemple, la grande diversité des groupements locaux devrait inciter la FAO à préciser la nature des structures qu'elle envisage de soutenir.

La mise en place de programmes et projets de développement fondés sur une approche participative, est aussi une priorité de la coopération française en matière de développement rural. Elle réoriente ses interventions en adoptant une démarche plus globale que les approches purement techniques suivies précédemment. Elle met en place des politiques agricoles de rénovation des dispositifs institutionnels, de participation et d'organisation des ruraux à la gestion du développement. Aussi, en Afrique subsaharienne, par exemple, l'accent est mis sur des actions favorisant l'émergence d'organisations professionnelles de paysans pouvant assurer la prise en charge totale ou partielle de fonctions actuellement dévolues à

l'Etat dans le domaine de l'approvisionnement, la commercialisation, l'épargne, le crédit ou la vulgarisation technique.

Parmi ces interventions, je citerai les projets fondés sur l'approche de gestion de terroir. L'objectif est de promouvoir la responsabilisation des populations dans la gestion de leur environnement. Cette démarche se matérialise par l'établissement de plans de gestion des terroirs villageois définissant de façon concertée les différentes utilisations des terres (pastorale, agricole, forestière) et les aménagements nécessaires pour la lutte contre l'érosion, le maintien de la fertilité des sols, la rationalisation de l'exploitation des boisements et des pâturages existants et l'intégration de l'arbre dans les systèmes de culture.

Je signalerai également la participation de la France avec d'autres donateurs au programme "l'arbre, la forêt et l'homme" mis en oeuvre par la FAO.

En conclusion, la France apporte son soutien au plan d'action et souhaite qu'une évaluation de sa mise en oeuvre puisse être faite à la prochaine Conférence. Enfin, je souhaite que la FAO coordonne son action avec les partenaires multilatéraux et bilatéraux.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Agradecemos al Dr. Dutia por la presentación clara e interesante del documento. La delegación de mi país apoya el Plan de Acción, nota y agradece el aporte que FAO ha hecho para apoyar el desarrollo de las cooperativas agrícolas y, de manera específica, el habernos ayudado a formular un Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Cooperativo, resultante de un proyecto del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Este documento es, desde 1989, un punto de referencia en el área de las cooperativas agrícolas, que en nuestro país son importantes.

También queremos destacar los programas de promoción de la mujer, que han dado frutos notables, y hacemos notar que el proceso se inició en el contexto de las cooperativas de reforma agraria. Amplios sectores de mujeres hondureñas están agrupadas en cooperativas para mejorar sus ingresos familiares.

Permítame informarle, señor Presidente, que entre el 25 y el 29 de noviembre del presente año, Honduras será la sede de la Conferencia Regional "Mujer y Cooperativismo", respaldada también por la FAO. En la misma participarán representantes de Honduras, Guatemala, Belice, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, República Dominicana y Puerto Rico. Los objetivos son definir y adoptar, a partir del conocimiento de la situación de la mujer a nivel del país y región, una estrategia de integración de la mujer al desarrollo económico y social por la vía de la cooperativa, así como ampliar los espacios de participación de la mujer en los movimientos cooperativos de los países de la región.

También se pretende conocer y divulgar una investigación de base sobre la realidad de la mujer en la región, con énfasis en la cooperativista, ya sea integrada o potencialmente integrable al cooperativismo.

Al reconocer una mayor presencia de FAO en los últimos años en el tema de cooperativas, la exhortamos a que mantenga e intensifique su atención en este campo, dentro del contexto de implementación del Plan de Promoción de la Participación Popular en el Desarrollo.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): On behalf of my delegation I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of document C 91/92, and also thank Mr Dutia for his clear introduction to this item.

My delegation has examined this document with high interest, and would like to point out some matters in this regard.

Regarding people's participation in sustainable agriculture and rural development, some essential key points should be taken into consideration, and also should receive high priority in the envisaged Plan of Action as follows.

The core strategy and main policy in relation to the Rural People's Participation Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development first should be considered within the Comprehensive Integrated Social and Economical Plan at national level in developing countries, and then should be planned through the Regional Integrated Agriculture and Natural Resources Development Plan, in order to be successful.

In connection with people's participation in rural development, in many developing countries there are some cultural and traditional procedures at local and village level. Therefore, the existing cultural and traditional procedure is essential for the success of participatory approaches to rural development, and should be considered through the rural organizations mentioned in the document before us.

In order to achieve the successful implementation of the people's participation plan, the rural people's requirements should be assessed, classified and prioritized on the basis of ecological, social and economical issues.

In some respects, such as the activities of natural resources conservation programmes in general and soil and water conservation programmes in particular, the nature of work implies that the required incentives, such as conservation incentives, should be considered in the Plan of Action in order to be successful.

Rural people's participation, as well as rural people's employment in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development, should be planned on the basis of potential production capacity of natural resources and population supporting capacity at regional and local level.

Finally, we believe that the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development should emphasize FAO's activities rather than the NGO's or any other organization.

Srta. Martha VASQUEZ (México): En primer lugar, queríamos felicitar al Sr. Dutia por la breve y explicativa presentación del documento C 91/22. La delegación mexicana desearía considerar algunos puntos.

El Plan de Acción presentado en el 99º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO y ajustado de acuerdo a las opiniones vertidas tiene como finalidad el asegurar la participación activa de la población en el logro de un desarrollo rural sostenible. El Plan reconoce que la decisión y la responsabilidad a nivel normativo de la formulación y aplicación de políticas y enfoques de desarrollo participativo corresponden a los Gobiernos de los distintos Estados Miembros.

Los siete ámbitos en los que el Plan propone adoptar medidas constituyen ejes para generar la participación popular como mecanismos de promoción del desarrollo rural, tal y como se menciona en el párrafo 14 del documento C 91/22.

Para el caso de México, la limitada disponibilidad de recursos por parte del Gobierno Federal para impulsar programas de desarrollo al campo y su gradual retiro de esferas económicas en las que cumplía funciones de fomento a la producción y regulación del mercado para algunos productos agropecuarios, ha planteado la necesidad de redefinir el papel de las instituciones gubernamentales agropecuarias y de fomento rural, profundizando la participación de los campesinos a través de sus organizaciones, trasladando áreas que tradicionalmente eran de dominio gubernamental a la autogestión de los productores.

Entre las políticas de participación popular en el campo que el Gobierno de México ha impulsado, destaca desde 1989 la celebración de Convenios de Concertación Social entre productores e instituciones, como un mecanismo de enlace para articular las decisiones de los distintos sectores involucrados en el desarrollo rural. Los Convenios han constituido un instrumento que define los compromisos de cada parte para el uso y disposición de los recursos destinados al fomento y a la promoción del desarrollo rural. Los diversos convenios hasta ahora establecidos responden a proyectos campesinos, surgidos de las propias organizaciones, y tienen entre sus objetivos su fortalecimiento, así como la constitución de unidades económicas multiactivas y autogestivas. Así, se han celebrado convenios de apoyo a la producción primaria y agroindustrial, de infraestructura básica, comercialización, servicios de apoyo, organización y capacitación, que han estimulado a la vez la producción campesina y la capacidad institucional de las dependencias gubernamentales.

Otra vertiente de participación de las organizaciones de productores en el fomento de actividades productivas del medio rural, es el establecimiento de asociaciones en participación con el sector privado, que propicie la generación de proyectos productivos, en los que los productores del sector social aportan la tierra y la mano de obra, y el capital privado aporta la inversión necesaria para impulsarlos.

No obstante las acciones emprendidas en materia de promoción de la participación popular en el desarrollo rural, los recursos financieros han sido limitados, lo cual hace imprescindible el establecimiento de un mecanismo de concertación que haga llegar a las comunidades rurales de manera más expedita los apoyos que los organismos no gubernamentales nacionales e internacionales otorgan.

Finalmente, cabe señalar que las organizaciones de productores y los Comités Mixtos Participativos por "sistema-producto" son las instancias y los foros, respectivamente, en los cuales se pueden promover los apoyos de

la FAO, tales como el Programa de Asesoría sobre el Diseño y la aplicación de estrategias a largo plazo para la transformación gradual de cooperativas iniciadas por el Gobierno en organizaciones autónomas, que administren sus miembros y sean autofinanciables.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Allow me on behalf of my delegation to thank the Secretariat for a comprehensive document containing constructive ideas on Plan of Action for People's Participation. I also thank Mr Dutia for a clear and concise introduction, as usual. We are pleased to note that the document has been devised in accordance with the viewpoints expressed by the delegations in the meeting of the Council.

The necessity of seeking cooperation and people's involvement and participation in the implementation of development programmes which particularly focus on the poor, the weaker sections and the disadvantaged groups, is now universally recognized. It is also recognized that government agencies have sufficient reach or large proportion of leakage, which make it imperative that non-governmental organizations should be called upon to make their contribution for attainment of these objectives.

In India the importance of people's participation in planning and development has been recognized from the very beginning. Our constitution enshrines the principle of democratic decentralization Panchayati Raj as one of the directive principles of state policy. In the rural sector the community development and extension programme has been an important component of our plan for rural upliftment. Voluntary organizations have been increasingly engaging themselves in rural development programmes, particularly in the programmes for the rural poor. Voluntary efforts cover a wide spectrum, including literacy, education, health, environment, wasteland development, appropriate technology, non-conventional energy and sanitation, etc. Programmes of creating awareness among the rural poor, more specifically among women and disadvantaged sections of the society have been undertaken by them. Voluntary action has thus served to arouse the self confidence of people and generating awareness about their rights and obligations and thus to build up the human resources of the country. We are fully conscious of the effectiveness of bottom-up approach to planning and suitable modifications are also being introduced in a systematic way.

My delegation agrees with the conditions identified for operationalizing the promotion of people's participation in paragraph 12 and the proposals regarding the action areas to achieve the goal of sustainable rural development with equity through people's participation in para 14. We are pleased to note the specific proposals for action by the national governments and the FAO on each issue in Part 3 of the document. The international community has an important role to play in the implementation of these proposals by providing external resources. Necessary adjustments in the area of international trade, external debt and flow of financial resources can also help in generating the will and commitment to self help and participation.

In conclusion my delegation endorses the proposals in this regard.

Oscar MAS HERRERA (Costa Rica): Gracias señor Presidente. En primer lugar, un cordial saludo a Ud. en calidad de Presidente de esta importante Comisión. También damos las gracias al Dr. Dutia por su introducción relativa al tema éste de la participación popular que fue tan esclarecedor. A este respecto, la representación de Costa Rica desea hacer notar que la FAO ha brindado asistencia técnica en el área de las cooperativas rurales juveniles y en el área de actualización de cifras sobre las cooperativas agrícolas.

De manera explícita deseamos felicitar a la FAO por el trabajo que ha iniciado sobre actualización de las estadísticas cooperativas mediante acuerdo con la Oficina Regional de la Alianza Cooperativa Internacional (ACI), que tiene su sede en Costa Rica. Este acuerdo contempla el mejoramiento de las estadísticas sobre cooperativas, que se está llevando a cabo en toda nuestra zona. Vale decir en Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala y Panamá, lo mismo que en el Ecuador y México.

Las primeras estimaciones sobre estos estudios, para el caso costarricense, indican que las cooperativas caficultoras, integradas mayoritariamente por pequeños productores, controlan el 39 por ciento de las exportaciones de café que tradicionalmente han sido la principal fuente de divisas de nuestro país. Por otro lado, los socios de cooperativas constituyen el 39,3 por ciento de la población económicamente activa. El hecho de poder contar con cifras que nos permitan hacer estos análisis, es importante por lo menos para nuestro país.

Como resultado de estas acciones de la FAO, es de esperar - sé que durante el próximo bienio - se cuente con información actualizada y confiable sobre las cooperativas agrícolas, que son organizaciones que juegan un papel importante de vitalización de la participación de los pequeños productores en el desarrollo rural. Por todo lo anterior, señor Presidente, instamos a que la FAO expanda sus acciones en apoyo del desarrollo de las cooperativas agrícolas en la región centroamericana.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Gracias señor Presidente. Me complace participar en este tema bajo su presidencia. Queremos darle las gracias al Dr. Dutia por su clara y concisa explicación sobre este documento. Los representantes de Colombia apoyamos todo propósito de la FAO dirigido a modificar la injusta y absurda situación reinante en la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo, según la cual, los beneficios del desarrollo rural se limitan a los grandes terratenientes y nunca llegan hasta los pequeños agricultores, quienes son los verdaderos forjadores del trabajo del campo, consagrados, indefensos, abandonados a su subsistencia de privaciones.

Estamos de acuerdo en que hay que buscar otros enfoques de desarrollo alternativos, y la directa participación popular bien orientada, siempre con pleno respeto de la soberanía de los gobiernos, es uno de los mecanismos idóneos para lograr estos fines. El párrafo 5 del documento C 91/22 señala con acierto que existe un vínculo conceptual y operacional entre participación popular y las organizaciones voluntarias autónomas y democráticas, como son las cooperativas. Notamos con satisfacción que, con recursos del Programa Regular, la FAO ha comisionado diversos estudios sobre el cooperativismo agrícola en Colombia, que arrojan datos sobre el rol de estas cooperativas en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural del país.

Con aportes del Gobierno de Holanda, la FAO ejecuta un proyecto de participación de las cooperativas rurales en el mejoramiento de la calidad de la educación que se imparte en los institutos agrícolas del país. En todos estos aportes de la FAO participan organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Exhortamos a que la FAO identifique, aún más, un apoyo técnico para el fortalecimiento de las cooperativas y asociaciones similares en nuestro país, como medio práctico y concreto de lograr la participación popular en el desarrollo rural.

Conocemos que en algunos Estados de la región las cooperativas campesinas han avanzado más que en otros. Sugerimos que la FAO estructure un programa de cooperación técnica entre países en vía de desarrollo (CTPD), en el área técnica del desarrollo de cooperativas agrícolas. Con fondos del programa regular, preparó un estudio sobre el cooperativismo del país, que forma parte de la serie de estudios por país que se infunden a través del Comité mundial para la promoción de la asistencia del desarrollo cooperativo (COPAC), cuya sede se encuentra en la FAO; con fondos del Programa Regular comisionó a una ONG el análisis del rol que juegan las cooperativas agrícolas en el desarrollo del país, incluyendo el tipo del agricultor - pequeño, mediano o grande - que integran las cooperativas agrícolas, detectando que, en efecto, la mayoría son pequeños agricultores.

Con aportes del Gobierno de Holanda, a través de fondos de fidecomiso, está implementando un proyecto piloto en el cual, a través de una cooperativa, se canaliza la participación de la comunidad en la solución del problema de institutos de formación de técnicos agrícolas.

La FAO ha iniciado la preparación de estudios nacionales en la región sobre servicios de auditorías a cooperativas con el objetivo de fortalecer las cooperativas agrícolas. Un ejemplo de estos casos es Colombia.

La FAO ha comisionado a la Organización de las Cooperativas de América (OCA), órgano representativo del cooperativismo latinoamericano, con sede en Bogotá, para que emprenda una tarea de actualización de datos sobre cooperativas agrícolas que permita conocer, con mayor precisión, el rol que ellas mismas juegan en el desarrollo rural. Esta actividad subregional incluye a Colombia, Bolivia, Perú, Venezuela, Brazil y otros países.

Art WRIGHT (Canada) : Canada welcomes the opportunity to comment on this agenda item, and also to thank Mr Dutia and the Secretariat for the preparation and introduction of document C 91/22.

Canada fully agrees on the importance of direct and active participation of local community groups in the conception, the design and the implementation of programmes and projects which affect them. There is ample evidence from a great number of countries that effective rural development occurs when local populations are fully involved in making decisions aimed at increasing the development of their own skills, increasing the agricultural or economic production of their areas, and improving the social conditions in which they live. Such participation provides a very needed sense of ownership over development programmes, and this in turn helps to guarantee the maintenance of facilities and continuous support of programmes once the initial official project activity has been completed.

Local community groups of private citizens often have a very detailed and intimate appreciation of what will work in their local context. By drawing on such knowledge, a national government can generate local support for development activities which contribute to the long-term sustainability of their development initiatives. Canada has long supported the initiatives of locally-based community organizations because we see their activities as complementary to those of governments. It is, of course, governments who retain the responsibility for setting national development priorities and establishing the framework within which such organizations function.

Given the extensive needs of rural communities, there would seem to be ample scope for the involvement of national and local governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to use their individual and unique skills in a complementary fashion.

The major challenges of rural development: are complex and obviously require the cooperation of all who have skills, knowledge and energy to contribute. The participatory approach outlined in this Plan of Action deserves attention and support. Canada therefore endorses the principles of the FAO People's Participation Programme, and the sensible and practical areas for action that have been identified under seven headings in the document.

It seems to us that both government and private participation is needed jointly. Effective collaboration produces a two-way learning process which is beneficial to government and also to people in the rural areas. Community-based organizations can be particularly effective when they are permitted to be most creative and innovative in devising solutions appropriate to their particular needs. In this regard, government contributes to their effective participation in the development process by focusing on ways in which to facilitate the functioning of public participation. When we examine the question of external support for such organizations, we believe this can contribute a useful supplement to the efforts of such public participation groups, to strengthen their development activities and ensure that they have a long-term beneficial impact. This in turn can help to relieve the pressure which governments often experience on their own very stretched budgets.

In our view, there are three essential ingredients for such successful partnerships between the public and the private sector. There must in the first place be a sense of common cause or objectives. Secondly, there must be trust between the participants. Thirdly, there must be very effective two-way communication. It seems to us that FAO People's Participation Programmes can help to define that common cause and can indeed contribute to the very special attention that is needed to ensure there is mutual trust and effective communication between all of the concerned parties.

Participatory development should be a normal part, we believe, of FAO programming, and therefore we believe this programme and the philosophy it incorporates should be part of the mainstream of the Organization's activities and hence contained in its Regular Budget.

We also would support the comments made by the United States and the United Kingdom delegations which refer to the importance of such public participation not being solely dependent on external sources of financing and support. At the last Council Session when this issue was discussed, several nations mentioned that the document on People's Participation

presented at that stage needed further strengthening. Our delegation respects the views of these countries, and we believe that the Secretariat has indeed responded to their concerns.

In closing, let me say that people's participation groups should, in our view, be seen as partners with government in development. The introduction of people's participation reflects an evolving role for the FAO. It is very much part of the Organization's relationship with governments and Member States, and indeed it may enhance that relationship and be the effectiveness of development programmes.

The Canadian delegation therefore fully supports the adoption of the commended Plan of Action and urges its endorsement by this Conference.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): My delegation expresses its appreciation to Dr Dutia for his clear introductory remarks. Yesterday, when my delegation made its intervention on the issue of progress reports on WCAARD, we also touched on people's participation issues. The inclusion of this important agenda item once again demonstrates that FAO has not forgotten, and will never forget, that people - meaning farmers, women, and youth farmers - will always be the central focus of our global developmental efforts. For that reason, may I express the thanks of our delegation to the Secretariat for having prepared this concept of strategy of the Plan of Action as well documented in document C 91/22. More than seventy percent of our 183 million people live in rural areas, and therefore we are fully aware that the successful implementation of the Indonesian National Development Programme will almost also mostly depend on the full involvement and participation of our rural communities including women and rural youth.

We wish to reiterate the view that rural poverty alleviation can be achieved only with the voluntary and active participation of the rural peoples themselves, and for this purpose our long-term development strategy emphasizes the policy to encourage more active participation of the rural community in the rural areas so as to stimulate the agricultural development activities in the rural sector.

Indonesia has always been very supportive of any international multilateral cooperative undertakings which tend to assist the enhancement of rural communities' participation in the national development programmes. We agree that the bottom-up participatory approach will be most helpful in enhancing the self-initiative developmental actions of our rural poor. In this regard I am pleased to inform you that my Government is currently taking the necessary action to ensure the most active participation of the rural community by enhancement of the farmers' group involvement in all the activities of the village. Within the limitation of its facilities, the Government is currently making an effort to strengthen the economic capabilities of village cooperative units. The role of the village cooperative units is essential not only in maintaining their self-sufficiency on rice, but more than that it is really to strengthen the economic base of the farmer and the rural community in Indonesia.

With regard to the FAO's role in the People's Participation Programme, I am happy to note the programme, and initiatives of FAO in assisting the fisherfolk, forestry extension and community forest development. The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, in cooperation with the private sector,

universities and research centres, as well as the NGOs, have taken the necessary steps to enhance their cooperative undertakings toward the successful implementation of the developmental activities in the field of forestry. In an effort to achieve sustainable rural development and environmental protection, the very positive participation of farmers' groups, rural communities, and private sectors is also noted. More and more voluntary group actions in the agricultural field is now in force in many parts of our country.

With regard to the proposed concept of the strategy of the Plan of Action mentioned in the document, my delegation notes the various proposals, especially those recommended for government action.

We are aware that we need to strengthen the capability of the administrators in creating more favourable conditions for people's participation. While noting that the Plan of Action provides a broad framework for undertaking programmes and activities, we are of the view that the basis of its implementation should be existing experiences. We have the belief that examples of activities already implemented in some countries can help the action proposed to be better defined and easier to implement.

Although it has been stated in paragraph 11 of the document, my delegation wishes to reiterate that the principle of non-interference in national policy methods should be taken into account in formulating the language of the proposals for action. I would note especially here paragraphs 23 (i) and (iv), paragraph 24 (i) and paragraph 36 (ii). Necessary action should be taken so that there will be no misinterpretation of the implementation of those paragraphs in the future. We welcome the cooperation of FAO in this regard.

The participatory approach in this Plan is very effective, and we are therefore pleased to consider this Plan of Action. We believe that the Secretariat has accommodated our views, which we have expressed during the previous Council meetings.

We do hope that this intervention regarding the issues will be seen by the Conference as our serious political will toward the speedy implementation of FAO's important Plan of Action.

P.A.D. TER WEEL (Netherlands): I would like to thank Mr Dutia for his short, but very clear, introduction. It is a great pleasure that finally today we are able to discuss the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Villages. It has taken a long time. People's participation is such a basic prerequisite for rural development that a clear strategy embraced by FAO as a whole has been badly missed all these years. It was obvious two years ago in this Meeting that full priority was given to the Plan of Action for Women in Development. We will be discussing that Plan later tonight or perhaps tomorrow and we can learn some useful lessons from it.

The Netherlands government last year - in its Policy Paper on Development Cooperation for the Nineties - puts the focus on People, Poverty and Human Development.

After the decade of the 1980s, during which people and their societies were asked to adjust themselves to the so-called exogenous facts of economic life, the nineties start with an emphasis on human development: development for, of and by people. People first.

The Netherlands government therefore - as the Head of our delegation during the opening session has stated - very much welcomes FAO's Action Programme on People's Participation and sees it as a logical consequence of the UNDP 1990 and 1991 Reports on Human Development.

Too long we believed that the expansion of physical infrastructure and provision of material inputs would automatically lead to more well-being for the vast majority of the poor amongst the rural population. Too often we as governments have decided what should be done without seriously consulting and listening to men and women farmers, landless men and women, labourers and their own local organizations.

During the eighties, as part of an answer to the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Development, the Netherlands has been a consequent supporter of one of those small programmes of FAO - and as a donor we have been badly missing other donors' contributions called the People's Participation Programme, which is being implemented in some 10 countries in the South, and has reached 10 000 small and marginal men and women farmers, who have organized themselves in small groups to work out their own needs, on the basis of their own specific environment and their own potential. The Sri Lankan delegate has mentioned one of these programmes. Through self-organization, training and the use of small credit facilities they have found self-awareness and dignity, and improved their socio-economic status.

Much has still to be learned from these modest experiences. They also should be compared with the wide range of other relevant experiences of community-based organizations, platform organizations and trade union organizations.

Allow me to make some general comments on the main points of the Plan of Action. Above all, we realize that we are late, very late. Important changes have taken place during these last years and we are at the threshold of a new era with new and unexpected dimensions.

Too long we have relied only on logic and rationality from above: the logic and rationality of our vast bureaucracies and central agencies. Too long we have neglected - and not only neglected but even strangled - local initiative, the existing fabric of mutual aid and self-help, and the traditional social and cultural values. Therefore the formal and full recognition by FAO of the role of people's organizations is of the utmost importance. But now it comes to translating this into policy.

When I read the pages of the Action Areas I however feel uncomfortable because in spite of the good intentions of the Plan again I am confronted with too much emphasis on government intervention and FAO intervention while in fact what should be done is to restrict intervention and restrict regulation. What should be done is to create an enabling environment, a facilitating environment, that enables people, men and women farmers to organize their own lives. In fact what we need is less government policies and regulations that hamper self-organization of men and women farmers, the landless poor, the sharecroppers, the fishermen and women.

The Plan of Action needs a stronger recognition of the potential role of farmers' organizations and trade unions, and remains too vague on the necessary policy changes which create a better enabling environment for those organizations. Of course, as the Norwegian delegate has stipulated, we need policies and regulations, but especially in the field of protecting the poor and vulnerable, and in redistributing the wealth for the benefit of the whole community.

If it is in that sense we would agree with the need for policies and regulations.

If we look to the future we will have to evaluate this Plan of Action on what has been achieved for the vast masses of the rural poor in their striving to gain access to basic natural resources, as well as to what has been achieved by the poor in their striving for basic human freedom. And it is especially this second dimension, of human freedom, that we have to measure where and how and to what extent restrictive government policies in the field of social organizations, trade unions, and freedom of the press have been removed. This brings me to some final comments.

The Netherlands Government is looking forward to the FAO including people's participation and participatory methods in its policy formulation process, to its programme and project identification and formulation process, and to include adequate expertise in its field missions dealing with these issues.

The Netherlands fully endorses the intentions of the Plan of Action and is looking to FAO and governments - and where possible would like to support these - to create greater possibilities for men and women farmers and landless labourers to organize their own lives, to express their own needs and wants and to improve their own livelihoods. We are looking forward not so much to new government regulations but to enabling policies and deregulation in the field of social and farmers' organizations.

Frank M. BUCKHAM (Swaziland) : In congratulating you on your appointment as Chairman of Commission I, I wish to express our satisfaction with the manner in which you have been guiding the deliberations of our Commission. I would also like to thank Mr Dutia for the very clear manner in which he presented this document.

My delegation fully supports the contents of paragraph 14 of C 91/22 which spells out seven areas in which action needs to be taken. We feel that those seven areas provide an adequate basis for all concerned to translate this Plan of Action into reality.

The Swazi Government is already fully committed to the principle of people's participation because we have learnt from several years of pursuing rural development that full people's participation is an indispensable prerequisite for effective and sustainable agricultural and rural development and environmental protection. Part of this experience has come from our People's Participation project, which is now in its second phase. This Project has generated considerable awareness among the rural population of their need to embark on self-help and income-generating projects, and uncoerced. The Government therefore regards this Project as

having succeeded in establishing a good foundation to build on in further promoting people's participation in rural development in the country, and in investing in the people.

We therefore thank FAO for supporting this Project and assure you of Swaziland's strong intention, not only to further strengthen its project, but also to pursue the concept for which it stands beyond its lifespan as an integral part of our agricultural development strategy.

We therefore request further FAO assistance in support of this Programme and of our plans for implementing this Plan of Action, which we strongly endorse.

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): Australia endorses the broad principles outlined in the FAO Plan of Action. We see value in ensuring active participation of rural people in the achievement of sustainable rural development and improved communication between non-governmental organizations and all levels of government involved in rural issues.

People's participation is encompassed within Australia's development programme as an important policy issue. As such, it has been incorporated into our guidelines and procedures for development assistance activities negotiated within our bilateral programme.

While we endorse the broad principle of the Plan, we see some problems in the implementation of specific recommendations for action which are rather prescriptive. There needs to be flexibility for countries to implement the principles of the Plan in a manner appropriate to each country.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Le agradezco que me conceda el uso de la palabra a estas alturas de nuestros debates, y en aras a ello, le aseguro que será la delegación que hablará menos.

Como país que pertenece a la Región del Istmo Centroamericano, El Salvador comparte y apoya las declaraciones que han hecho en esta Sala los Representantes de Panamá, Honduras y Costa Rica.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We have a request from Lesotho to include its speech in the verbatim record.

T.J. RAMOTSOARI (Lesotho): Involvement of people in planning, deciding, implementing and evaluating their own programmes for future sustainability.

Lesotho has started implementing the concept by creating institutions which will facilitate the process. There are Village Development Councils, District Development Councils which representation is determined by the people through election process. The role of these Councils is to plan, decide, implement, monitor and evaluate local initiative programmes or projects. Government participation is based on the "Client Demand" approach

in assisting the people. Chairman, the success of this approach or concept is yet to be evaluated. We therefore, would like to endorse the actions proposed in document C 91/22.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Before I call one of the Observers as the next speaker, I beg them to be brief.

Mrs Gabriella SOZANSKI (Observer for the World Council of Credit Unions): It is a special privilege for the World Council of Credit Unions to address the Twenty-sixth Session of the FAO Conference.

WOCCU is a non-governmental organization of credit unions, savings and credit cooperatives, and similar financial institutions. As an international apex organization, it represents over 80 national federations or leagues and nearly 100 million members around the globe. WOCCU provides developmental, representational, communications and resource mobilization services to expand, improve and integrate the international credit union movement.

Since our aims are complementary with those of the FAO in specialized fields of activities, in recent years we have been collaborating more and more with competent technical divisions within the FAO, such as the Human Resources, Institutions and Agricultural Reform Division; the Cooperatives and Other Rural Organizations Group; and the Agricultural Marketing and Credit Service. These divisions are aware of previous and existing collaboration with credit unions and their national associations in countries like India, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Lesotho.

We consider COPAC, the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives, a good forum for the regular exchange of information among its members which comprise both UN agencies, such as the FAO, the ILO and the United Nations Organization itself, and four international non-governmental organizations, among which one is WOCCU.

When we received the FAO Plan of Action for People's Participation Programme we found it very encouraging that more attention will be paid to the increased mobilization of savings to meet immediate short-term credit and investment needs within all FAO projects. Credit unions are democratic structures based upon people's participation. They are a form of self-help, self-financing organizations, serve as effective mobilizers of local savings, provide needed credit at affordable rates of interest and teach people thrift and the wise use of credit. All these characteristics make it understandable why we are supportive of the Plan of Action for People's Participation Programme. We are confident that the great experience base credit unions have developed in this field of activity could well be matched through WOCCU's membership network, with FAO's expertise for the benefit of the rural population.

In this regard, we have the pleasure to inform you that the most recent Executive Committee meeting of WOCCU held in October of this year adopted a resolution in support of the People's Participation Programme which reads as follows :

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

"The Executive Committee of the World Council of Credit Unions hereby endorses the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development as proposed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In particular, support is expressed for such Proposals for Action which call for the encouragement of autonomous grass-roots democratic organizations which will mobilize local savings for local development.

Further, the WOCCU Executive Committee calls on its member organizations to consider communicating a similar endorsement to member governments of the FAO. "

We are pleased to inform you that this resolution has, of course, been communicated to our member organizations worldwide.

We urge FAO members to approve this Plan of Action and, through our worldwide membership network, we look forward to continuing to work together in areas of common interest.

G. VECCHI (Observateur pour l'Alliance coopérative internationale): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie beaucoup d'avoir permis à l'Alliance coopérative internationale de s'adresser aux délégués de la Conférence de la FAO sur le problème du Plan d'action de participation populaire.

L'ACI, avec ses 200 organisations coopératives membres nationales et internationales de 79 pays qui représentent 670 millions de membres individuels, possède une longue expérience en matière de promotion de la participation des gens. Elle est engagée dans la promotion et la croissance des organisations populaires durables, indépendantes, démocratiques et viables et dans ce but a collaboré à un certain nombre d'initiatives de la FAO.

La FAO affirme dans plusieurs documents que les coopératives sont le type le plus répandu d'organisation populaire formelle. Les coopératives franchissent les barrières géographiques - elles existent dans le monde entier: Afrique, Asie et Pacifique, Amérique et Europe, dans tous les systèmes économiques, qu'ils soient économies de marché ou bien économies de transition.

Les coopératives ont prouvé être efficaces pour l'amélioration des conditions sociales et économiques de leurs membres, comme témoigne en Inde l'expérience de la ANAND DAIRY SCHEME dans laquelle la FAO a été largement engagée pendant plusieurs années et comme ont démontré les coopératives de crédit et d'épargne, pour citer des petits exemples.

Les coopératives sont à même de répondre tant aux problèmes économiques qu'aux problèmes sociaux, et en tant qu'organisations populaires elles devraient recevoir la plus grande attention et appui. Voilà la raison pour laquelle l'ACI soutient l'adoption et l'approbation de ce Plan d'action par les délégués de cette Conférence.

Depuis trente ans l'ACI se consacre à l'assistance aux coopératives et, en raison de son expérience, est tout à fait d'accord quant à la stratégie et aux domaines identifiés par le Plan d'Action.

Je peux ajouter qu'un certain nombre de domaines correspond aux champs d'action identifiés par la "Politique ACI de développement coopératif" et par la "Politique ACI de développement des ressources humaines", notamment en ce qui concerne la création d'opinion publique sur les avantages de l'approche participative au développement, sur la création d'un cadre favorable aux organisations populaires et sur la formation susceptible de créer des capacités d'autogestion et organisations durables.

Le document parle de la nécessité de renforcer le dialogue avec les gouvernements: l'ACI est prête à collaborer avec la FAO pour que cela puisse se réaliser mais les propositions de collaboration entre FAO et ONG sont encore un peu faibles.

Au paragraphe 62 du document, la FAO propose d'assigner la supervision de la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action à la Division des ressources humaines et à un sous-comité interdépartemental alors que nous proposons de créer un "point focal" à l'intérieur de la Division des ressources humaines qui soit le point de repère pour établir des relations consultatives et de collaboration systématique avec les ONG et qui soit, en même temps, le point de convergence de l'action des différentes divisions de la FAO.

Nos propositions ne demandent aucun effort économique tandis que la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action exige des moyens financiers plus importants à disposition de la Division des ressources humaines. Nous croyons toutefois qu'avec des programmes de travail concrets nous pourrions compter sur l'aide de plusieurs gouvernements.

Pour ce qui concerne le rôle des gouvernements, nous ne soulignerons jamais assez l'importance du fait que leurs politiques ne doivent pas être un obstacle à la création des organisations populaires ni qu'ils doivent exercer un contrôle non dû sur ces organisations, lesquelles, à cause de leur nature, doivent être volontaires, autonomes et démocratiquement contrôlées. Lorsque les coopératives ont échoué comme outil de développement, c'était très souvent parce que la coopérative était imposée aux membres au lieu d'être fondée et contrôlée par eux-mêmes.

L'ACI et ses organisations membres, nationales et internationales, désirent collaborer avec la FAO et les gouvernements membres pour la réalisation des activités de promotion de la participation populaire dans le développement rural. Nous réitérons notre volonté de donner assistance et conseils, y compris sur la législation coopérative, le développement de l'éducation coopérative et les programmes de formation, la mobilisation de l'opinion publique vers la participation populaire dans les régions intéressées par l'affermissement du mouvement coopératif.

Nous sommes conscients que le développeront des institutions populaires exige un effort prolongé mais nous sommes aussi persuadés de l'importance et du potentiel de succès de l'approche participative.

Ms Zdenka INDRUCHOVA (Observer for the World Federation of Trade Unions): As you may know, our movement invested a serious effort in the preparation, holding and follow-up to the WCARRD Conference a decade ago.

We have, in particular, stressed the utmost importance of Chapter III of the Programme of Action which concerns people's participation. During the years since 1979, we have repeatedly drawn the attention of FAO and its Member Nations to the fact that this chapter is not being duly implemented and that this shortcoming endangers the whole concept of WCARRD.

At the Eleventh Consultation between FAO and international trade union organizations two years ago, we regretted very much that people's participation did not figure among the priority activities of FAO.

We have, therefore, intervened, together with other NGOs at the Tenth COAG Session in favour of the adoption of a specific Plan of Action for people's participation and then made our observations known during the various stages of the elaboration of the text.

I will, therefore, limit myself to our most essential preoccupations:

Firstly, the people's participation will again remain a dead letter if the concept of freedom of association is not fully recognized by FAO Member Nations.

So we think that paragraph 20 and then the whole paragraph 23 of the proposed Plan of Action should contain a reference to the ILO Conventions No. 87 and No. 141 and to the recommendation 149. The ratification of these international instruments so vital for people's participation has remained very low during the COAG/WCARRD decade. The confirmation of my statement is contained in the document of this Conference C 91/18 which, on page 31, says that so far only 28 countries have ratified the ILO Convention No. 141 which recognizes the right of free association for voluntary and independent rural workers' organizations and supports their socio-economic activities.

Secondly, the Plan speaks about creating new people's organizations, but we ask the question: Why not speak about the strengthening and promotion of organizations that already exist? I mean those organizations that have structures at all levels, at the place of work, at local, regional, national and international. These are organizations which have a bargaining power and are capable of formulating truly effective solutions to combat poverty and to raise the living standards of the rural population. I hope you might have recognized that I am speaking about the rural workers' organizations which, according to a WCARRD progress report document C 91/19 on page 55 says that this organization also played an increasingly important role in many developing areas.

I must confess that it is rather depressing to hear that the only government representatives who spoke about the role of rural workers' organizations were the Netherlands and Denmark.

Nevertheless, I would like to assure the Conference of the full support of our organization of the Plan of Action. We hope that it will be another field for strengthening cooperation with FAO.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): There were a number of important questions and comments made, and I will try to respond to them as briefly but as succinctly as possible.

First of all, I would like to mention that we from the Secretariat are happy that the Member Governments on the whole feel that the viewpoints that they expressed during the June Council when they considered the draft of this Plan of Action have been taken into account in presenting the revised version that is now before you. Of course, we tried our level best to accommodate these viewpoints to the maximum extent possible.

The second point that I would like to make is that FAO is the organization of the Member Governments. Therefore, it is working with Member Governments and through Member Governments in implementing all of its activities and programmes. Insofar as the Plan of Action on people's participation is concerned, it is not and cannot be an exception to this general rule. I think that point needs to be very clearly stated. It is clearly stated in paragraph 11 of the document, and that is how we see our role in the implementation of this Plan of Action.

At the same time, FAO as a development agency will act as an advocate, as an informed advocate, of the need for people's participation to be promoted in order that the rural development becomes sustained and equitable. This is not only a social imperative. The evidence that has been gathered from the development policies and programmes over the last several decades shows very clearly that people's participation improves the economic return to the investment. Therefore, we see our roles as an advocate for this programme of action, and also as a catalyst in promoting and encouraging the governments for people's participation.

At the same time, we have heard that some Member Governments feel that this Plan is too restrictive, that it seems to give restrictions for what needs to be done. I would like to make it clear that that is not the intention. The Plan has to be seen as a broad framework within which the areas where actions need to be taken or should be taken in order to promote people's participation have been illustrated.

Of course, in the actual implementation of the Plan of Action a certain measure of flexibility will be needed. The flexibility will be needed in order to take into account the specific country situation, the specific needs that will be identified by the Member Governments in respect of the groups that need to be involved in the participatory process. Therefore, while the Plan does illustrate a number of activities where action needs to be taken and could be taken, it should not be interpreted as a very rigid framework for all country situations or for all participatory processes.

Another point on which a number of Member Governments have commented - again, I need to make some clarification on that - is paragraph 64 of the document that refers to the need for external assistance to facilitate the promotion of people's participation. There has been some misunderstanding that the intention here was to say that the implementation of the Plan of Action depends on the external resources only. That certainly is not in the mind of the Secretariat. I do not think that it is in the minds of the Member Governments who have participated this afternoon in this debate. It is quite clearly stated that the primary responsibility for implementing the Plan of Action rests with the governments themselves. That is the sovereign right of each Member Government. Of course, this does not preclude the need for external resources as a facilitator, as a catalyst, in implementing the Plan of Action and supporting the actions that the governments themselves want to take.

After having made these general remarks, with your permission I will go on to some of the specific questions that have been raised during the debate.

First, I would like to refer to the questions that were posed by the delegate of Denmark. He raised the question of there being no targets and no time limits mentioned in this Plan of Action. Certainly we have not done so because we do not think it is possible to lay down global targets in an area such as people's participation. These targets, as the secretariat says, will need to be established by the Member Governments themselves. Again, as many Member Governments have said, this Plan of Action should not be too rigid, too prescriptive. If we were to establish targets, it would be much more prescriptive than it should be. In the view of the Secretariat, target fixing, the setting of the time limits, will all have to be done by the governments themselves taking into account the target groups that they want to involve in the participatory process and the identification of their needs, the resources that are available, and also the methods by which they will try to reach them and involve them in participatory processes.

May I repeat that our role in this process would be that of an advocate and that of a catalyst through information gathering, analysis, examination of analyses, and also helping the Member Governments to create institutions for this purpose.

One important role that we see for FAO in this whole process is the promotion of dialogue between governments, development agencies and the non-governmental organizations. I think some Member Governments referred to this as a very important area where progress needs to be made - dialogue. I think that here we see an important role that we as a development agency can and should play.

The delegate of Denmark also wanted to know of our cooperation in this respect with other UN agencies. I would say that we were cooperating in this field even before the Plan of Action that is before you through the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. In fact, in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development for which FAO is the head agency, there is a special Panel on People's Participation, which is headed by the ILO, in which the participating members of the ACC Task Force participate, including FAO. We also contact and discuss these matters with the Rome-based non-governmental organization groups. In fact, in the preparation of this Plan of Action we had the benefit of receiving their views and incorporating them to the maximum extent possible. Therefore, we were extremely pleased to hear in the statements made by the representatives of the international non-governmental organizations this afternoon that they find this Plan of Action adoptable and they are supporting it.

The delegate of Denmark also referred to the evaluation of the participatory process. In the ACC Task Force on Rural Development there is a Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation that has established certain guidelines, which have been published, guiding the work of the various UN agencies in this field.

The distinguished delegates of Denmark also asked that whether the promotion of people's participation could be considered as an upstream activity in the new successor arrangements of the UNDP. Here I would say that this is a matter that will need to be clarified with the UNDP and in

consultation with the governments. At this stage it is not possible to give a very clear answer to his question. What is the ultimate goal of FAO in this field? That was the last question raised by the distinguished delegate of Denmark. I repeat that it is to help Member Governments to encourage people's participation, increase the self-help activities and promote participatory development in general through decentralization policies.

The distinguished delegate of Switzerland also referred to the need for a bottom-up approach rather than a top-down approach. In fact, the very idea of this Plan of Action now presented to you is to promote the bottom-up approach. As I said, in the preparation of the plan itself, we have had the benefit of the views of the Rome-based international non-governmental organizations and this has helped us to identify some of the problems that need to be tackled which have been experienced at grass-roots level. I also mention that the meeting of international non-governmental organizations held on 12 November considered that the plan would serve as a useful basis for encouraging NGO participation.

I have replied to the concerns raised by the distinguished delegate of the United States concerning paragraph 64 and also the need for specifying in consultation with the governments the target groups and beneficiaries that would be involved in the participatory process. This will need to be developed, I repeat, in consultation with the Member Governments as the plans for implementation in the field are developed. The distinguished delegate of Turkey referred to paragraph 41(ii) regarding the evaluation systems, and I refer to the answer I gave earlier in reply to the distinguished delegate of Denmark on the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and the panel on monitoring and evaluation. These guidelines have already been published and we would be happy to share them with any delegate who is interested.

The distinguished delegate of Zambia asked how FAO can assist governments in implementing the plan of action. Our role here is to help Member Governments raise internal resources and to assist through our Regular Programme, in addition to acting as an "honest broker" for raising the trust funds in support of participatory activities. We are very grateful to the government of Netherlands, which has been supporting the participatory programmes through FAO and we hope that other donor countries will heed his plea to join Netherlands in providing such assistance to FAO to promote people's participation. The distinguished delegate of China would like to know about follow-up activities, and this has been mentioned by more than one delegate, how we foresee periodic reporting on the progress of the Plan of Action on people's participation. We intend to provide a report on the Plan of Action through the WCARRD reporting to the Conference according to its present schedule. We will have a special section on the implementation of the Plan of Action on people's participation in future WCARRD reports.

The distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia asked for information about the implementation mechanism. This is explained in paragraph 62. What we foresee is that people's participation should be part of the mainstream activities of FAO and therefore what is needed is a focal point to take into account all the activities that are going on, and this will be done through the ESH division and through the machinery of the divisional working group on rural development, under which possibly a sub-group on people's participation could be established, but this is a matter which is still under consideration within FAO.

I think I have replied to most of the questions which have been raised but, if I have missed anything out, I will be very happy to go back to it.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): With your indulgence, Mr Chairman, I would like to respond to Mr Dutia's answer, which was very exhaustive. I am grateful for that, but my motivation in putting this question was that, even when FAO acts indirectly as a catalyst through sovereign governments, the organization must have some ambitions or targets for the impact it would like to have on this process within a certain time, otherwise evaluation does not make sense. I am confident that the monitoring going on in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development will be able to be carried out on that basis, but that explains the motivation for my questions.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Denmark. Are there any other comments?

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): In my statement I asked whether the language of the Plan of Action is final or not. I would like to make a point on some of the language, Mr Chairman, but I seek your guidance.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : This is of course going to be put to our Drafting Committee, so it will be possible to make slight amendments to the language there. Are you satisfied with that response?

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): Yes.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : It would appear that no one else wishes to speak. Can I try to summarize then? All Member Nations have given general support to the Action Programme for people's participation. Certain comments have of course been made about this, namely that whilst allowing that governments of Member Nations have the responsibility for taking political decisions and that it is up to governments to do all the necessary political groundwork in order for development to take place, this must be based on people's participation. There has also been general recognition of countries' sovereignty when it comes to the implementation of a plan of action and also when it comes to deciding who is to benefit from this. This of course is going to be done by governments according to their own needs.

The third point I gleaned from the discussion is that external resources allocated for assistance in the implementation of the plan and the main responsibility for it is something which is really up to countries. A number of guidelines have to be laid down, and it is up to governments to mobilize internal resources.

If there are no further comments, we can now conclude our discussion on Item 12.

13. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report
13. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural: Rapport intérimaire
13. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural: Informe parcial

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It gives me great pleasure to introduce Agenda Item 13, Plan of Action for Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report. The document on this Item is C 91/14.

As indicated in Section I of the document, this is a follow-up to decisions made at the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO's Conference in 1989. As the distinguished delegates will recall, at that Session the Conference adopted unanimously the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development and also considered the progress that had already been made. The Conference also requested the Secretariat to prepare a second Report on progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action for presentation to this Session, and accordingly this document has been submitted to you for your consideration.

The objective of the Plan of Action is to ensure that, in the Organization's sphere of responsibility, women are accorded equal rights and opportunities to contribute to the agricultural and rural development of their respective societies, recognizing that women still face obstacles to their full participation in agricultural and rural development. The Plan proposes strategies and actions in the civil status, social, economic and decision-making spheres in order to support and enhance women in their roles as producers in agriculture, including fisheries, forestry and animal husbandry.

Mr Chairman, the first Progress Report had identified seven programme priorities and five administrative priorities. For this second Report, which is before you, a new priority on Sustainable Development, Natural Resource Management and Environment is proposed for inclusion together with these original seven priorities. The inclusion of this new priority reflects the fact that the achievement of sustainable agricultural and rural development depends crucially on the active participation of both rural women and men. The second Progress Report discusses the follow-up on these priorities during the 1990-91 biennium.

One of the most intensive sets of activities undertaken during the 1990-91 biennium has been the training in gender analysis of FAO professional staff, in accordance with the First Programme priority of the Plan of Action. The aim of this training is to increase FAO staff awareness of the roles, functions and concerns of rural women in agricultural and rural development in order that these issues be integrated in programme and project planning and implementation. By the end of this year, some 44 training workshops will have taken place with some 750 professional staff at Headquarters and in Regional Offices trained in Gender Analysis.

Section III, paragraphs 15 to 90, summarizes the major activities undertaken by FAO during the current biennium, according to the priorities identified in the Plan of Action. For each of these priorities examples are

given of specific activities undertaken by various technical departments of the Organization. These activities, supported by the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources, demonstrate the Organization-wide efforts under way to integrate gender issues in mainstream programme and project activities. They are also an indication of our efforts, in pursuance of the Plan, to act as a catalyst and advocate to encourage and assist Member Governments to address gender issues in agriculture and rural development activities. Based on field experiences, numerous studies on the role of women in agricultural production and development have been prepared by FAO, as indicated in paragraphs 58 to 80. I would also like to add that since the preparation of the document before you, an Inter-Agency Consultation on statistics and data bases was convened by FAO in September 1991 in Rome with the main objective of intensifying coordination between UN agencies in the identification and collection of gender disaggregated data, relating to the population and agricultural sectors.

The inclusion of the new priority of Sustainable Development, Natural Resource Management and Environment, is in recognition of the fact that the achievement of the goal of attaining sustainable agricultural production will require programmes of conservation and development of natural resources in which women play an important role. In this regard, FAO activities are being designed to achieve a better understanding of rural men's and women's interaction with their environment and of their division of labour in the management and use of natural resources. Our activities also recognize that environmental degradation has particularly negative effects on women's daily tasks such as fuel wood gathering, water collection, crop and fish production. In the light of these tasks and constraints, women's needs and contributions need to be included in conservation and resource management programmes.

The follow-up activities of the five administrative priorities, endorsed by the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference to strengthen FAO's institutional support of the Plan of Action, are outlined in Section IV, paragraphs 91 to 118 of the document. One of the administrative priorities is to increase the number of women professional staff in FAO. Some progress, although limited, has been made in achieving that goal. I would like now to give the latest figures: as of today 209 women professional staff at the Headquarters; that is some 19.3 percent of Headquarter's staff. In the Regions, it is 8.9 percent of the staff in the Regional Offices: that is, women staff. In 1990, the percentage of women consultants rose from 8.8 percent to 10.8 percent. The Organization has a definite policy to increase the percentage of women staff in professional categories and it is making all possible efforts to overcome difficulties found in identifying women candidates in some specialized technical fields.

We recognize that notwithstanding the number of activities undertaken by the Organization, as described in the Second Progress Report, much work lies ahead in the achievement of full and equitable participation of rural women in agricultural and rural development. With the continued cooperation and assistance of all Member Governments, FAO will progressively build upon the work it has initiated in order to reinforce and support the full participation of rural women in the processes and benefits of development. This, in our view, is a social, economic and productive necessity.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to the comments on the Progress Report and guidance by the Conference for future work in this important field.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Dutia, for introducing this agenda item, and for this important information which shows how interested this Organization is in the role of women in FAO.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo debo comenzar por expresar mi complacencia por este extraordinario documento que nos ha presentado la Secretaría. Cuando pensamos en cuánto hemos avanzado desde 1985, en que nos correspondió presentar nuestra primera Resolución para la Conferencia sobre la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, comprendemos que se ha trabajado bastante, que se ha avanzado mucho en el trabajo de la mujer y que la FAO ha dado creciente importancia en todos estos años a la atención dedicada a la mujer en muchos de los aspectos en que ella estaba completamente al margen de la sociedad, si podemos decirlo así, especialmente de las actividades económico-sociales.

Debemos estar satisfechos de este progreso, pero no estamos totalmente satisfechos. El mismo documento confiesa que sigue habiendo obstáculos al avance de la mujer hacia sus plenos derechos legales, civiles, sociales; humanos, en una palabra. Tan es así, que ellos establecen - ya es el documento - prioridades de dos características: prioridades programáticas y prioridades administrativas. Como ustedes lo tienen delante de sí en el documento, yo les ahorro el trabajo de leerlo, pero revela que son realmente obstáculos para que la mujer pueda considerarse verdaderamente incorporada al proceso de desarrollo, aun al proceso de desarrollo rural, y que si nosotros analizamos desapasionadamente y a fondo la necesidad, la verdadera necesidad que tiene la mujer para poder incorporarse a ese proceso de desarrollo, tenemos que llegar a la conclusión de que esencialmente la falla está en la falta de educación de la mujer. La mujer ha recibido de la FAO muchas oportunidades. Se han hecho una serie de actividades que, efectivamente, han tratado de darle importancia en reuniones, organización de cooperativas, invitaciones al trabajo, la participación en una multitud de actividades. Pero es como si todo eso lo estuviera ella mirando desde lejos. A mí se me ocurre que es como si lo estuviera mirando en la televisión: ella lo ve, pero ella no puede participar. Uno no puede hablar con un señor de esos que habla en la televisión; no puede tomar parte; es un extraño.

Entonces, ella no está verdaderamente capacitada para esa incorporación, y es que esa incorporación no se puede hacer de una manera adjetiva; no es por presencia para una invitación a una reunión cualquiera que la mujer puede incorporarse al proceso de desarrollo. La mujer necesita un proceso de educación de ella misma, desde su infancia, su adolescencia, como lo hemos necesitado nosotros. Nosotros hemos necesitado ir a la escuela, recibir desde nuestro hogar una orientación y una educación para poder ser seres humanos conscientes, primero, de los deberes, luego, de las posibilidades de hacer algo bien hecho. Entonces, tenemos que recordar que una de las principales obligaciones que tenemos para esa mujer campesina - que yo, con perdón de los traductores de la FAO, no la llamo mujer rural porque no es mujer rural, es una mujer campesina que vive en el medio rural; lo que es rural es el ambiente donde ella vive, ella no; ella es una mujer campesina que actúa en el medio rural. Entonces, si queremos ayudar a estas mujeres campesinas - o "contadine" si las quieren llamar en italiano - estas mujeres deberían ser atendidas por sus gobiernos - yo no lo estoy pidiendo a la FAO -, por sus gobiernos en prestarle atención a su educación desde su juventud, desde que están en edad de aprender. No vamos

a pedir que nosotros nos declaremos en una campaña de educación de todas las mujeres, no; pero si que a estas generaciones, que están creciendo y que siguen el mismo rumbo de las que ya están en edad adulta, no las dejemos abandonadas para luego darles esa educación cuando son adultas; y mientras tanto ponemos el acento en las profesionales que trabajan en la FAO, y contamos que ya son 214 ó 250, pero esas son ya profesionales. Yo no me opongo a que nos preocupemos de estas colegas profesionales que están haciendo un excelente trabajo en la FAO, pero sí pido para estas mujeres campesinas una atención primordial que va más allá de todas estas prioridades.

Tan es así que, entre las prioridades programáticas, está la capacitación, pero vamos a darles una capacitación fundamental. No solamente cosas adjetivas para poder participar en las actividades que organiza la FAO.

Por esa razón, elogiamos el proyecto pero podemos decir que no estamos totalmente satisfechas, no con el documento, que es estupendo, sino con el proceso que se ha ido cumpliendo desde 1985 hasta ahora en que, como dije antes, se ha avanzado bastante. Lo que pasa es que a quien se le dan y a quien se le otorgan derechos tiene también el derecho de seguir pidiendo, y eso es lo que estamos haciendo las mujeres en este momento.

Por ello, pienso que esos programas de la mujer en las cooperativas, la mujer en las actividades forestales, la mujer en la pesca, la calidad de vida en el medio rural, esperamos que sean desarrollados en un máximo nivel porque allí la mujer puede aprender muchas cosas, puede aprender muchas técnicas para mejorar sus condiciones de vida económica y social.

Pero al mismo tiempo, esas generaciones que viven en el medio rural, estos niños que ahora están en edad de ir a la escuela, en edad de ir a un nivel de aprendizaje de otra naturaleza, deberían ser también tomados en cuenta para estimularlos a un desarrollo y a una incorporación, a lo que queremos, que es el desarrollo rural. Que las preparemos desde entonces, y no que sencillamente esperemos la semana anterior para convocarlas a un taller para que aprendan allí rápidamente lo que tienen que hacer. Se debe hacer una preparación sistemática de esta nueva generación para que puedan llegar a ser realmente unos seres humanos, con una capacidad más allá de la productividad sola, porque tenemos que pensar en estas mujeres como seres humanos, con derechos humanos, con derecho a disfrutar de algo que va más allá del simple alimento, del descanso y del trabajo, porque eso es también lo que se hacía con los esclavos y lo que se hace con las bestias. Sólo el famoso burro de Buridán, que su amo creyó que iba a poder vivir sin comer, se le murió cuando ya estaba aprendiendo. No queremos que eso pase con las mujeres. Vamos a darles oportunidades para mejorar, para disfrutar algo en la vida, para disfrutar de algo más que de los medios materiales que satisfacen su vida animal, oportunidades que atiendan a su vida espiritual.

Yo no tengo nada que agregar a todos estos programas que considero excelentes, anotados en este documento. Creo que son programas que han sido útiles y que si se siguen practicando serán útiles para incorporar a la mujer al desarrollo. Pero el desarrollo es algo que está fuera de la mujer. Este desarrollo que hacemos aquí, que se llama el aumento de la agricultura, la productividad de la agricultura, la productividad de la pesca, la productividad de las actividades forestales es algo que no es la mujer, y eso es la economía de la Comunidad; eso es la vida de la Comunidad; eso es en fin la vida del trabajo y la vida del dinero,

contabilizando el dinero. Queremos decirle a la mujer que estamos con ella un poco más allá, profundamente, que lo que significa el dinero y la comida, y el trabajo. Estamos con ella como ser humano para vivir diferente, como les gusta vivir a los que ya son educados, como les gusta vivir a los que ya pertenecen a las clases que saben disfrutar de la vida.

A mí se me ocurría que había un programa, y esto lo hago como sugerencia, un programa de intercambio que yo sugeriría, con todo respeto a la Comisión que escribe ésto, porque mi aspiración, mi sueño es que alguna vez la mujer llegue a ser tan interesante como la agricultura, como la pesca, como todos estos sujetos que tienen una Comisión en la FAO. La esperanza mía es que alguna vez la mujer sea un sujeto de estudio, de preocupación, para constituir una Comisión de la FAO que se ocupe de la mujer, en su totalidad; de la mujer en su preocupación y no sencillamente como sujeto de trabajo.

Fíjense que en todos los talleres, en todas las actividades, estamos considerando a la mujer siempre como un instrumento de trabajo. No es por la mujer en sí. Y si no, ustedes ven los títulos, ustedes ven los títulos que dicen: la mujer y el desarrollo forestal; la mujer y la pesca, la mujer y la actividad rural, y la mujer y la producción, y la mujer y tal cosa. Ella nunca es la mujer per se. Ella siempre es un instrumento que trabaja. Así como el automóvil de fulano, como el burro de mengano, como el camión de zutano. Ella no es la mujer porque no se la considera como un ser que por sí misma merece que nos ocupemos de ella. Y cuando menos, es la mujer de fulano cuando más se le da, es la mujer de zutano, la señora de fulano. Por esa razón, pues, nosotros queremos que al lado de estos programas podamos también tener alguna vez un programa para la mujer que pudiera ser para el disfrute de los derechos humanos de que tanto nos ocupamos, por los hombres; que pueda ser también alguna vez ésto. Y yo no quiero pensar que éso no lo va a hacer la FAO, porque la FAO, afortunadamente hasta ahora, ha escuchado siempre lo que le pedimos. Esto quiero decir; el señor Director General que seguramente puede estar escuchando, y si no, que reciba el mensaje, sugeriría pues entonces en beneficio de este contacto de las mujeres, estos programas de intercambio, fundamentalmente para las jóvenes; bien sean las adolescentes o bien sean las jóvenes. Estos programas de intercambio son útiles en ese sentido, porque además de que las jóvenes aprenden, conocen otros grupos humanos, ellas también crecen; es decir, crecen espiritualmente, se desarrollan intelectualmente, conocen otras gentes, aprenden de otros sitios, visitan otras latitudes, conocen otro ámbito geográfico, otro ámbito, otro paisaje. Y éso hace crecer a los seres humanos. Si no, por qué la industria del turismo es tan provechosa y tan prodigiosa, produce dinero. Por éso, porque al ser humano le gusta mirar otras cosas. Le gusta ver, disfrutar de otros ámbitos, de otros paisajes, de otra posibilidad de ver algo nuevo.

Esto podríamos propiciarlo con pequeños programas de intercambio, en los que las jóvenes pudieran visitar otros grupos y participar en unas actividades comunes con ellas. Esto podría ser una de las actividades que en el futuro inmediato, pudieran ser objeto de práctica por las jóvenes, porque las madres ya estarán muy ocupadas en sus hogares, no tienen tiempo para éso.

Entonces podríamos apelar a los programas de intercambio que estimularan las acciones de las mujeres por la observación de otro mundo, de otras actividades, de otra manera de ser, de otros medios culturales, que también

es una manera de aprender. No solamente de aprender a trabajar, sino también aprender a mirar el mundo. Podríamos divulgar de esta manera, actividades y practicar actividades en beneficio de las mujeres mismas, de su hogar.

Nosotros tenemos en Venezuela, por ejemplo, lo voy a dar como un ejemplo, una Organización que ya va a constituirse en una Institución. Se llama Los Hogares de Cuidado Diario. Fue una idea que tuvo la señora del Presidente hace como quince años atrás, en que se le ocurrió que podrían las mujeres ayudar a las mujeres madres que trabajan y que no tenían con quien dejar sus hijos en la casa, porque no podían pagar la escuela, no tenían con que pagar una escuela, un pre-escolar, una maternal. Entonces, ella encontró con estas mujeres a quienes conoce, mujeres trabajadoras, mujeres de los barrios pequeños, barrios pobres, encontró voluntarias que estaban dispuestas a recibir los niños de las vecinas que trabajaban, para pasar con ellas el día y su madre los recogía en la tarde, cuando regresaba del trabajo.

Esto tuvo aceptación en mujeres de otros barrios; y hoy existen en Venezuela numerosos Hogares de Cuidado Diario. Ya pasan de miles entre todo el ámbito del país. Y creo que algunos países vecinos, tengo entendido que la Primera Dama de Colombia vino una vez a Venezuela, le pareció muy interesante, y le pareció que ella podía hacer una práctica de una actividad semejante en su país. Yo creo, pues, que estas cosas que se le ocurren a las mujeres de un país, de un barrio, de un campo, de una pequeña población pueden ser aprendidas o pueden ser conocidas por mujeres de otro ambiente. Y ésto es lo que pienso que se puede lograr con los Programas de Intercambio donde los pequeños grupos de jóvenes de mujeres pueden intercambiarse con un país vecino, con una localidad vecina. Yo no quiero hacer esto a un nivel internacional. Estoy pensando en los campos vecinos del mismo país, y con eso se podría lograr alguna actividad estimulante para la mujer, que no es simplemente aprender a trabajar más para producir, para ganar más dinero, para poder tener más. No, porque esa es la orientación que tienen la mayoría de los programas que se contemplan para la mujer. De la misma manera que se me ocurre ésto, es posible que haya otras actividades de índole cultural que pueden ser perfectamente cultivadas por las mujeres de un pueblo, que uno no conoce y que si uno va de visita lo descubre.

Con esto quiero decir, porque yo voy a terminar para no hacerme fastidiosa, que todo lo que está en este Programa cuenta con mi apoyo, de todo corazón, porque considero que ha sido un trabajo estupendo; que hemos progresado desde 1985 a esta parte. Creo que todavía está un poco lejano el sueño mío de que la FAO pueda alguna vez constituir una Comisión que se ocupe concretamente de la mujer. En eso vamos a merecer menos que los peces porque todavía tenemos una Comisión de Pesca, y tenemos una Comisión de muchas otras cosas que son menos importantes que la mujer para mí. Pero bueno, hay que esperar; no tenemos que desesperar. Pero yo sí quisiera ir pensando, después de leer este documento en que me impresionó la actividad que tiene la Organización de la FAO en América Latina, los contactos que están logrando, no quisiera irme de esta reunión sin la esperanza de que la FAO en el próximo futuro pudiera pensar en convocar, por lo menos para América Latina, una reunión de mujeres de los países vecinos, que tengan la oportunidad de conocerse, de mirar y examinar las realidades de sus países. Y probablemente desde este contacto de las mujeres, yo solamente pienso por ahora en las de América Latina, por este contacto pudieran ellas

estimularse para soñar juntas, para pensar en nuevos proyectos, para estimular sus actividades como mujeres, como seres humanos, y no simplemente como instrumentos de trabajo.

Me excusa el Sr. Dutia, porque me tomé demasiado tiempo, y el Presidente. Pero hasta aquí quería llegar, y ojalá que estas palabras no caigan en el vacío. Que así como esa primera Resolución que en 1985 con mucha timidez, pero con mucha esperanza, yo presenté a aquella Conferencia, pudiera ésta en no lejano tiempo ver también llevarse a una realización.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank Her Excellency, the Ambassador of Venezuela, and I am quite confident that the situation of women and the status of women will always be guaranteed because you have always fought for the rights of those men and women.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Agradecemos en primer lugar este segundo Informe sobre la Aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo, ratificado por esta Conferencia en su anterior período de sesiones. El Informe es muy completo y su presentación ha sido excelente. Creemos que abarca los diferentes aspectos del Plan en forma muy adecuada. En mi país, El Salvador, estamos trabajando intensamente en la incorporación de la mujer en el proceso económico.

Para 1990, la población total de El Salvador ascendió a 5,2 millones de habitantes, de los cuales 5,3 corresponden a la población femenina. Además de esta población total, el 51 por ciento reside en el área rural. La inmigración y los desplazamientos internos causados por la difícil situación que ha vivido El Salvador en los últimos años, han afectado particularmente a la mujer. Una cuarta parte de los hogares rurales están encabezados permanentemente o de facto por mujeres. En algunas zonas, se sobrepasa este porcentaje.

El 50 por ciento de las mujeres rurales salvadoreñas se encuentra entre la edad de 21 a 40 años. Comienzan a tener hijos a edades tempranas, alcanzando un promedio global de cinco hijos por mujer. La situación de pobreza implica una participación cada vez mayor de la mujer en la búsqueda de ingresos para su mantenimiento y el de su familia, principalmente cuando debe asumir la jefatura de su hogar.

Pero no ahondaré sobre la situación en que se encuentra la mujer rural en mi país, ya que es muy similar al cuadro que observamos en muchos otros países en desarrollo. Para contrarrestar la profunda crisis económica y revertir la tendencia de los indicadores económicos, el Gobierno de El Salvador se ha comprometido a cambiar la estrategia de desarrollo, y a impulsar un nuevo modelo sustentado sobre los principios y postulados de una economía social de mercado y la realidad misma del país.

El nuevo modelo de desarrollo está plasmado en el Plan de Desarrollo Económico y Social 1989-94. Este Plan en su estrategia económica y en su estrategia social, persigue fundamentalmente crear las condiciones para alcanzar un crecimiento robusto y sostenido, y elevar el bienestar y calidad de vida de toda la población, especialmente la que vive en extrema pobreza. La versión preliminar del Plan de Recuperación Económica y Social

Nacional ha sido aprobada en septiembre de este año por mi Gobierno, como instrumento a utilizar una vez alcanzada la paz, que esperamos sea al plazo más breve posible.

Existe a nivel de instituciones del Estado, una creciente preocupación por dirigir su acción hacia la mujer rural. Lamentablemente no se tiene un marco de políticas que permita una acción coherente y decidida. La creación en octubre de 1989 de la Secretaría Nacional de la Familia, adscrita a la Presidencia de la República, ha sido un elemento importante en el propósito de alcanzar objetivos que promuevan un cambio en la situación de la mujer, especialmente en el logro de cambios en la legislación que excluye o discrimina a la mujer, así como su incorporación plena a actividades económicas del país.

La FAO nos ha ayudado en esta labor. En 1987/89 desarrolló un Proyecto sobre incorporación de la mujer campesina al desarrollo de pequeños proyectos productivos, y entre 1989/90 nos proporcionó asistencia técnica para la mujer rural. Tenemos también en estudio un Proyecto intitulado Promoción para el Acceso de la Mujer a los Servicios de Extensión Rural.

En el párrafo 37 del documento C 91/14 se indica que la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe celebraría tres Talleres Subregionales en 1991 sobre el Plan de Acción con el objetivo de identificar las necesidades de ayuda técnica y los mecanismos para su aplicación en el plano nacional y subregional.

Estos talleres se llevaron a cabo en mi país, El Salvador, en septiembre de este año con la participación de 28 de los 33 países que forman la región. Los tres Talleres Subregionales encontraron una serie de ideas programáticas prioritarias para la cooperación técnica a saber; capacitación y capacidad regional; información y datos estadísticos; legislación; organización de mujeres rurales; proyectos productivos y acceso a recursos con énfasis en la tecnología. En una Mesa Redonda que siguió los trabajos de los tres talleres, fue constituida la Red de Cooperación Técnica de Apoyo a las Mujeres Rurales para toda la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, pero con coordinadores subregionales. Los temas prioritarios en los que trabajará esta red son los que indiqué hace poco, como áreas programáticas prioritarias identificadas por los tres Talleres. Esta red representa para nuestra región un elemento fundamental para la efectiva incorporación de las mujeres rurales en el proceso económico de nuestros países.

La delegación de El Salvador desea aprovechar esta ocasión para agradecer a la FAO, a la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, y al Servicio para la Promoción de la Mujer en la Producción Agrícola y el Desarrollo Rural, por la realización de este evento, y fundamentalmente por esta importante iniciativa de la red; y solicitamos que se dé el apoyo financiero adecuado a fin de que la red establecida pueda funcionar eficientemente a la mayor brevedad. El objetivo de la misma, la mujer del mundo rural, lo merece.

Queremos compartir, por otra parte, lo expresado en el párrafo 38 del documento en estudio a efecto de que se continúe a dar hincapié a la integración de las mujeres como participantes y beneficiarias de los proyectos generales.

Para concluir, encontramos interesante la propuesta que ha hecho hace un momento la Dra. Fermín de Venezuela sobre los Programas de Intercambio de Mujeres Jóvenes. Creemos que esta idea podría ser propiciada por la FAO ya que podría dar resultados positivos.

Sra. Graziella DUBRA (Uruguay): Antes que nada, quiero agradecer al Sr. Dutia por la presentación del excelente y detallado informe contenido en el documento C 91/14, al que apoyamos plenamente.

Señor Presidente, cuando en 1967 se adoptó por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas la Declaración sobre la eliminación de la discriminación contra la mujer, era evidente que si bien esta declaración era un primer paso, no tenía la fuerza jurídica vinculante necesaria para darle obligatoriedad respecto de aquellos estados que apoyaron dicha Declaración.

Por ello, y luego, diría, de muchas batallas verbales, muchas negociaciones, muchas sesiones nocturnas, en las cuales tuve el honor de participar, 12 años después se logró reiterar en un instrumento internacional, es decir, en la Convención sobre la eliminación de la discriminación de la mujer, la preocupación de la situación de la mujer, en las esferas jurídicas, culturales, laborales, sociales, económicas y políticas, figurando en su Artículo XIV nada menos que diez párrafos señor Presidente, diez párrafos dedicados a la mujer en las zonas rurales, a fin de asegurar a esta mujer, en condiciones de igualdad entre hombres y mujeres, su participación en el desarrollo rural y en sus beneficios.

Creemos, señor Presidente, que a nivel del sector rural al tema no se le ha dado una adecuada importancia política, económica social o educacional, ya que lamentablemente las instituciones no han desarrollado suficientemente el trabajo de promoción para la solución de la problemática de la mujer en todo la zona rural. En tal sentido, el Gobierno de mi país para el período 1990-1995, estableció que una de las preocupaciones prioritarias en el campo de las políticas sociales, lo constituye la mujer como protagonista activa de la sociedad, en tanto ésta se ve afectada por una real y evidente discriminación en su vida privada, en el trabajo y en el marco de la vida comunitaria.

Por estas razones, mi Gobierno ha reiterado su especial preocupación respecto de la mujer rural y dentro de las actividades del Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, se ha promovido la inclusión de la situación de la mujer rural.

Para lograr un buen conocimiento de la real situación por la que atraviesa la mujer rural, consideramos importante entre otras cosas: Primero, disponer de la mayor cantidad de información y estudios de tal forma de mantener actualizada la situación de la mujer rural y sus condiciones de vida dentro del espectro nacional y de cada región, teniendo en cuenta sus respectivas actividades productivas.

Segundo, determinar líneas de acción a tomar en las áreas productivas, de servicios sociales y culturales, en función del desarrollo de la mujer en la zona rural y de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Tercero, crear o fortalecer un organismo nacional que asuma el liderazgo en las actividades de la mujer en la zona rural y al desarrollo.

Cuarto, establecer un mecanismo financiero que contribuya a facilitar los recursos que demanden las actividades productivas, comerciales y de servicios a desarrollar por la mujer.

Quinto, una difusión más amplia del papel de las organizaciones no gubernamentales y la importancia de los programas que despliegan.

Como lo dije anteriormente, señor Presidente, nos adherimos integralmente al Informe del Consejo contenido en el documento C 91/14 sobre la Aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo, en especial su Parte III "Examen de las medidas sustantivas adoptadas en cumplimiento del Plan y de las recomendaciones del Consejo", donde en su Punto A se ocupa del Programa de Capacitación del Personal de la FAO en relación con la mujer en el desarrollo y esperamos que en los próximos años ese 19 por ciento, que mencionó el Sr. Dutia, sea incrementado. Y en su Punto B, presenta siete puntos básicos relativos a la integración de la mujer al desarrollo.

Nuestro objetivo general, señor Presidente, debe apuntar al logro de una mayor y efectiva participación de la mujer en el desarrollo en todos sus aspectos, como una forma eficaz para su inserción en todo el proceso económico, social y cultural. Está en manos de la Comunidad Internacional continuar apoyando el plan de Acción y así hacer realidad las metas que nos hemos fijado.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Felicitamos a la Secretaría en vista de los avances de que se acaba de informar en los sectores prioritarios del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, desde su aprobación por la Conferencia en 1989.

Encontramos en el documento una amplia gama de intervenciones esbozadas, que reflejan una sensibilidad creciente hacia los numerosos problemas que impiden la plena participación de las mujeres en los procesos de desarrollo social y económico.

En Honduras, las mujeres ya son beneficiarias del proceso de Reforma Agraria. El 18 de octubre del presente año el Congreso Nacional aprobó una reforma a la Ley de Reforma Agraria. Uno de los argumentos expuestos en la Ley es que la mujer, ante el Proceso de Reforma Agraria, ha sido prácticamente discriminada en su conceptualización de beneficiaria en la aplicación de la misma, lo que la obliga a recurrir a mecanismos precarios para conseguir tierra y desarrollar sus actividades productivas. La Reforma aprobada, es precisamente en el Artículo 79, el que dice: "ser hondureño por nacimiento, varón o mujer, mayor de 16 años, si son solteros; de cualquier edad, si son casados o tengan unión de hecho con o sin familia a su cargo y en estos casos el título de propiedad sobre el predio, se extenderá a nombre de la pareja". En el Artículo 84 dice: "cuando falleciera el adjudicatario o adjudicataria de un predio o se volviere absolutamente incapaz, tendrá derecho preferentemente al mismo el conyuge, compañero o compañera sobreviviente o capaz y en su defecto, alguno de los hijos que reúna los requisitos establecidos en el Artículo 79 de esta Ley".

Los esfuerzos iniciales de la Década de las Naciones Unidas para el Avance de la Mujer, se centraron en resaltar la importante contribución de las mujeres en los procesos de desarrollo y hacer visible su posición

desventajosa en muchas sociedades. En la actualidad, el análisis de género pone énfasis en las actividades y responsabilidades a cargo, tanto de las mujeres como de los hombres y en el impacto diferencial que pueden tener sobre cada uno de ellos las políticas, programas y proyectos de desarrollo.

Durante el mes de septiembre del presente año, bajo la responsabilidad de un equipo técnico de la FAO, se llevó a cabo en Honduras el "Taller sobre la aplicación de un marco de análisis de género" para optimizar las políticas, programas y acciones de desarrollo". La evaluación por el Gobierno fue excelente, ya que se logró sensibilizar al personal vinculado con la ejecución de programas y proyectos sobre los temas de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Se ha logrado introducir el análisis de género en los procesos de formulación y planificación de políticas, programas y proyectos, y los participantes desarrollaron sus capacidades para integrar los temas de género en el diseño, implementación, monitoreo y evaluación de las actividades institucionales.

Conforme al párrafo mencionado, 50, en Honduras durante esta segunda fase de este Programa se están capacitando 460 promotoras campesinas y 215 extensionistas; además, se está dando asistencia técnica a 200 grupos de mujeres campesinas que ejecutan pequeños proyectos sociales y productivos. Y se están sentando las bases para la generación de un sistema de información, sobre la disponibilidad de recursos humanos y materiales que puedan fluir hacia las mujeres campesinas que ejecutan pequeños proyectos productivos y sociales.

Mi delegación, señor Presidente, desea continuar solicitando la colaboración de la FAO en la formulación y ejecución de políticas y programas agrícolas y forestales con perspectiva de género y capacidad institucional. También el apoyo a las organizaciones de mujeres, a través de la capacitación, en las áreas de producción, comercialización y manejo organizativo.

Consideramos de gran importancia y apoyamos a la Red de Cooperación Técnica de Institución de Apoyo a la Mujer Rural, ratificando Honduras la coordinación subregional para Mesoamérica. Nos preocupa, el reducido monto de recursos que se pone a disposición de ésta y solicitamos el incremento de fuentes extrapresupuestarias para un papel destacado con fuerza y eficiencia a los problemas que se presentarán en los años 90 y más adelante.

Desearía por lo tanto, señor Presidente, apoyar la declaración hecha por la delegada de El Salvador. Lo mismo mi delegación aprecia la idea de los programas de intercambio expuestos por la distinguida delegada de Venezuela, que también les da su apoyo.

Art WRIGHT (Canada): We have a very interesting and important document before us and I would certainly like to commend the Secretariat and Mr Dutia for its preparation and introduction. It is indeed clear that much has been achieved, and it is appropriate that we give recognition to the FAO for the work that it has done. Canada has been a long-standing advocate within FAO of the integration of women in agricultural and rural development. We would like to explain that we place emphasis on gender equity and the need for integrating women into the development process in all of our interventions in UN institutions not because this is a standard

paragraph; not because it is simply an ethical argument, though that point could be made; not because it is a matter of social justice, though that indeed is perfectly valid; and not because of women's particular role in social development, although that is very important. The reason for our emphasis is simply that we believe very sincerely that pragmatism, development effectiveness and efficiency demand that half the population not be excluded from the decision-making process and from activities which directly affect them. This applies increasingly to the allocation of financial resources for development, which of course have a direct impact on economic and socially sustainable development.

We have consulted with some of the other delegations and we wish to associate ourselves in advance with the comments that will be made by the Nordic delegations and which have been made already by delegations who have previously spoken on the need for training and skills development, on access to education, jobs and income. We commend the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to date but we believe, as has been mentioned, that more is required. We would, however, particularly like to commend the Director-General for maintaining the level of resources allocated to WID despite the tight financial situation. This is a clear signal of the continuing high priority and importance that Member Nations attach to the Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Development.

Given the progress that has been made we believe that the next logical step is for FAO to consolidate its systems in a way which will guarantee the integration of women into all the activities of the Organization. When we reach the point at which WID issues are no longer perceived as added on to other considerations but are fully and automatically considered in all aspects of FAO's work, then we will be able to say we have fully integrated WID issues into the values of the Organization. As an aside, I can promise you that Canada will continue to urge progress in this direction while commending the Organization as it is achieved.

If we examine the WID Plan of Action presented by FAO according to the criteria suggested in the OEC/DAC/WID assessment proposal, we see much more can be done at the organizational, administrative and operational levels. Within our own Canadian International Development Agency our experience indicates that we need to operate in a systematic fashion in all programmes and activities. We have within CIDA, our development agency, a WID steering committee, which gives strategic guidance to the agency and to our WID Directorate. We note the reference in paragraph 107 of the interdepartmental working group on WID and would appreciate clarification from the Secretariat on the membership, role and mandate of this group. Does it comprise a committee at the senior level which governs the process of integrating WID into all aspects of the activities of FAO? Paragraph 38 says gender concerns are being addressed in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects but the report does not identify or discuss what specific mechanisms or tools are used to do this. Perhaps the Secretariat could comment on how this is being done. Is it part of the project-by-project approach or part of a comprehensive FAO strategy?

Paragraphs 63, 69 and 95 refer to the need for various type of WID guidelines and manuals, including integration of WID concerns, into manuals already in general use. Such tools are critical for technical staff in implementing WID throughout the project cycle. At the same time, the inclusion of these issues in manuals is not sufficient unless it is also

included in the attitudes and work habits of the individuals who are using those manuals. Once again, we would be interested in additional clarification on progress being made in this regard.

Within our development programme we have found it essential to screen all projects during the design stage to ensure the full participation of women in the development process and to judge the potential impact of projects, negative and positive upon women. My delegation would be interested in knowing if such a mechanism exists within FAO. We have been pleased to work with FAO in its WID activities through funding of several well-qualified Associate Professional Officers, located both in Rome and in the field, by the provision of a data base of Canadian WID specialist consultants and by cooperating with FAO in its gender sensitization efforts. Several member countries, including Canada, have pertinent and valuable experience in systematically institutionalizing WID concerns throughout their programmes and activities. We urge FAO to tap further into this expertise, which exists not only in developed countries but very much in developing countries too. I can assure you, Mr Chairman, that Canada would like to continue to work with FAO in this regard.

Canada notes the comments of Mr Dutia at the beginning of this session when he introduced this item concerning the standards of women in the professional and technical ranks of the FAO itself, and we recognize that there is progress being made and that the numbers are moving in the right direction. We would however express some regret that the numbers have not risen further, particularly in the professional, managerial and technical ranks. Additional efforts to recruit qualified women would strengthen FAO's own effectiveness and make better use of the skills of women, particularly those from developing countries. We are aware that the legacy which has generally favoured the education of males and which seems to be prevalent universally has rendered the pool of qualified women smaller than that for men. Access to improved educational opportunities is indeed changing this ratio. The numbers of qualified women are growing substantially and Canada strongly urges the Secretariat to make special efforts during the next biennium to recruit more women into the professional, technical and managerial level of the Organization. We associate ourselves with the views and proposals that other countries are putting forward in this regard.

My delegation believes that the practice of reviewing the application of WID criteria in the technical committees, while somewhat uneven in its quality and approach, has been extremely useful. Perhaps now the time has come to "mainstream" these activities and to ensure that all of the documentation submitted to the technical committees takes this into account before the committees actually examine that documentation. We urge the Secretariat to further strengthen its efforts to include WID considerations in all aspects of the Organization's work and reflect this in its publications.

I apologize, particularly in the light of your comments, Mr Chairman, for the length of these remarks and, where I have been critical, I have done so in an attempt to stimulate further action, but I am pleased that I have also been able to be complimentary, because much progress has been made and we know that further efforts are under way. Canada will continue its strong support for the FAO Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Development. We congratulate the Director-General for the commitment he has demonstrated to integrating women in development issues and concerns and we

commend the Secretariat for the progress achieved. We urge the Organization to move to the next stage now, which is to systemize its approach throughout the programmes and activities of FAO, and we look forward to reviewing the third progress report on the integration of WID at the 27th FAO Conference.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Canada. Canada has referred to the need to recruit more women within the Organization. We do not want there to be discrimination here because what we have to look at in recruitment is competence and not sex.

Sra. Mayra IVANKOVICH ANZOLA (Panamá): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Le agradezco la oportunidad que me brinda de poder hacer algunas consideraciones en este importante tema, el segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo; dos son los motivos: el primero, la importancia del tema en sí mismo y el segundo, debido a que me toca ser el portavoz de las mujeres del campo de mi país, en este valioso foro internacional que sigue con preocupación los problemas que confronta la mujer para su integración socioeconómica y jurídica en la actividad productiva en la sociedad, tal como se expresa en el párrafo 7 del documento que examinamos.

Deseo felicitar nuevamente al Sr. Dutia por la clara y precisa presentación del documento, que es un análisis serio y profundo del camino que nos queda aún por recorrer en este campo, donde se requieren cambios en las estructuras para que una verdadera integración sea posible. Mi delegación considera que dentro de las prioridades establecidas, la inclusión del desarrollo sostenible, gestión de recursos naturales y medio ambiente, complementan el campo de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo. Paralelamente se establecen las prioridades administrativas que refuerzan el apoyo institucional de la FAO al Plan de Acción.

Consideramos, señor Presidente, que los esfuerzos de la FAO para que su personal pueda aplicar el Plan de Acción a través del conocimiento del mismo, representa un elemento importante, que reforzado con la asignación de recursos financieros destinados a proyectos y actividades de la mujer en el desarrollo, pueden dar un efecto positivo en un futuro cercano.

Con relación a la capacitación técnica de la mujer, apoyamos los programas patrocinados por la Oficina Regional de América Latina y consideramos de gran importancia el sostén dado a los gobiernos en el marco del Programa FAO/Italia de capacitación en planificación, políticas y proyectos de desarrollo agrícola y rural para América Latina y el Caribe.

Deseo resaltar, además, el éxito de los Talleres Subregionales sobre la ejecución del Plan de Acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo que se han llevado a cabo en nuestra región. Los talleres agruparon a todos los países de la región. De ellos surgieron recomendaciones concretas para trabajar con estrategias nacionales y subregionales en favor de las mujeres rurales. Mi delegación estima conveniente resaltar que como resultado de los mismos se ponen de manifiesto algunos importantes aspectos comunes a la región, y que estamos seguros caracterizan a gran parte del mundo en desarrollo.

Es por ello que expresamos nuestra preocupación por la apremiante necesidad de contar con datos estadísticos suficientes y adecuados para poder evaluar y mejorar la aplicación del Plan de Acción.

Destacamos asimismo, al referirnos a estos aspectos, la siempre mayor responsabilidad de las mujeres en la conducción de las labores agrícolas en nuestros países, debido a factores tales como la migración masculina, el creciente empobrecimiento de las comunidades campesinas, etcétera. Esto trae como consecuencia que las mujeres deban asumir el control de los hogares rurales e intervenir en amplios sectores de la producción rural aún cuando las políticas macroeconómicas y sociales, con excepción de algunos países, no conceden particular atención a la situación de la mujer rural. En nuestro concepto deben buscarse soluciones válidas a la falta de políticas específicas para la mujer en los países en desarrollo. En efecto, aun cuando en muchos países en desarrollo se evidencian algunos progresos, en la mayoría los servicios y programas básicos como los de extensión agrícola, distribución de tierras y crédito, por citar sólo algunos, no benefician aún a las mujeres en su función de productoras rurales.

Estas razones nos llevan a insistir en que deben realizarse todos los esfuerzos para lograr el necesario sostén a la promoción y a proyectos de apoyo de las organizaciones de mujeres en el área rural. En el marco de las acciones realizadas se celebró en El Salvador una Mesa Redonda para constituir la Red de Cooperación Técnica de Apoyo a las mujeres rurales de América Latina. Como conclusión de la misma se acordó constituir la Red Regional Latinoamericana y del Caribe. Confiamos, señor Presidente, que la FAO pondrá a disposición de la institución coordinadora de la red, los recursos necesarios para llevar adelante esta importante actividad cuya población objeto es un sujeto social: las mujeres en el mundo rural.

Compartimos plenamente el párrafo 81 del documento que se refiere a la educación demográfica en las esferas técnicas clave que afectan a la mujer y al desarrollo rural. Para fines de la planificación y seguimiento existe la necesidad de reunir mayor información sobre las relaciones entre la mujer y los factores demográficos en el desarrollo agrícola.

Para mi delegación, la Resolución 7/89 de la pasada Conferencia todavía tiene vigencia. Por ello, pedimos al Director General que continúe manteniendo el nivel de los recursos asignados para el subprograma sobre la mujer en el desarrollo dentro del Programa Ordinario.

Esperamos asimismo que se continúen los esfuerzos para integrar a la mujer en todos los aspectos del Programa Ordinario y las actividades de campo de la FAO.

Lamentamos que en el sector administrativo, el aumento del acceso de la mujer a puestos profesionales de la Organización sea lento, como lo refleja el párrafo 103 del documento.

Esperamos que los obstáculos que se mencionan en el párrafo 105 se puedan superar con la ayuda de los Estados Miembros.

Para finalizar, deseo manifestar que para Panamá, las áreas programáticas del Plan de Acción son de especial interés. Entre ellas puedo señalar: la capacitación y el análisis de la problemática de la mujer; la concientización de dirigentes; la revisión y ajuste de las estadísticas; la

sistematización de la información sobre mujeres rurales, así como también la adecuación de las normas jurídicas y la divulgación de la legislación a las mujeres del campo, y es en este sentido que continuaremos trabajando para eliminar las condiciones de marginalidad de la mujer y para poder combatir sus causas.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Queremos agradecer al Dr. Dutia por su introducción a este Tema 13. Los representantes de Colombia hemos participado intensamente en las actividades que condujeron a la aprobación de este Plan de Acción en la Conferencia de hace dos años. Pensamos que siguen teniendo vigencia las tres funciones básicas de la FAO con respecto a la mujer en el desarrollo.

Entre estas tres funciones básicas - citadas en el párrafo 1 de este documento - creemos que ahora adquiere mayor prioridad la primera: la evaluación y el seguimiento general de la situación y de las necesidades de la mujer en el desarrollo, porque el próximo bienio será el segundo y penúltimo de este Plan concebido a Plazo Medio, para los años 1989-95, de manera que al llegar a la mitad del periodo establecido, será necesario evaluar los resultados y revisar las bases del Plan para acometer nuevas actividades que intensifiquen nuestros comunes esfuerzos para la mayor y más efectiva integración de la mujer en el desarrollo rural.

Tenemos la impresión de que este documento se refiere muy poco a otro aspecto muy importante destacado por la Conferencia al aprobar el Plan: la importancia de la capacitación de funcionarios y cómo se puede transferir a los países, fomentar la productividad agrícola de la mujer, su capacidad de producción de ingresos y estimular, por todos los medios, la más efectiva contribución de la mujer al mejoramiento de la agricultura y el desarrollo rural.

En cuanto a la solicitud que en la Resolución 7/89 se hacía a los Estados Miembros de que hicieran esfuerzos para aplicar el Plan de Acción, el Gobierno de Colombia ha reorientado cada vez su política en favor de la reivindicación de los derechos y de las justas aspiraciones de las mujeres rurales.

El Gobierno colombiano está haciendo notables esfuerzos por la vinculación, cada vez más efectiva, de la mujer al proceso de desarrollo social y económico.

Hemos adoptado disposiciones para que la mujer tenga amplio acceso al crédito, a la tierra, a los servicios sociales y humanitarios básicos, a las nuevas tecnologías, a la extensión y capacitación que consideramos esenciales, a fin de que la mujer adquiriera las condiciones necesarias para hacer uso de esas facilidades a su propio nombre.

En el párrafo 28 consta que Colombia está entre los países que han recibido asistencia de la FAO en un aspecto que interesa mucho a las condiciones higiénicas y de la vida de nuestra población, en las cuales la función de la mujer es sobresaliente.

Hacemos propicia esta oportunidad para reconocer y agradecer, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, la forma atenta e inmediata como la Organización ha venido atendiendo nuestras solicitudes en todo lo relacionado con la aplicación del Plan.

Este documento reconoce - particularmente en el párrafo 103 - que poco se ha hecho por aumentar el acceso de las mujeres a puestos profesionales de todos los niveles dentro de la Organización.

Podríamos acaso mejorar la propuesta: ¿antes de finalizar 1993 tendremos una mujer Subdirector General en la FAO?

La FAO está muy lejos de alcanzar el promedio del 35 por ciento del objetivo de las Naciones Unidas. El aumento de mujeres profesionales en el bienio que va a concluir se ha limitado al solo 0,4 por ciento.

En el personal de campo, actividades que las mujeres pueden desempeñar con tanta competencia por el conocimiento de las gentes, las condiciones de vida y costumbres de los países, la participación de las mujeres se mantuvo estancada en un mínimo del 3,4 por ciento.

El párrafo 104 indica que en cuanto a mujeres consultores, la situación tampoco es muy favorable.

Apoyamos lo dicho por la Representante de Venezuela, en cuanto a que convendrá que en el informe sobre este tema, la Conferencia reitere su recomendación a los gobiernos, en el sentido de que presenten candidatas mujeres, de todos los niveles profesionales, pero sobre todo altamente calificadas, para tratar de ir modificando ese estado insatisfactorio actual.

Finalmente, los representantes de Colombia consideramos importante que, como dice el párrafo 118, la FAO colabore con otras organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas y fuera de éste y con las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales en el empeño de activar la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural, ya que la función de la mujer, en muchos casos, puede ser útil más allá de los propios campos especializados de la FAO, así como lo ha pronunciado la delegación de Canadá. Queremos también apoyar lo ya mencionado por las delegaciones de El Salvador y de Panamá sobre el párrafo 37, en cuanto a los talleres de trabajo que se han llevado a efecto en nuestra región de Latinoamérica, lo mismo que la importancia de continuar la red que ya ha explicado la delegación de Panamá.

S. NAJMUS-SAQIB (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would like to compliment the Secretariat for producing Document C 91/22 which embodies a comprehensive Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.

May we submit, at the outset, that the implementation of the Plan and the extent of its development, as envisaged, would vary from country to country, in view of each country's socio-religious, cultural and historical experiences, including the prevalent setup. Of necessity, this entails a flexible and a country-to-country or a region-to-region approach. As indicated, the prevalent milieu would determine responses to the implementation of the said Programme.

It may be added here that customs and traditions of a certain country or, of peoples have to be seen in perspective. May we submit that with this background, value judgements are rather irrelevant. Progress cannot be and should not be gauged by counting the number of women in one or the other setup. Most customs and traditions of the developing countries do not hamper the so-called development process. Attitudinal levels, customs, traditions and the roles determined for women in the Western societies may not find acceptance in other countries and in particular in most Muslim countries like Pakistan. Accordingly, the said Progress of Women in development has to be seen in this perspective.

In most developing countries, women are actively involved in agricultural activities, and in other developmental activities to a lesser extent. Their respective roles may vary, however. Out of economic necessity, women have to participate in agricultural and other activities in developing countries.

We join the FAO in recognizing women's special needs, ensuring them a proper place in society. Here, we should like to go a step further. We feel that women should be ensured a respectable place in society along with a proper place in developmental activities. We also concede the contention that the Plan of Action is directly related to the interest and commitment of respective governments. It is stated that education has rightly been identified as a priority area in women's development.

It may be indicated here that Pakistan, being an Islamic state, is committed to safeguard the rights of women as enshrined in the Islamic Law. The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is accordingly based on Islamic tenets: Article 25 lays-down "equal rights for women", while Article 34 guarantees "full participation of women in the national life," and the like.

Women in Pakistan are active in the agricultural scene, and also in the rural sector. They contribute significantly to the household incomes and to the economy. Besides others, there are four major areas where Pakistani women make a significant contribution: crop production, livestock production, cottage industry, and food production including household activities. Above all, of particular mention is the role of the Pakistani woman as a wife, a mother, a sister and a daughter, and her role in community women's affairs where, at the village level, she is actively involved.

Out of a total female labour force, 75.2 percent is actively engaged in agriculture and related activities. As mentioned in earlier discussions, overseas migration from some of the areas of the country results in a shortage of male labour force during peak agricultural seasons. However, the intensity has not been acute because of the active participation of Pakistani women in the agricultural sector.

However, the interesting part is that these women farmers and actual contributors do not get a chance to be represented at the national or other forums. This however, does not bother them as they are involved and remain busy in their daily agricultural chores and do not have time for such nonproductive affairs. Unfortunately, those who claim to represent them are women who live in the city, are highly westernized and totally ignorant of the conditions and problems of the women in the villages. A word about

ownership and credit: Ownership rights are guaranteed to women in Pakistan., Women have free access to land and credit. To facilitate the process further, the first exclusive women's bank has also been established. It may be mentioned that a separate Ministry for Women's Development makes continuous efforts to formulate plans and policies to assist women improve their conditions further.

In conclusion, we state with satisfaction that Pakistan is fully pursuing policies and plans for the integration of women in rural and sustainable agricultural development.

The meeting rose at 20.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 20 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.15 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/12

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

TWELFTH MEETING

DOUZIEME SEANCE

12ª SESION

(21 November 1991)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 11.15 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 11 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 11.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. President de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- 1. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 13. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report (continued)
- 13. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural : Rapport intérimaire (suite)
- 13. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural: Informe parcial (continuación)

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): We very much welcome the fact that FAO has for years now been working intensively to improve the living and working conditions of women. This objective is found in the focus of the Twenty-sixth Conference and in the Medium-Term Plan of Action. The general idea of improving the lot of women and of ensuring that development projects take account of women's interests, and also the insistence that development work be undertaken by women themselves, is an overall approach which we welcome and which we think is correct. In the current situation this depends to a very great extent on how we actually deal with problems facing women in the developing world.

Nowhere is the role of women in family life as important as in the developing world, and women frequently find difficulty in those countries in obtaining equality. It is therefore very difficult for them to perform the chores that fall to them under reasonable conditions. This particularly applies to the numerous women who are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but it does not affect only them - it is certainly something which affects all women who work in the rural environment.

The reasons for this are well-known: poverty, lack of a social security net, and low educational levels. It is also notable that women are seldom involved in decision-making. This goes for the area of political decisions, but it also applies to management, and it even goes so far as to the family.

The situation of women in developing countries is only going to be decisively improved if we are successful in improving the general economic and social conditions in these countries. To achieve this aim it will be necessary to ensure that there is legal equality for women and that a balance is struck between future development and available resources. It will also be necessary to put in place systems of care for the elderly "statutory", and to do this in a manner which ensures that families are relieved of the burden of having to care for the elderly. We must improve educational opportunities for women, and we also need to be more successful in improving health and nutrition.

Political developments in the last two years may have given the impression that at the moment Europe is only concerned about giving aid to Eastern European countries. Although the Federal Republic of Germany has, as is well-known, particularly difficult tasks in this area, it is certainly going to honour its commitments to countries in the developing world. We do

hope that in doing that we will have intensive and fruitful international cooperation within the ambit of FAO, and we feel that this should benefit women in developing countries.

Srta. Maria S. LANDAVERI (Perú): Agradecemos, señor Presidente, la presentación hecha por el Sr. Dutia del segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo.

Manifestamos nuestro acuerdo con lo expresado por la delegada de Uruguay referente a la situación general de la mujer en el desarrollo. Asimismo con lo expresado por el delegado de Canadá sobre la presentación de un tercer informe de este Plan de Acción. Por otra parte, compartimos la preocupación de otros miembros en relación al avance lento en el aumento de los porcentajes de contratación y promoción de profesionales mujeres en la Organización, como exigido por el Plan de Acción.

Como otros delegados lo han indicado, subrayamos la importancia de la plena integración de la mujer dentro del contexto de igualdad en el desarrollo rural, garantizándole una condición jurídica igual y un mayor acceso a los servicios rurales, promoviendo las organizaciones femeninas como primer paso para la integración de la mujer en las organizaciones rurales de índole general y fomentando la creación de oportunidades de educación, capacitación y el empleo de la mujer. En este sentido mi país ha adecuado las leyes correspondientes a fin de asegurar la igualdad de la condición de la mujer en el área rural, así como en la zona urbana y periurbana, tan importante en los actuales programas de desarrollo.

Igualmente, las organizaciones femeninas reciben un especial apoyo atendiendo a la mujer rural, recordando la importancia que ésta tiene en la jefatura del hogar, en la gestión de la explotación de la unidad campesina y su aporte de mano de obra en la misma.

La experiencia en el Perú ha demostrado que la mujer campesina es más proclive a la innovación, a la búsqueda de mayor capacitación para aumentar su grado de acceso a los insumos productivos y servicios básicos, como tierra, crédito y tecnología. La mujer campesina peruana está siendo considerada prioritariamente en todos los proyectos de cooperación con los organismos internacionales, así como a nivel bilateral, y por interés expreso de ellas mismas se han tomado en cuenta los temas de educación sobre manejo de recursos forestales y ecología, en los cuales ya se ha logrado el apoyo de la FAO.

Sin embargo, es de especial importancia que todas estas acciones que el Perú está poniendo en marcha, de acuerdo con el Plan de Acción de la FAO y de nuestros lineamientos de política nacional, no queden en la letra solamente. Es decir, esta teoría debe ser implementada en la práctica. Nuestro país está realizando todos los esfuerzos necesarios para ejecutar las leyes y reglamentos, eliminando toda forma de discriminación y coadyuvando de esta manera a una equitativa y eficiente participación de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, queremos resaltar dos acciones que consideramos sumamente positivas dentro de las medidas pragmáticas sustantivas adoptadas por la FAO en cumplimiento del Plan de Acción y de

las recomendaciones del Consejo. Nos referimos, específicamente, al Programa de Capacitación del Personal de la FAO en relación con la mujer en el desarrollo, y el análisis de las cuestiones relativas a la diferencia de sexos.

Reconocemos como positivo que dentro del Plan de Acción a Plazo Medio, comprendido entre 1989 y 1995, se haya cumplido ya con la capacitación del 58 por ciento del personal profesional en la sede y en las oficinas regionales. Esperamos, por supuesto, se complete la capacitación dentro de los plazos más breves.

En segunda instancia, nos referiremos a la constitución de la Red de Cooperación Técnica de Apoyo a las Mujeres Rurales para la región de América Latina y el Caribe, cuyos temas prioritarios de trabajo serían: capacitación y capacidad institucional, información y datos estadísticos, legislación, organizaciones de mujeres rurales, proyectos productivos y acceso a recursos con énfasis en la tecnología. La delegada de El Salvador nos dio una detallada información al respecto.

En síntesis, apoyamos y apreciamos todos los esfuerzos que la Organización hace para el logro de éstos y los demás objetivos del Plan de Acción y le exhortamos a continuar sus acciones en este mismo sentido.

Paolo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): The Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development approved by the Twenty-fifth Conference is a landmark in the history of the Organization. The recognition of the role of women as key agents of development is necessary both to tap their energies for the advancement of our societies and to promote a more equitable distribution of the benefits of development.

Document C 91/14 illustrates the achievements of FAO in this area. Much however, remains to be done and we would like to encourage the Organization to renew its efforts, adopting to the extent possible a more systematic approach in its programmes and activities. The Brazilian Government looks forward to receiving FAO's cooperation for specific projects, such as that in support of Brazilian fisherwomen in the Northeast, as requested during the FAO meeting on rural women held in El Salvador last September. More generally, we would welcome assistance in formulating projects geared to women's issues in rural development. One possibility in this regard would be for actions aimed at increasing awareness among rural women of their rights under the law, since it is generally acknowledged that whilst legislation has been extensively improved to provide equal opportunities for women, lack of information remains a major constraint to the exercise of their rights.

Finally, I would like to support the statement made by the distinguished delegate of El Salvador yesterday, particularly with regard to the convening of a Round Table to prepare for the setting up of a technical cooperation network of institutions and organizations in support of rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sra. Ana Maria NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba): Aprovecho para agradecer al Sr. Dutia por la valiosa presentación del tema sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Creemos oportuno hacer,

además, un reconocimiento al grupo de funcionarias del servicio de la mujer de la FAO por las muestras de interés y las acciones desplegadas al interior y fuera de la FAO en favor de la aplicación de este importante Plan.

Mi país, señor Presidente, le confiere especial atención a este tema y me complace expresarle que hemos mantenido una sostenida voluntad política en favor de la igualdad de la mujer. Esta voluntad se ha traducido en hechos concretos. Esta política que data de tres lustros, indudablemente abrió a las mujeres cubanas nuevos horizontes. Significando estos profundos cambios nuevos horizontes, como decíamos, en la vida económica, política y social. Ha significado un cualitativo y sustantivo paso superior de sus condiciones de vida y de su desarrollo integral mismo.

Sobre la experiencia de las mujeres en Cuba en el desarrollo integral del país, no me referiré en detalles por problemas de tiempo, aunque en las actas de los pasados Comités de Agricultura, del COFI, de Seguridad Alimentaria, de Montes y otros, constan declaraciones que al respecto brindamos a los participantes y que se refieren a los logros alcanzados y a las dificultades que aún confrontamos.

La delegación de Cuba durante el 94º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO apoyó ampliamente el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, apoyo que reiteramos en la pasada Conferencia y que hoy reafirmamos a la luz de este 26º período de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Por considerarlo de gran utilidad para el ulterior despliegue y desarrollo de este Plan de Acción, nuestra delegación coauspició, junto a otras delegaciones, la Resolución 1/94 del Consejo, que como principal objetivo tenía impulsar y fortalecer este Plan al interior de la FAO, tanto en la Sede como en el campo.

Era urgente lograr, además, la formulación de lineamientos básicos de acción de parte de las diversas dependencias que, de una forma u otra, tienen relación directa en su implementación.

Con beneplácito, la delegación cubana constata que el empuje interno que previmos con la adopción de esta Resolución no fue en vano, y el paso a la acción se está cumpliendo al interior de la FAO, como imperativo impostergradable de priorizar y dar cabal cumplimiento a lo acordado en Nairobi por 157 naciones, nos referimos a las Estrategias orientadas hacia el futuro para el adelanto de la mujer.

Señor Presidente, el documento 91/14 que se nos presenta a discusión, refleja que ya las distintas dependencias de la FAO contemplan los asuntos de la mujer en sus propios planes internos, son motivo de análisis, y cuentan con directrices concretas para promover en los Comités Técnicos esa participación. Felicitamos este avance al tiempo que opinamos que el Plan de Capacitación Interna ha servido para concienciar a todos, y ya está rindiendo sus primeros frutos.

Estamos de acuerdo con las prioridades programáticas concebidas, que en un principio eran siete, y nos parece razonable que la propuesta de inclusión de la número ocho, en consonancia con las recomendaciones de la Comisión sobre la condición jurídica de la mujer en su sesión de 1990, se haga; pues

la misma redundará en beneficio de las condiciones reales que cada sociedad necesita para la integración integral de la mujer al desarrollo.

Apoyamos igualmente las prioridades administrativas, alertando nuestra preocupación de que aún un esfuerzo mayor se debe dar al acápite 3, relativo al aumento del personal femenino a puestos de responsabilidad en la Organización el que todavía, repetimos, es deficiente. El documento lo reitera en su párrafo 103.

Opinamos, señor Presidente, que un llamado a todos los Estados Miembros es también válido en este sentido, ya que un número mayor de candidaturas femeninas deben ser presentadas a la FAO por parte de nuestros países. Con satisfacción observamos que la FAO integra a la mujer como participante y beneficiaria de los proyectos generales en primer orden y que, a la vez, adopta una línea de acción consistente en emprender proyectos específicamente orientados a la mujer. Los párrafos 38 al 57 así lo reflejan.

Cuba ha participado en dos eventos auspiciados por la FAO con relación a la mujer. Me refiero a una mesa redonda celebrada en Chile, con la participación de nueve países, sobre la condición jurídica de la mujer. Estamos satisfechos de la contribución que nuestro país dio a este pequeño grupo de análisis. El otro evento fue el celebrado en El Salvador. Nos referimos a un taller sobre la ejecución del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, celebrado el pasado agosto/septiembre. Estos talleres subregionales fueron utilísimos para la implementación del Plan, y de ese encuentro nació la Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Cooperación Técnica de Mujeres Rurales; mecanismo que, a nuestro juicio, puede tener un peso específico en el desarrollo y participación popular de las mujeres rurales en el desarrollo de nuestro país. Esperamos que esta Red sea ágil, dinámica, y que a su vez necesita contar con el apoyo de la FAO, de sus Estados Miembros, así como de las ONG.

Apoyamos la proposición realizada por la distinguida representante de El Salvador y que fuera apoyada por Honduras, Colombia y otros países, relativa al apoyo financiero a la Red para que la misma pueda cumplir los objetivos para los que fue creada. Es oportuno felicitar los esfuerzos que en este sentido ha realizado la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe.

Apoyamos igualmente la proposición de Venezuela sobre la realización de un mayor intercambio entre mujeres rurales jóvenes.

Finalmente, reiteramos que el adelanto y promoción de la mujer es una tarea que atañe a toda la sociedad en su conjunto, y nos place que esta afirmación, por supuesto, haya sido válida y oportuna al interior de la FAO, con la atención que el tema ha merecido de las distintas dependencias y Comité Técnico.

Saludamos a los países que han brindado apoyo presupuestario al MED y esperamos que esta actividad siga priorizada y no se vea afectada por recortes en el futuro. Nuestro reconocimiento al Director General por haber mantenido el nivel de los recursos, a pesar de las dificultades financieras de la Organización.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I have a request from the Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers that his statement be inserted in the verbatim records of our meeting.

Mohamed S. KARBOUJ (Syria) (Original language Arabic): Allow me first of all to commend the Secretariat on their excellent preparation of this Report, and to thank Dr Dutia for the information provided.

The document concerning the integration of Women in Development shows that an extraordinary effort has been made in this domain in line with the Plan of Action. Considering the importance of the topic, we believe it would be appropriate to take account of many different aspects so as to glean the optimum interest from it - training programmes, programmes for the integration of women in the development process - so that these may cover all the different regions requiring such activity. It would also be necessary to set up training courses for trainers to create awareness among them, which is an important point.

There are regions where there is still need for major activities - for instance, the Middle East region. Projects are still limited. There exists some capacity. There are also pressing needs to develop the role of women and integrate their role within the development process. That is why we suggest that FAO should draw up a study including a number of projects oriented towards agricultural development and to accord to women a fundamental role, in projects which are underway or being planned for the region. I think that FAO with the World Bank could finance these programmes.

Document C 91/14 lists a number of women-oriented development projects that have been implemented or are being implemented. It would be useful to inform other Member Nations of the execution loads and the experience acquired from these activities. I think there should be a special document on the women-oriented projects. These could be published and sent out to the interested country, because some countries do have projects but they implement them only on an individual basis.

Mrs Hannelore Angela BENJAMIN (Dominica) : I wish to thank Mr Dutia and the Secretariat for the excellent document before us. Mr Dutia was very sensitive in introducing yesterday Item 13, and my delegation wants to thank him for it.

My delegation supports the statements made by Honduras, El Salvador and Panama yesterday.

Dominica is extremely committed to their women in rural development. Today about 3 000 women work at least twice a week in the fields of agriculture, and agriculture still remains the dominant economic sector for Dominica, where foreign earnings from agriculture account for 70 percent of the total foreign earnings.

A little over a year ago the video system was introduced by FAO to Dominica. It provides technical advice and transfers knowledge or skills to the women in rural development. Therefore, the rural communication centre is seen as a vital facilitating mechanism for dissemination of appropriate

agricultural technology to the women in the farming community. With video the women can see graphically what problems exist and it keeps the attention of the women. The use of video in agricultural extension is very important because of our limited resources in extension, and it can teach a large number of farm women throughout the island in a very short time. Some of our women in our rural development said that what they see can be put into practice, such as understanding what crown rot fungus is all about, learning about the disease that affects the coconuts, learning how to control and treat it. One can learn, can see and hear at the same time. The video on wildlife was very educational; it helps the illiteracy problems. We wish that the video would also be effective in other areas that concern the role of women in rural development. Video is a very effective learning tool; there is movement and one can give explanations as opposed to other audio visuals where one has not the advantage. It also enables my country in the change of perception for our women in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

However, the video programme could be wider, but that would need special funding. Those video programme orientations could give better understanding in nutrition, health care and the use of natural resources in home economics. Combined with workshops it could increase further involvement of our women in participation in marketing, forestry, fisheries and local management, food processing, technical training in horticulture as well as in aquaculture, animal production and husbandry, health care and sanitation, land reform and soil. Today the video is one of the most modern tools to make close contact on a face-to-face basis.

Through its expansion, Dominica could further benefit from it, as well as all the Caricom countries and Central and South America. It could be used in the sub-regional workshops of RLAC where it would be of help to identify the mechanism for the implementation at national and sub-regional level.

Now only actions in terms of technical assistance and funding are needed to enhance better understanding and collaboration between our women in the rural development on one hand and the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development on the other.

My delegation wishes to express its full approval for the endorsement of the document C 91/14.

On the document C 91/22, my delegation did not intervene because of paragraph 11 well outlined by Mr Dutia. However, my delegation appreciates the guidelines given by FAO as it helps us to confront our objectives in achieving our goals. My delegation also hopes that FAO will continue in its strong efforts to help all governments of Member Nations to implement the Plan of Action.

Ms Bilgi YÜCEL (Turkey): Being a developing country in which most of the farm work is done by women, Turkey fully supports FAO's activities on Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development.

In Turkey, even though females in rural areas are responsible for works such as animal care, small-scale crop production, sowing, hoeing, thinning, irrigation, harvesting, food processing, storage and marketing in small households, their training in these fields has been neglected and all the

agricultural extension and training activities have been concentrated on male farmers. The training received by farmers' wives and daughters relate to birth control, sewing, knitting, canning, cooking or handicrafts rather than the agricultural activities they actually performed on the farm. Having realized the need for including women in agricultural extension programmes, a big agricultural extension and applied research project was started in 1990, which aims at training rural women in crops, animal production and care, food processing, storage and marketing by posting a women extension agent in a group of villages and supplying her with information through subject matter specialists.

Two other rural development projects which have income-generating activities as main components were initiated. These developments fall within the requirements of Resolution 7/89, being examples of the progress achieved on integration of WID in member countries.

Turkey can be proud of certain developments which have taken place during the last fifty years. Now there are numerous Turkish women who are parliamentarians, administrators in public or private organizations, all contributing to the development of the country. The agrarian women, however, need further training in certain fields, but fortunately they do not encounter any problem on access to land ownership, credit and membership in development organizations and cooperatives. So these factors are no longer constraints to their integration into development activities.

After this short summary of developments in Turkey, my delegation would like to comment on the Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.

The eight programme priorities for implementing the Plan of Action are well thought-out. However, when one looks at the first programme priority, which is Training on Women in Development, it is seen that the majority of the training programmes are designed either for the staff of FAO headquarters or regional offices. The number of staff members to be trained by the end of 1991 is planned to be 1 200. My delegation thinks that more weight and importance should be given to the field for training the project coordinators, the relevant staff of member countries and the trainers who in turn will train the extension workers. Among the activities under technical training for women, it is seen that the women participant ratios are very low in training programmes at the professional level. But the Agriculture Department has to be acknowledged for a number of well-identified projects, such as the ones implemented in Nepal, India, the Gambia and others.

The delegation of Turkey thinks that for better integration of women in field programme activities each country should work out a national strategy for itself, because one fixed model may not be successful in every member country due to cultural, social and economic differences. It would be very useful in deriving lessons if member countries could be informed by relevant FAO departments of the results of projects and programmes carried out in different countries for women in agricultural and rural development.

Another strategy we have picked from the report is the need to revise the agricultural education curricula, adapt the holistic approach and continue addressing agriculture to village women. However, the key factor in this approach is to use women extension agents for finding an audience to work with.

In conclusion, my delegation would note that Women in Development activities will always be supported and closely followed in Turkey.

Ms Charlotte SEYMOUR-SMITH (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation welcomes this Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in development, and thanks to Mr Dutia for his clear introduction of this item.

Throughout the world women play a central role in agriculture, yet still they face legal, institutional, cultural, as well as financial and technical limitations, on their activities. Many of these problems have a long history, though worsened by the impact of economic and technical change. We should also recognize that patterns of disadvantage are still being sustained and even created by the activities of national and international development agencies. In particular, project design and implementation sometimes fail to consult women or take their interests into account. Moreover, policies and programmes are still developed which increase the burden on women's caring role while assuming a sustained economic role. And finally, women may be marginalized by technical changes or required to bear the risks of potentially dangerous applications.

That said, we do of course recognize, as the delegate of Pakistan pointed out, that different customs, cultural and religious traditions affect a country's view of the role women should play in society. We respect these views. It is our experience, however, that when women are consulted they do aspire to participate in economic and social development of the community and the nation. With all due respect, we cannot accept the assertion that women would prefer to remain marginalized and to play no active part in the processes of change that are reshaping their lives and communities. That is why Britain's own bilateral aid programme puts such emphasis on women's literacy and training which responds to the legitimate aspirations of women themselves.

I am pleased to record here that in close collaboration with the governments concerned we have particularly successful women's projects in India, Pakistan and other countries in south Asia.

FAO has been drawing attention to the problems affecting women's role in agriculture during the last decade, but progress in this area is still not as effective as it needs to be. The United Kingdom delegation would like to stress the importance we attach to urging Member Nations themselves to carry through Women in Development-related policies.

My delegation also wishes to express its support for the programme of training of FAO staff that is underway. This, in our experience, is a key element for achieving sustained improvements. However, we also register our concern, as others have done, at the low level of success in improving the

proportion of appropriately qualified female professional officers employed by FAO, as noted in paragraph 103 of the document. We urge FAO to continue in its efforts to improve progress made in this area.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I want to support the comments made earlier by the delegate of Canada about the need to approach Women in Development in a systematic and integrated fashion throughout FAO's activities.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Madame. Your statement was extremely balanced. We are all aware that the differences do exist in traditions and customs but I believe that we are all agreed that there is no marginalizing of the role of women. Women in the agricultural sector are consulted and it is normally women who decide. FAO has been working in a most serious manner to give women what they are entitled to in all the different sectors of the Organization.

Ms Carol J. KRAMER (United States of America): The United States delegation welcomes the opportunity to address the extremely important issue of fully integrating women into the development process. We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the Second Progress Report and Dr Dutia for his valuable introduction. FAO is to be commended for the detailed Progress Report on the Implementation of the WID Action Plan and on the progress it is making after many years of discussion, like the ones we are having today and last night.

First, let me state that the United States strongly supports the full integration of women into all aspects of the development process, as producers, as planners, as analysts, as managers and as important beneficiaries. Participation by women is essential at all levels: whether policy, programme or project and whether in the field or here in Rome. The United States considers that the full integration of women into the development process is crucial for an effective, sustained and sustainable development effort and, as such, heartily supports the original seven and the proposed eighth priority proposal for the medium-term Plan of Action and the FAO Medium-Term Plan 1992-97.

We would like to offer support for the Canadian recommendation that the FAO move to consolidate systems in the sense of consciously guaranteeing the integration of WID into the Organization and into all of its activities. The goal is, of course, that WID be not only an add-on but be considered as a truly integral part of FAO's work, that is, at organizational, administrative and programme levels.

It is evident from the progress report before us that FAO has successfully initiated several of the activities foreseen as contributing to the five administrative priorities foreseen as contributing to the five administrative priorities listed in paragraph 9, particularly priority - one, undertaking organization-wide efforts of awareness and compliance. We agree with the statements by several people here that training is a necessary first step and it is integral, not an add-on. Accordingly, the information on FAO staff participating in the Gender Analysis Training Programme and related activities is extremely encouraging and important although we support Turkey's recommendation regarding field project managers. Key contributions of such training are to increase consciousness

and understanding of the multiple dimensions of this complex issue and to reach an appreciation of the importance of disaggregated analysis for understanding, documenting and evaluating the differential impacts of policies, programmes and projects on different groups, especially in this case, gender groups. It is important to note, of course, that training and educational activity of all kinds must be an ongoing process.

The United States would like to emphasize in the context of training and education what it believes is one of the important challenges we face in fully addressing WID concerns in the agricultural and the rural sectors worldwide. That is the lack of access that girls and young women face to adequate technical education, particularly in rural areas. Additionally we must continually examine and seek to overcome the constraints women face in pursuing advanced training in the agricultural and food sciences. We have learned that in many cultures women can be more effective in transferring technical knowledge to female subsistence farmers than men can be. While FAO's efforts in reorientation of the home economics and agricultural curricula are commendable the problem must be traced further back, back to the basic lack of access of rural girls to primary and secondary education. What is needed is to enhance the total pipeline of educational professional opportunity for girls and women in each level.

The United States fully endorses FAO's efforts to "identify statistical indicators relevant to women in agriculture and rural development". USAID within the United States government is also at present undertaking a major agency-wide effort at defining performance indicators for its programmes and projects, including "people-level" indicators which are gender disaggregated. Collaboration between the two organizations in this effort is most desirable.

One area where the United States believes more progress is needed is in the "policy advice to Member Governments" area, although this is identified as one of the priority areas for FAO action activities cited this far are limited. They concern mainly "advice to governments on the design of support services for rural women" and "establishing or strengthening WID units in agricultural and/or planned ministries." Beyond these it is critical to identify specific policies in a range of circumstances that may be particularly inimical to the welfare of women in agriculture. For example, restrictions of access to information or to improved varieties or to inputs may exclude women from participation. In addition price policies, including price controls on food crops or other agricultural products produced by women may adversely affect women farmers and traders. Bans on exports of food or agriculturally-based products may depress the income potential of producers, including women farmers. Conversely, policies designed to promote the expansion of non-traditional exports may tend to generate jobs for women. Policies encouraging inter-cropping can increase family income and nutrition if planned within the policies and constraints of rural women. In each case the key point is performing an analysis that is disaggregated enough to shed light on impacts according to gender and other relevant groups.

The United States believes that marketing and trade issues, including the informal sector and cottage processing of agricultural products should also receive more specific attention as relevant to potentially enhancing the role of women in agricultural in rural areas. Agro-business and non-traditional exports, for example, have been identified as priority sectors

for the United States bilateral programme. In general we believe that market-driven agricultural development can rebound to the benefit of women in rural areas so long as access to inputs, including credit and land as well as product markets is unimpeded. FAO's focus on, and identification of, government policies and regulations that interfere with market forces and access to resources could help in this regard.

We reiterate the importance mentioned by several delegates of integrating discussion of gender concerns into all FAO agenda topics, including those of the technical and regional committees. We also look forward to sustained progress in recruiting and incorporating qualified women in all important aspects of FAO's own activities and management.

We end by commending FAO for the important progress made thus far and by encouraging FAO to continue in the systematic integration of WID objectives in all aspects of the institution's undertakings, including FAO staffing at all levels.

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): The Australian delegation would like to respond to the document C 91/14 by commenting on implementation of the Plan at country level, at departmental level, and in terms of Australia's own programmes for women in development.

At the country level Australia welcomes the recognition that FAO has granted to the critical role of women in agriculture through the development of this Plan of Action. Therefore, we are pleased to see the very detailed reporting on progress in its implementation.

Australia is broadly in sympathy with the prioritized components of the WID integration strategy, particularly the multi-faceted approach which addresses organizational, governmental and field constraints. However, we would like to see evidence of consultation with women in the design stages of projects to ensure that women are not just passive recipients of development.

At the departmental level the Australian delegation commends FAO's efforts to document levels of WID integration in key priority areas within the Organization. While levels of female participation are still low by international standards the document would provide a base level for future improvement. We urge FAO to define further incremental targets for gender equity, as the United Nations has done.

Women are key participants in and beneficiaries from Australia's development cooperation programme. The Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) has a Women in Development policy which provides for women's needs to be considered in the programme, that women should be consulted and involved in decision-making and that women should have a more equitable share in access to resources and benefits. Further information about AIDAB's programmes as they relate to Women in Development are contained in the document "Women in the Aid Programme 1991-92 Budget" which I would be happy to make available.

The Australian government offers gender analysis training to its development assistance personnel in AIDAB. This has been found to be useful in sensitizing staff to WID issues. Therefore, we support and encourage

similar training in FAO. This alone, of course, will not ensure WID integration, however, it is an essential first step. Attention must also be paid to sensitization of consultants and to discussions with cooperating governments. WID guidelines must be introduced in a systematic way for each aspect of programme/project development to enable women to participate in and benefit from development.

We look forward to future progress reports on this action programme and would encourage this practice as a regular part of the Conference.

Mme Evelyne SENG SUWAN (France): Lors de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence en novembre 1989, la délégation française a soutenu sans réserve les orientations du plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

Je limiterai cette intervention à quelques brefs commentaires sur le rapport d'activités qui est soumis à notre examen.

Ce document permet de constater une réelle évolution au sein de l'Organisation des personnels et moyens nécessaires à la prise en compte "des femmes dans le développement" dans ses programmes.

Nous nous félicitons tout particulièrement des efforts réalisés pour la formation du personnel, notamment pour l'analyse des statistiques différenciées par sexe.

Nous approuvons également l'analyse qui tente à favoriser l'intégration des femmes dans les projets de développement en intégrant cette dimension socio-économique dès l'identification du projet et jusqu'à son évaluation plutôt que de soutenir des petits projets spécifiques qui risquent à terme de les marginaliser.

Nous souhaitons que la priorité à la formation technique soit maintenue, car reconnaître la place des femmes dans la production et l'améliorer, c'est lui donner les moyens de produire mieux et plus.

J'insisterai également sur la nécessaire coordination et concertation avec les partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux. A cet égard, je souhaiterais savoir si les programmes d'information et de sensibilisation de la FAO en faveur des gouvernements africains sont faits en collaboration avec l'UNIFEM.

L'amélioration de la place de la femme est également une priorité de l'action de la France en faveur des pays en développement. A cet effet, elle envisage d'étudier spécifiquement le rôle économique des femmes dans les rapports de présentation des projets de développement qu'ils mettent en oeuvre. Ainsi, la dimension "femmes et développement" sera prise en compte dès la conception du projet jusqu'à son évaluation.

Cette étape significative pour l'intégration des femmes dans les projets de développement sera accompagnée d'autres initiatives en matière de formation et d'élaboration d'indicateurs statistiques.

Avant de terminer, la France souhaite s'associer pleinement à la demande de la délégation canadienne pour que la dimension femmes soit prise en compte systématiquement dans les programmes et activités de l'Organisation.

Ms Gunilla KURTEN (Finland): Mr Chairman, I am afraid I shall not be very brief but then I shall be speaking on behalf of four countries - Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

The Nordic countries first of all wish to reiterate their endorsement of the objectives of the Plan of Action as described in paragraph 7 of the Progress Report, i.e. to bring about change in order to ensure that, in FAO's sphere of responsibility, women are accorded equal rights and opportunities and that their potential contribution is put to use by their societies.

When presented to Council in November 1988, the Plan was considered very comprehensive, and since everything in it could not be implemented at once, because of limited resources, it was found necessary to agree upon certain priorities. This was done through the adoption of Council Resolution 1/94 and later on both the Plan and the priorities were endorsed by Conference through Conference Resolution 7/89.

Among the priorities agreed upon was the Training of Women in Development. The Nordic countries have stated before, and are still of the opinion, that the FAO staff training should be the first priority, because the increased ability of FAO staff to understand women in development issues, and apply gender analysis, is, in a way, a prerequisite for all the other activities included in the Plan.

We are therefore very pleased to see from the Progress Report that an intensive staff training programme has been carried out both at Headquarters and in the field, and that the intention is to continue the training programme so that by the end of the present biennium all the staff concerned have been trained. The training programme should not, of course, end after the first intensive phase. There will always be new staff members that need to be trained. As more and more experiences are gained from the implementation of the Plan, new ideas on how to integrate women in development even more effectively will emerge, and old ideas will be refined. Renewed training of the present staff will consequently also be necessary.

The FAO staff training programme seems to have been very carefully designed on the basis of assessment studies and the experiences of other organizations and institutions, and then tested before being finalized. Evaluations of each workshop have also been used to modify materials and/or presentations. This is all highly commendable. Of particular importance now is, in our view, the six-month follow-up evaluation, because that measures the impact of the training. We would therefore very much appreciate hearing about the results of this evaluation at a later stage.

Naturally we are also pleased to note the efforts described in paragraphs 24-34 to include more women participants in FAO-sponsored training programmes, and to organize training of concerned government officials at various levels in Women in Development issues. We are not,

however, given any indication of how much the participation of women has actually increased as a result of the first mentioned effort.

As regards the new, eighth priority proposed to be included with the seven original ones, namely Sustainable Development, Natural Resource Management and Environment, the Nordic countries endorse this wholeheartedly. Particular attention should, in this connection, be paid to the aspects that so far have been mostly ignored, i.e. the proper use and consideration of women's indigenous technical knowledge and women's role in resource management, prevention of degradation and conservation, as the Nordic countries pointed out at COAG in April 1991.

Progress has also been made in most of the other seven "old" priority areas, especially those where the activities have been carried out at FAO's initiative and mainly by FAO itself, and this is quite natural during the initial phase. Like the FAO staff training, the Women in Development guidelines and manuals, data collection and research studies can, in some ways, be considered prerequisites for the activities in the other areas, in the sense that they provide the necessary tools and the basis for these. Therefore, the order of priorities that has thus developed is quite logical.

However, as regards monitoring it seems to us that the system needs to be developed much further to ensure the move from emphasis on quantity, i.e. the number of inputs, to quality considerations, i.e. the effectiveness of the inputs.

In this connection we also wish to refer once more to our statement at COAG in April 1991, where we stressed the danger of a "separatist" approach and the importance of integrating the above mentioned activities and their outputs in the planning and implementation of FAO mainstream programmes and projects. We also asked many question about how the gender approach has actually been institutionalized and made operational within FAO, questions which have not yet been satisfactorily answered.

In that same statement we pointed out that "participants" and "beneficiaries" are not necessarily interchangeable concepts. When reading the Progress Report, particularly the chapter on Project Development and Monitoring comprising paragraphs 38-57, we are not convinced that the necessary distinction is always made, and wish to draw attention to this fundamental issue.

In addition to the seven programmatic priorities, five administrative priorities were endorsed by the FAO Governing Bodies. One of these was increasing female staff, in which also some progress has been made. It is admitted, however, that the overall percentage of women in the Organization is still far from the UN target of 35 percent. We wish to believe that the main reason for this is the lack of qualified female candidates, and once again request all member countries to assist in identifying such candidates among their nationals, and to encourage them to apply for specific posts within FAO or ask to be included in the appropriate rosters. Since reaching the UN target is still far away, we suggest that FAO now establishes intermediate targets for each year during the following two biennia aiming at reaching the UN target by the end of 1995, which is also the end of the

period of reference for the current Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. Next time when discussing Women in Development issues, we also hope to see some women on the podium!

In paragraph 12 of the Progress Report there is a description of the critical areas in which FAO programme and project efforts are assisting women. The choice of these areas is, in our opinion, well founded. We wish specifically to underline the importance of incorporating women's concerns into stabilization, structural adjustment and agricultural and rural development policies. These are said to be broadened to include human needs, and we hope this does not mean only a focus on the so-called social aspects, but a genuine attempt to look at all structural adjustment policies, particularly in the area of agriculture, with a gender perspective.

One more critical area in which efforts should also be made, although it is, admittedly, one of the most difficult ones, is the area of "Legal Standards" as it is called in the original Plan. Questions such as land tenure, access to credits and membership in development organizations and cooperatives are decisive for women, since they are responsible for such a large part of the agricultural production, and especially food production. The equality of women must be legally recognized so as to give them access to productive resources, opportunity to enjoy the benefits of economic progress and possibility to participate in decision-making.

On the whole the Progress Report mainly deals with describing activities, but very little is said about the actual inputs and even less about the results, and we consider this a shortcoming. We have already asked for information on the impact of the FAO staff training programme, and the actual increase in the participation of women in FAO-sponsored training programmes. We also want to know how the Women in Development guidelines and manuals have actually been used and what the experiences of this are. We further think a progress report should include more information on the results achieved in the various developing country projects and programmes, constraints experienced in implementing them and lessons learned. To put it plainly, we wish to be convinced that we are really on the way to achieving the objectives of the Plan of Action.

In conclusion, the Nordic countries express the sincere hope that the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development will gain even more momentum after this first biennium, and that at the end of 1995 the integration of Women in Development within FAO's sphere of activities will have become a matter of course so as not to require a separate plan of action any more. Here we wish to associate ourselves with what the Canadian delegation said about the need to approach Women in Development in a systematic fashion in all programmes and activities. Some optimism is warranted by the fact that in the proposed Medium term Plan for 1992-97, closing the gender gap is included among the challenges, and Women in Development is dealt with rather extensively in Part II as one of the widely supported thematic and cross-sectoral priorities.

However, there have been many impressive plans regarding the integration of Women in Development prepared by different organizations and institutions during the last fifteen years, but the concrete results of the plans have been rather limited. What is needed now on all fronts is a much more definite move from plans to actions that achieve concrete results.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Korean delegation has requested that their intervention be included in the verbatim record.

Jerome O'SHEA (Ireland): My delegation wishes to compliment Dr Dutia on his clear and comprehensive introduction to this topical subject in document C 91/14.

In November 1989 the FAO Conference unanimously approved the Plan of Action and specifically a strategy with regard to Women in Development. This strategy included monitoring of Women in Development activities, policy promotion and implementation.

In paragraph 8 priorities are set out for the implementation of the Plan of Action and this includes an additional priority to the original seven priorities of the 1990-91 biennium. That eighth priority - i.e. sustainable development, natural resources management and environment - has been added and may very well be the launching pad for a clearer definition of the role of women in development in the future as the concept is relatively new and different in historical terms to the other priorities.

In paragraph 7 the Secretariat sets out that in their sphere of responsibility women should be accorded equal rights and opportunities and that their "potential contribution" is put to use by their societies. That being so, the challenge to FAO is to set out to identify and define much more clearly the "potential contribution" of women in their societies, as directing the focus of activities to support women in their roles as producers in agriculture including forestry and fisheries is not the most important element in "potential contribution" for women. Similarly with other activities such as increased access to income-producing activities and control of income, extension services and training opportunities, population and nutrition information.

There is a need to set out clearly the position of women in agriculture today in relation to whom they think they are, and also the position of women in agriculture today in relation to whom they ought to be. This exercise could be done in terms of all eight priorities, but perhaps a start should be made in terms of the new priority - that is, sustainable development, natural resource management and environment.

FAO is to be complimented on its encouragement for women through research, training of extension personnel, user group formation, and environmental education; but the sign posts to the road ahead are many and varied and may well have some effect on the application of future gender analysis. FAO is to be complimented also on its objective to address WID issues by promoting research on the impact of environmental degradation of women's livelihoods, the proper use and consideration of women's indigenous technical knowledge, women's roles in resource management and prevention of degradation, women's roles in soil conservation, integrated pest management, etc.; but FAO

should at all times keep in mind the necessity to clearly define the limits - that is, where women in development are today and also where they ought to be.

Mrs Silvana PANEGROSSI (Italy): My delegation has read with much interest document C 91/14, and would like to point out a few things about women employment in Italy.

Women's employment has increased in the 1980s both proportionally and absolutely. It has gone from 6 544 000 in 1981 to 7 153 000 in 1989, that is from 31.5 percent to 34.1 percent. Such an increment is due to the tertiary sector (services), while a sharp decrease can be noticed in the agro-industry, similar in percentage to the one for men.

A substantial stability in percentage terms, from 35.3 percent to 35.2 percent is the counterpart of a decrease in women employment in the primary sector (agriculture), from 973 000 to 684 000 units.

If from agriculture manpower we switch on to farms, we have witnessed in the past forty years a slow but consistent increase in women entrepreneurial activity: in the decade between the 1970s and 1980s their increase, considering all farms, is of 3 points percent. The smaller the farms, the more are the women employed in them (from 27.8 on lands less than 1 hectare, to 8.2 percent on lands larger than 100 hectares). That is partly why, according to 1982 agriculture census, women-run farms are less profitable, both in terms of working days (47 687 versus 61 383 lire) and productivity per hectare (2 038 000 versus 2 339 000). To that we must add that women's professional behaviour can be described as a model of imperfect multi-activity, busy as they are with home and family work.

Researches on time spending have shown that, between home and farm, Italian women farmers work more than their husbands, reaching an average of approximately 11 hours a day (five and a half hours in the field and over five hours at home) versus men's nine and half hours a day. That is why daily productivity is lower in women-run farms.

In conclusion it can be said that although women too are reaching top-level positions in agriculture, their path is more difficult and less remunerative than the one of their male colleagues.

Ms T.F. ADORO (Lesotho): We wish to thank the FAO Secretariat for the elaborate report before us.

My delegation supports fully the contents of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

We noted carefully the contents of paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10. We agree fully with the view that women's low access to credit, markets, training, land, extension services, technology and employment opportunities continues to be a problem impeding their full participation in development activities.

We therefore wish to applaud FAO's efforts in its deliberations to increase awareness of women's developmental issues and concerns through WID training programmes, research and data collection, and public information dissemination. We believe, however, that through our Government's cooperation FAO could be helped extensively in its efforts on issues such as women's access to and control of resources such as land, credit and education.

We endorse and encourage the efforts of the FAO programmes and projects in assisting women in a number of critical areas as stipulated in paragraph 12.

We also agree fully with the initiative in identifying statistical indicators relevant to women in agricultural and rural development, as we hope to benefit more from them. Moreover, my delegation supports the proposed Guidelines for the generation of data needed to perform gender analysis at the project level and for the purposes of project formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

We welcome the news that FAO was able to fill the post of the WID Training Officer, as we envisage this as a good step forward in WID activities. We endorse the contents of paragraph 24. We would also go along with the idea of training concerned government officials at various levels in women in development issues.

We have taken especial note of paragraph 35. We applaud FAO in undertaking a number of activities in this area, which is of high interest to my delegation.

Furthermore, my delegation supports FAO initiatives in pursuing a policy both of undertaking projects specifically targeted to women and of integrating women as participants and beneficiaries in the mainstream projects.

Assistance given to Member Governments from the Economic and Social Policy Department in formulating projects and programmes for women in agricultural and rural development is highly commended by my delegation. We highly encourage and endorse cooperation between FAO divisions for the enhancement of its activities as demonstrated in paragraph 54.

Lesotho's Government, in recognition that women currently provide the bulk of the labour force engaged in production, promotes equitable sharing of employment and income gains in commercial agriculture between men and women. In addition, women are encouraged to engage in the production of marketable crops. Furthermore, it introduced action programmes in promoting the training of rural women in skills designed to improve their ability to grow, prepare and preserve vegetables required to develop and maintain recommended levels of consumption of these products. It supports fully programmes which provide to rural women training in income-generation activities, self-employment and other activities designed to improve the overall level of community life.

Mrs Ruth Grace S. SOLITEI (Kenya): My delegation has carefully studied document C 91/14 which is currently under discussion, and wishes to take this opportunity to express its satisfaction at the efforts that FAO and the international community have taken to integrate women into agricultural and rural development.

During the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, Kenya strongly supported Resolution 7/89 and now wishes to commend FAO for further including sustainable development, natural resource management and environment among the priority programmes in the Plan of Action. It is our conviction that the proposed priorities will further enhance the integration and recognition of women in development.

The importance of women's participation in the agricultural and forestry sectors in developing countries cannot be over-emphasized. However, it is regrettable that women do not readily receive the necessary support to facilitate their efforts.

In some developed countries, women's access to credit, land technology and training is limited or altogether absent. Women do not have the basic social services. For this reason, labour time which would otherwise be utilized for other productive activities is spent in an effort to meet these needs. It is our conviction that by removing this vicious cycle of events, women's contribution would be greatly enhanced.

Kenya supports the application of gender analysis to all food development activities and projects as an effective strategy that can lead to more awareness of women in development issues in the organizations. However, my delegation has noted the small number of women being trained in various professional training programmes and calls on FAO to take the necessary measures on this aspect. In addition, the incremental percentage of women enrolled in professional positions in FAO can be improved, especially in the field area of operations where the rural women can be found.

Kenya continues to make every endeavour to bring all Kenyan women into the mainstream of development in all sectors with particular emphasis on rural women. At the professional level there are women's posts both in the private and public sectors. This is an indication of the level of professional talent, dedication to work and great potential that the Kenyan women possess. There is awareness that Kenyan women do not have to make do with stereotyped employment and opportunities for them are gradually growing.

It is, however, in the private entrepreneurial sector that the Kenyan women are beginning aggressively and strongly to take up the commercial opportunities which have been the domain of the male gender. Training programmes and plans should be tailored to women involved. These activities, however, are inadequate.

We would urge FAO to consider this aspect in the context of the priorities outlined in Part 2 of document C 91/14. As mentioned at the beginning of this intervention, my delegation has come to the conclusion on the eight priority items in the Plan of Action that women in some countries are already actively engaged in these areas. However, there should be more emphasis on the support of FAO and the international community to enhance women's role in sustainable development, natural resource management and

environment, which will result in better soil and water conservation, provision of clean water, food security and improvement of shelter. The experience of my country is that in recent years Kenyan women have been actively involved in afforestation, reforestation and soil conservation efforts at all levels.

My country is basically an agricultural country. For this reason the bulk of the rural population is mainly engaged in agriculture. A substantial proportion of this population is made up of women. Notably, they have excelled as individuals through women's groups and farmer cooperatives to produce basic foodstuffs. Under the guidance of trained home economists they are able to provide wholesome and nutritious meals to their families. They are also trained in family life and population issues.

In conclusion, we support the delegate of Canada and other countries in requesting FAO to systematize its approach and its activities in integrating women in development.

Jung Sup CHOI (Korea, Republic of): The Korean delegation fully appreciates FAO's leading role in efforts to promote women's participation in agriculture and rural development. I concur with other delegations in supporting activities taken by FAO in guiding at global and regional levels women's roles.

The identified priorities, both in terms of programme and administration, are addressed appropriately. The integration of women in most of the developed strategies, for example, People's Participation Programme (PPP), Environmental and Sustainable Agriculture, Technological Cooperation among Developing Countries, and other field programmes, are very important.

As a matter of fact, women in rural areas all over the world face a twofold problem. One is the traditional roles that women are supposed to perform in the context of gender division of labour. The other is a novel one incurred as the industrialization procedure, fast or slow, has been taking place. There are plenty of examples in rural areas of developing or developed countries where the lack of male-labour power has driven rural women to take a burden of new roles - farming and other related activities - in addition to the traditional roles such as managing the family and raising their children.

Mr Chairman, the Korean delegation believes that the understanding of the above novel situation has substantial significance in tackling the problem of women's integration into the rural development programmes. In this context, I suggest that the method of approach should be double-sided: intensive and extensive. The former, intensive approach, deals with the programmes designed to enhance traditional women's roles. On the other hand, the latter, extensive approach, leads us to enlarge the capabilities of women to perform the roles that used to be men's responsibilities.

I believe, however, that the designing of programmes should take different situations in the relationship of men and women in different member countries. As Mr Dutia correctly pinpointed yesterday, FAO can only help the member countries in defining their ways to promote women's participation in agricultural and rural development.

The Korean delegation is pleased to inform you that the Korean Government has launched a special training programme for women in the operation of farm machinery. It will be helpful for our rural economy as well as making the use of machines more safe and economic.

Finally, my delegation extends our full support for the steps taken by FAO in this important issue.¹

Mrs Giuseppina PELA (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): The Committee on Women in Agriculture held during the IFAP General Conference in Norway, in June 1990, benefited from the presentation of the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development made by the Chief of the FAO Unit on Women in Agricultural Production.

Participants - male and female farmers' representatives - welcomed the FAO initiative in support of women in agriculture and made comments on how the Plan should assist women in their countries.

Links with national farmers' organizations should be a priority. Women take up leadership at local level, but shy away from stepping into the national arena. In these circumstances, reserved seats in farmers' organizations at all levels will often be necessary for the time being.

Training in agriculture and management should be provided to give more women the confidence to operate at the higher level of leadership, including at national and international levels. Agricultural extension services could be strengthened by activating women farm leaders as field extension workers.

IFAP was requested to continue the close collaboration with FAO, and monitor the implementation of the Plan of Action. IFAP, therefore, welcomes this second Progress Report and intends to inform its constituency of it.

The other item also discussed in the Committee on Women in Norway, was "Agrochemicals: A Woman's View". The working document prepared by the IFAP Secretariat on this subject was well received in FAO Headquarters, as well as in other development organizations.

Following support for greater attention to the situation of women farmers, expressed at the 1990 IFAP General Conference, the Secretariat has prepared and distributed a "membership questionnaire" to the 80 member organizations in all parts of the world. For the first time, this questionnaire includes questions on women farmers, e.g. number of female members, position in the organization, special programmes and services, links between farmers' and women's organizations. The questionnaire has been prepared with the technical assistance by FAO.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

IFAP is also conducting a survey on the number and situation of women in agricultural organizations. Five francophone West African countries have already been surveyed by a female African consultant. This information would contribute to the FAO data base on male and female farmers in organizations.

Efforts are made to involve women farmers' representatives in general IFAP activities whenever possible, especially, but not exclusively, in development activities.

IFAP has initiated preparations for the meeting on Women in Agriculture, which will take place at the next General Conference in Quebec City, in June 1992. The main theme of this meeting will be "Financial Resources for Women Farmers".

IFAP welcomes and supports the FAO work for the enhancement of women farmers' situation, and looks forward to continued cooperation in this priority area.¹

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/13

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

THIRTEENTH MEETING

TREIZIEME SEANCE

13ª SESION

(21 November 1991)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji, Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 13. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development: Progress Report (continued)
- 13. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural : Rapport intérimaire
- 13. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural: Informe parcial (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Spain, Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Austria have handed in their statements to the Secretariat so that they may be reproduced in the verbatim records.

Ntigor SIANGIAN (Indonesia): I should start my intervention by expressing my delegation's appreciation to Dr Dutia for his, as always, concise and clear introductory remarks on the substantive document and for his remarks which were conveyed to this Commission yesterday.

My delegation has read document C 91/14 regarding the Integration of Women in Agricultural Development and we congratulate the Secretariat for having prepared such valuable information. You may wish to note that the expert consultations on Women in Agricultural Development and Population in Asia held in Penang, Malaysia last February had also made an in-depth deliberation on this agenda item.

My Government is very pleased to note that more and more activities are being currently implemented and we expect more WID element or component could be integrated or injected into various FAO projects in the future.

We highly appreciate the Director-General's firm belief on the urgent need to successfully implement the WID programmes. In this connection I wish also to express my Government's thanks to FAO for its assistance to Indonesia on this project. I specifically refer here to paragraphs 27 and 37 of the document. It is our expectation that the projects on integrating gender issues in the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia and the follow-up activities as we started from the workshop, referred to in paragraph 37, could proceed smoothly.

My delegation followed with attention the progress report on the Plan of Action. We think it may be helpful to think on the possible setting-up of a monitoring system on Women's Integration in Agriculture and Rural Development at least to monitor the progress of the following three important points: first, mainstream programmes; secondly, analysis of data base on gender analysis using households as unit of analysis; and thirdly, the issue of integration means "integration of gender factors in the objectives and activities, inputs and output of all mainstream FAO projects". In this connection, we wish to request FAO to assist member countries in implementing activities as mentioned in paragraph 114.

In Indonesia, the principle of equality between men and women is incorporated in the 1945 constitution, and also various legislative acts provide for equal rights in the fields of education, labour, health, politics and laws. Despite a very favourable legal system, however, there is still a gap within the full and equal participation of women in the economy in particular. This is perhaps due to pervasive influence of traditional social attitudes and customs - deeply rooted in the history and culture - regarding the separate domains of privilege and responsibility of men and women.

In Indonesia most of our households in rural areas and agriculture depend on their control over - or access to - land, labour and capital. With agriculture absorbing a declining share of the growing labour force, off-farm sources of income are increasingly important to household income. Given the generally low levels of income capital accumulation is extremely difficult, and access to credit is closely associated with the ownership of land. For the majority of rural households who do not own land, therefore, income depends primarily on the availability of family labour and its allocation to different opportunities for gainful employment especially in the trade and services sectors. It is evident that there is significant demand among rural women for working capital and investment credit for their businesses.

The establishment of the State Ministerial's Office for the Role of Women in 1983 in Indonesia could also be seen as an indication of the full awareness of the Government of Indonesia of the highly important issues of WID. This Ministry has already incorporated in its official policy the most important principles for enhancing the role of WID.

The Government is strongly committed to the efforts to maintain the successful achievement regarding the improvement of women's social welfare, through family planning, health and safe motherhood initiatives, and education. The results of past investments in these sectors are clearly evident.

With regard to the progress report on technical training for women, we are pleased to note paragraphs 24-29 of the document.

We also note with appreciation the progress of activities in data collection, research studies, communication and public information. In referring to paragraph 79, we look forward to the successful implementation of the workshop/round table meeting on women in fisheries which, as reported, will also be held in Indonesia.

We fully support the proposal of the Ambassador of Colombia as expressed yesterday, that is regarding the importance of launching at the earliest possible time short training course activities or exchange of visits for young women farmer leaders.

This is very important for developing countries in their efforts to promote programmes on women leaders for the country.

We recognized that much had been done by FAO on WID and again, it is remarkable. However, much more needs to be done in the future. In this connection, we wish also to refer to the proposals of many delegations who spoke before me, including Brazil, Canada and others, that it is time now

for FAO to concentrate or maybe to concentrate more on a more systematic approach to integrating WID in all its programmes and activities. Once again, we commend FAO and we encourage them to move toward the above objectives.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): At the outset I intend to compliment the Secretariat for the comprehensive Second Report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. The document has very competently brought out the FAO activities with regard to the general assessment and monitoring of women in development activities; promotion of suitable policies, in preparation of support and implementation of appropriate programmes in development.

We endorse the inclusion of sustainable development, resource management and environment as programmatic priorities in the list of seven identified priorities for WID focus in the period 1989-1995. We trust the five administrative priorities adopted by FAO for strengthening its institutional support for Plan of Action would enable the Organization to pursue its objective more effectively.

We are happy to note that FAO programmes and project efforts are assisting women in a number of developing countries in the critical areas of extension services, access to credit, improved markets, inputs and technology for increasing productivity of women in agriculture. We specially laud FAO's efforts in playing a leading role in the identification of statistical indicators relevant to women in agriculture and rural development and in the incorporation of necessary revisions in the census and survey forms. While guidelines are being formulated and technical assistance is being provided to Member Governments for developing necessary data needed to perform general analysis at the project and national level for purposes of project formulation, monitoring and evaluation, I would like to mention that in India concerted efforts are already afoot to address the vital issue.

Information on women in agriculture is being collected from various sources like Population Census of India, National Sample Survey Organisation, Central Statistical Organization and Agricultural Census. The Population Census of India 1991 has included women as a special category and information regarding occupation status of all individuals cover their status as cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in household industries and other workers.

The census also collects data on the number of days spent in agricultural work. The 1991 census introduced certain improvements such as plans for female-headed households. Enumerators have been instructed to ask probing questions so that women marginal workers are not overlooked.

Efforts are also being made for the development of data banks on women. Many micro-level studies have been undertaken on women in agriculture. All the agricultural universities have done studies on women's contribution in agriculture. In addition, the Centre for Women's Development has prepared a bibliography for all studies in this field.

I dwell in some detail on the efforts being made in India with regard to the development of data on women's contribution to India's national economy as we attach the greatest importance to the development of statistical indicators relevant to India in agriculture and rural development. We also share the emphasis being given by the FAO to the training programmes for women in development.

The Government of India is implementing a number of training programmes for women in agriculture and allied fields. The projects being implemented with the assistance of the Government of Denmark and the Government of the Netherlands for the training of women in agriculture are in the states of Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Orissa and Gujarat.

The training of farm women through 188 farm training centres is also being undertaken systematically to meet the training requirements of farm women. To bring women farmers into the mainstream of agriculture, efforts are being made to gear the training and visit system of agriculture extension to meet the technological needs of women farmers. Training programmes are also being organized in the dairy sector, especially in the field of animal nutrition, scientific animal health care and the use of new technology for women for urea molasses blocks for cattle. More and more women are going in for agricultural education. In certain agriculture universities, the number of girls is more than boys. Not only this, there are certain agricultural schools in some of the states, like Gujarat and Maharashtra, which give two-year training to women in agriculture after school level. Forestry, soil conservation and land development, etc., are also included in the curriculum for training.

Since women play an important role in the conservation of the environment and natural resources, they are being involved actively in the social forestry programme. Women collect fuel and fodder for which sometimes they have to travel long distances, and, for this reason, they are keenly interested in planting quick-growing trees around the house and on the bunds of their fields.

Similarly, in the development of waste land women play an important role. In Rajasthan, where waste lands have been allotted to women's groups, they have turned them into beautiful forests. The Chipko Movement of Uttar Pradesh has created a sensation. Women have taken a great lead in this movement to conserve the forests and plant more trees.

My delegation expresses the hope that FAO, as a result of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Women in Development, and also working under the aegis of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the System-wide Medium-Term Plan on Women, and in coordination with other UN agencies and international NGOs, will continue to strive for the greater integration of women in development.

P.A.D. TER WEEL (Netherlands): Mr Chairman, I have forwarded the statement of the Netherlands to the Secretariat for inclusion in the verbatim and in the interests of time I will at this stage merely put forward two questions. One concerns training and the other the integration of gender issues.

Since WID training in the FAO remains an important activity, I would like to ask whether the quality of that training could be improved on an on-going basis? Could you bring the training closer to the work of the divisions and the units within FAO. We would appreciate very much knowing whether you can pay more attention to this qualitative aspect of training in your next report.

My second question is whether it is possible - and this relates also to the points that have been raised by Canada and the Finnish delegate on behalf of the Nordic countries - to look forward to a more systematic integration of gender issues and Women in Development expertise in ongoing and new FAO programmes and projects, including the use of participative rural appraisal methods to involve rural women and women's organizations in rural and agricultural development programmes and projects?

Mr Chairman, the second progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development gives a good overview of the number of actions taken by FAO in pursuit of the priorities of the plan. It shows that the former old approach of supporting mainly specific projects for women has now definitely been left. The emphasis is now on the integration of women into the mainstream of agricultural development.

Experience teaches us the complexities of this process. To include gender specific issues in our work requires a reorientation of values and attitudes, of structures and procedures within our institutions. The report and Mr Dutia's introduction shows that FAO makes some progress but there is still much work to do.

Although the report gives a good description of the number of activities undertaken - especially the gender training of FAO staff - it fails to substantiate to describe the changing process that is taking place. I regret to say so, the Netherlands at this very moment is still being approached by FAO and its Member Governments to support technical projects lacking adequate information about the role of women, women farmers, women's organizations in the specific field the project is addressing.

This concerns projects submitted for financing by the Netherlands government. But how about the work done by the different sectoral Divisions and Services in their information gathering, studies, policy advices, project identification, agricultural sector policy surveys? Has Women in Development expertise got a full and equal position in new activities taking place? The reporting needs to be more analytical, and straightforward in this respect. We really look forward in the next report what changes in the work of the respective Divisions and Services have taken place. This should not just be the task and be a burden to the Unit dealing with Women in Agricultural Development but should be an integral part of the reporting and internal evaluation of the Divisions or Services concerned.

Questions to be addressed should be: (in the perception of the coordinating unit or the interdepartmental WID group mentioned):

how far gender issues have been included and have become an integral part of the policy advice and programmes of these divisions;

- what are the bottlenecks and barriers to include gender issues and how could these be overcome
- conflicts of interest should be mentioned and discussed

Let me mention a few points regarding the integration of women within the work of FAO as perceived by the Netherlands. Due to the sectoral way FAO is organized it is difficult for a coordinating unit to influence the activities of other services. The work is organized in such a way that the services identify, design and monitor their own field activities. This historically grown structure hampers a more integrated approach in rural development. Interdepartmental task forces have been set up to counteract this tendency and ensure better coordination and multi-disciplinary input. We would be interested to get a better insight on the effectiveness of task forces as an instrument for integration of the gender dimension into programmes and projects.

Another related point is the fact that still most of FAO's services, most of all the Agriculture Department have a mainly technical approach to development, whereas the integration of gender essentially implicates thorough attention of social and cultural dimensions of development especially when it comes to the question of involvement of women and women's organizations in decision making, and carrying out participatory rural appraisal methods where women are equally involved in identifying and articulating their own needs.

Also in ongoing activities women and WID expertise should be strongly present in reformulation and adjusting these activities explicitly including gender issues.

A third point is the important task of strengthening the gender knowledge within Ministries of Agriculture. This dimension should play a major role in policy advice on agricultural programmes that is given to Member Governments.

Let me conclude with two concrete requests:

(1). Since WID training remains an important activity will the quality of that training be improved on an ongoing basis? Can you bring the WID training closer to the work of the Divisions and Units within FAO. Can you pay more attention to the qualitative aspects of the training in your next reporting.

(2) Will there be a more systematic integration of gender issues and WID expertise in ongoing and new FAO programmes and projects including the use of participative rural appraisal methods to involve rural women and women's organizations in rural and agricultural development programmes and projects?

Thank you, Mr Chairman.¹

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

Mme Josefa Coelho DA CRUZ (Angola): A l'issue de la vingt-cinquième session en 1989, la Conférence, après avoir entériné le Plan d'action et les priorités identifiés dans le Rapport d'activité sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, avait confié au Directeur général un certain nombre de tâches et avait demandé aux gouvernements des Etats Membres à travers la Résolution 7/89 de déployer tous les efforts possibles afin de mettre en oeuvre ce Plan d'action et de fournir périodiquement des informations sur les progrès réalisés dans ce domaine au niveau national.

Le document C 91/14 que le Secrétariat a soumis à notre appréciation nous montre les priorités qui ont été tracées tant dans le domaine de la programmation que dans le domaine administratif. Une description intéressante et utile est faite sur la mise en oeuvre des trois fonctions fondamentales de la FAO en ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes dans le développement. Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour ce travail combien louable et M. Dutia pour son exposé.

Parmi les huit priorités identifiées, la délégation angolaise considère que la formation et la vulgarisation sont la base de tout développement de l'agriculture d'un pays comme le sien. Depuis plusieurs années, le gouvernement de mon pays a déclenché une bataille de grande envergure pour combattre l'analphabétisme dans le milieu rural et même dans les grandes villes.

Dans le secteur de la santé, par exemple, puisqu'il n'existe pas assez d'hôpitaux ni de maternités par manque de fonds, le Ministère de la santé, avec l'appui de l'OMS, organise régulièrement des cours de formation pour les sages - femmes, leur enseignant les premiers secours à donner aux femmes enceintes et parfois comment les aider à accoucher. Des résultats positifs ont déjà été enregistrés.

Dans le souci de l'intégration de la femme dans tous les secteurs de développement, mon gouvernement vient de créer un secrétariat d'Etat pour la promotion de la femme. Ainsi, mieux que quiconque, les femmes doivent prendre conscience de leur force et participer activement au développement de notre pays. Ainsi, toute mise en oeuvre d'un plan d'action ou d'une stratégie dans nos pays en voie de développement doit se baser sur la réalité du milieu et utiliser des technologies intermédiaires. Toute technologie sophistiquée, quelle qu'elle soit, est vouée à l'échec si elle ne prend pas en considération ce que je viens de dire.

Je crois que nous devons féliciter la FAO pour toutes les mesures fondamentales et administratives prises en vue de la mise en oeuvre du Plan et des recommandations de la Conférence. Les chapitres III et IV du document C 91/14 sont là pour le témoigner et pour nous fournir une multitude d'informations. A la lecture de ce document, nous pouvons conclure que la FAO a du pain sur la planche. Mais je voudrais faire une observation au sujet du paragraphe 24. On constate que le pourcentage des femmes ayant participé aux programmes de formation organisés par la FAO au Siège, dans les bureaux régionaux et dans les Etats Membres est très bas puisqu'il ne représente qu'une moyenne de 9,5 pour cent. Les paragraphes 26 et 33 viennent d'ailleurs confirmer mes propos. Dans l'ensemble, ce pourcentage ne dépasse pas 15 pour cent. Existe-t-il une justification à cela?

La délégation angolaise reconnaît le rôle et les efforts de la FAO qui a engagé la majorité de ses organes directeurs dans tous les programmes d'activité qui intéressent l'intégration de la femme dans le développement. Ma délégation encourage la FAO dans ces activités mais elle croit que, pour réussir, l'Organisation a besoin de ressources extrabudgétaires. C'est pourquoi ma délégation lance un vibrant appel à tous les pays membres qui croient fermement que le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement n'est pas un document de plus, à oublier dans les tiroirs de nos bureaux, pour qu'ils fournissent des ressources budgétaires. Le Chef de la délégation angolaise l'a bien souligné dans la déclaration qu'il a prononcée en séance plénière.

Hier, en prenant la parole, la représentante du Venezuela a exprimé d'une manière spontanée ce que ressentent les femmes travailleuses, les femmes du monde rural, les mères de famille. Elle a longuement parlé de la situation de la femme au Venezuela. Il existe une similitude entre les femmes de son continent, de l'Afrique et d'autres continents.

En conclusion, j'appuie tout ce qu'elle a dit et sa suggestion de faire convoquer par la FAO une réunion de femmes des pays en voie de développement dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. J'appuie également la suggestion de la représentante d'El Salvador.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): First, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of document C 91/14 concerning the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

Second, my delegation would like to mention some points on this matter. I will do my best to keep my statement brief, as you require.

Women, through history, have generally participated in production and have particularly taken part in agricultural production. In our country, like other developing countries, women still undertake considerable work in agriculture, livestock, fishery, forestry, processing, industry and handicrafts.

The structure of traditional agriculture puts a heavy burden on women's shoulders. Women make up a vast part of the agricultural labour force and are carrying out responsibilities in small agricultural units, livestock production, marketing and handicrafts.

However, regrettably, the economic role of women in agriculture and rural activities is not highly appreciated in economic terms.

Through policy making and planning, the economic roles of women in agricultural and rural activities should be provided with the appropriate status, and through education and extension plans the position of women should be identified and recognized.

Extension services provided for rural women are of significance, and their roles in agricultural development should be taken more seriously.

Regarding women and Sustainable Development, Natural Resources Management and Environment, we fully support the statement presented by Mr Dutia yesterday, as well as mentioned in Item 8 of the document before us.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran intends to formulate and implement some projects in cooperation with FAO on Participation of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, and we hope to present a report to the next Conference in this regard.

Ms Ioanna EFSTATHIOU (Greece): We thank the Secretariat for the excellent paper in front of us, dealing with the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.

There is no doubt that the role of women in development is of great significance. The social and cultural activities of rural women must be promoted further, side by side with the economic and cultural development of the rural areas, so that rural women can seek appropriate recognition by the society in which they live.

In this context let me express some of my ideas about the issue that we are discussing.

The importance placed upon this issue clearly indicates the bad situation in which women, especially those in rural areas, are found, despite their significant role within our societies. Undoubtedly, if there were any serious improvements of their situation, there would be no need for a specific reference on this matter. Under these circumstances any effort toward the improvement of the conditions for women in social and economic life is welcomed.

In my country, considerable efforts are being made for an increase in the role of women in raising agricultural productivity and income-producing capacity, as well as of their contribution to forestry and fishery development.

Greek women, according to law, have equal rights and opportunities. However, many times local habits and traditions are stronger. For this reason our extension services encourage rural women to participate in educational and training programmes and provide them with the necessary information related to the use of the appropriate technology as well as with adequate consultation on nutritional matters.

Furthermore, my country, by supporting cooperation between countries, participates actively in a training programme under the Lomé Convention within the framework of the CTA (Centre technique d'agriculture). In this context a training course has been organized in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute on the island of Crete for trainers of rural women from selected African countries, providing useful information about technologies still existing in Greece, which could be very well adapted in the social and economic conditions of African and other developing countries, with special attention to home economics.

We support the eight programme priorities cited in paragraph 8 of the document. We believe that more attention should be given to administrative

priorities because organization and financing are the basis of the Plan of Action.

Mme. Maria DE LOURDES MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): L'intégration des femmes dans le développement mérite une attention particulière de nos gouvernements. Les femmes constituent la majorité de la population du monde et participent à la vie économique de nos pays mais leur rôle dans le processus de développement est sous-estimé du fait de contraintes économiques, sociales, politiques et culturelles.

Nous reconnaissons le rôle du système des Nations Unies, notamment la FAO, le PNUD, le FNUAP, l'UNIFEM, l'UNICEF et l'OIT, dans la coordination des actions concernant l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

En ce qui concerne la FAO, nous estimons qu'une attention particulière doit être accordée aux domaines de la planification familiale, de l'eau, de l'énergie et du transport.

Le paragraphe 56 du document à l'examen met en évidence la participation des femmes cap-verdiennes à la lutte contre la désertification, aux activités de plantation d'arbres, d'agro-foresterie et de développement sylvopastoral.

Au Cap-Vert, la femme participe à égalité de droits à tous les niveaux car les lois fondamentales lui accordent une attention spéciale en prévoyant des mesures qui sauvegardent ses droits et intérêts légitimes. Elle est un partenaire inestimable du développement de notre pays, participant aux activités des divers secteurs de l'économie tels que la pêche, l'agriculture, l'industrie, le tourisme et la fonction publique. Au Cap-Vert, pays insulaire parmi les moins développés, avec une situation socio-économique difficile, caractérisé par le manque de ressources naturelles, par un régime pluviométrique irrégulier et une insuffisance de ressources hydriques, où l'homme, dans la recherche d'une vie meilleure, se voit obligé à émigrer, la femme devient chef de famille avec une responsabilité accrue dans l'éducation des enfants et la subsistance du foyer.

Dans la perspective de l'insertion de notre pays dans l'économie mondiale, la femme aura, à l'instar de l'homme, une participation plus effective dans ce processus.

Nous souhaiterions exprimer notre vœu de voir réaliser dans les meilleurs délais la mission FAO/PNUD chargée d'identifier des activités rémunératrices que pourraient exercer les femmes, tel que décrit au paragraphe 52 du document.

Nous nous félicitons des efforts de la FAO et appelons au renforcement de la coopération de l'Organisation avec les autres organismes des Nations Unies, les ONG et la communauté internationale dans la poursuite des activités et l'identification et la mise en place des nouvelles actions permettant une intégration des femmes véritable et systématique.

Carlos BASCO (Argentine): La delegación de Argentina expresa su acuerdo con el contenido del documento. Asimismo, agrega que la mujer no sólo debe ser

presentada como beneficiaria y/o usuaria de los proyectos de desarrollo, sino como un agente más del mismo.

Con respecto a las prioridades programáticas expuestas en el documento, mi delegación manifiesta su coincidencia con las prioridades allí destacadas y expresa que la Argentina ya está trabajando dentro de esas categorías, fomentando microemprendimientos de mujeres rurales, con el objetivo de promover la organización y capacitación de las mismas, a fin de incorporarlas de manera continua a la actividad económica, ya que la situación de las mujeres que viven en áreas rurales y bolsones de pobreza es más precaria y discriminatoria que la de otras mujeres.

Coincidiendo con la distinguida delegación de Canadá, apoyamos su iniciativa respecto al tratamiento de la mujer en el desarrollo de una manera sistemática en todos los programas y actividades.

Por último, esta delegación vuelve a expresar su apoyo a la convocatoria de FAO para participar en la Red Regional de Apoyo a la Mujer Rural de América Latina y el Caribe y a las iniciativas presentadas por El Salvador, Honduras, Panamá y Venezuela en esta Conferencia.

Mirza Tasadduq BEG (Bangladesh): The FAO Secretariat deserves appreciation for presenting a fairly comprehensive picture on the status of implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.

The increasing awareness of the development planners in the developing countries on the potential role of women in augmenting agricultural productivity and other income-generating activities is indeed a positive development. The realization that balanced socio-economic development is impossible without fuller participation of women is evidenced by profound changes unfolding in the area of women in development. The progress reported in the document under discussion provides a good overview of the developments that have taken place with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action since the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference.

In spite of a good number of interventions by FAO and in some cases by other UN agencies in various programmes toward bringing women into the mainstream of development, overall progress does not appear to be significant. Paragraph 10 of the report highlights some of the constraints that women face in regard to their integration into development activities. Nevertheless, my delegation notes with satisfaction the wide range of specific programmes and projects through which FAO has assisted Member Governments in their efforts toward gradual integration of women in productive sectors of their economies.

We congratulate FAO particularly for its special efforts in organizing training programmes on women in development, and the integration of women in development concerns in FAO's Regular and Field Programmes, project development and monitoring, data collection, research studies, communication, and public information.

Here I would like to make a brief reference to the state of women in development efforts in Bangladesh. Recent years have witnessed some significant policy reforms and government interventions aimed at making

women beneficiaries of development. A full-fledged Ministry of Women Affairs has been in existence for nearly a decade, with subordinate departments, to cater to the welfare of women in various fields. Employment opportunities for women in the public sector have slowly but steadily increased. The Government has undertaken a series of measures to protect the legal rights of women against violence and repression. Specific credit and skill development programmes are in operation which are generating non-farm employment. The Bangladesh Rural Development Board has had remarkable success in organizing rural women through cooperative societies and engaging them in various income-generating activities. The Government is also implementing a number of population-related projects with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies which seek to improve the status of rural women through family planning, maternal and child health care and specific vocational training activities. The Grameen Bank and several NGOs are particularly active in providing an alternative institutional framework to improve women's income-generating capacity. The number of public sector projects targeting women as beneficiaries in agriculture, fisheries, rural development have been on the increase.

With a very large population, illiteracy and limited resources, the task of integrating women in development is obviously a daunting one, and involves a long process.

Before I conclude, my delegation would like to make a small observation. We have noted that the progress reported in the document relates mainly to the specific FAO programmes and projects assisting women in the different fields of development activities. We feel that since Resolution 7/89 of the Twenty-fifth FAO Conference also requested Member Governments to make the necessary efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Plan of Action, we feel it would have been more useful and informative if the Report also contained some information on the initiatives and progress made by Member Governments in this direction on their own, or through programmes supported by agencies other than FAO.

Ms Leela PATHAK (Nepal): The Nepalese delegation very much appreciates the Report contained in document C 91/14 and FAO's Plan of Action for the Position of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. The newly elected Democratic Government of Nepal has duly recognized the important role played by women who constitute almost half of the country's population, and their potential in the overall development of the country.

However, a few basic problems exist in the WID issue - which I would like to share with you and with my fellow delegates.

At present several activities relating to women are being launched in the country both at government and non-governmental level. However, there are serious problems of linkage and coordination between the various activities undertaken. At present the NGOs in my country are actively engaged in various WID activities. Consequently, a major portion of our investment - donors' assistance - is directed to these NGO programmes resulting in "unsustainability" in project implementation in most cases. The reason is that the NGOs have less influence in government policy formulation. With regard to sustainable WID programmes the Nepalese delegation firmly believes that government sector efforts and political commitment would be equally important.

The United Nations Decade for Women has helped significantly in creating awareness of women's roles and their rights in society. As a result, all the major sectoral ministries have set up a separate WID cell in order to help the integration of women in their respective sectoral plans and programmes at maximum level.

At present, target-group-oriented programmes like the small farmers' development programme, the intensive banking programme and the special credit programme for women are being implemented and monitored so that only the targeted beneficiaries are served by these programmes. This year, the Government of Nepal has also planned to establish a women's cooperative bank in order to raise the economic position of rural women.

We in the Ministry of Agriculture have realized our duty to help women, who constitute a major part of our farm labourers and agricultural producers. Studies have shown that Nepalese farm women, as in other developing countries, contribute almost 50 percent of total agricultural produce. Equally they spend more hours working in the field compared to men. Women are also the main decision makers in the household.

Considering these realities, the Ministry of Agriculture is proposing to establish a separate Women in Development Division at Ministry level headed by a Joint-Secretary-level officer in order to intensify WID activities in all our sectoral programmes.

Finally, in order to facilitate the maximum integration of women in mainstream development, the Nepalese delegation would propose to FAO that some arrangement be made so that some fixed portion of FAO's total country allocation should compulsorily go to WID areas, which we think would help to promote activities and improve the economic status of Nepalese women.

Mile Aicha RHBIB (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe): Je suis heureuse de prendre la parole sur cette question de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural et j'adresse mes félicitations au Secrétariat pour l'excellent rapport qu'il nous a soumis. Le rapport est extrêmement complet et couvre tous les aspects de la question.

Dans toutes les sociétés, le rôle des femmes et leur impact dans tous les secteurs a toujours été d'une grande importance en dépit des disparités et des horizons différents. A notre époque, de nombreux défis sont lancés. Nous avons relevé le défi de la malnutrition, celui de l'environnement. Mais il est essentiel que toutes les sociétés veillent à sauvegarder le rôle des femmes dans le développement. De nombreuses organisations internationales se sont penchées sur cette question, y compris la FAO qui a joué un rôle de premier plan dans ce domaine. C'est pourquoi le Maroc souscrit à cette action et fait siennes les huit priorités qui figurent dans le plan d'action.

Toutefois, la délégation marocaine souhaiterait demander à la FAO de préparer à l'avenir des rapports plus complets faisant état des conclusions et des résultats des actions mises en oeuvre dans d'autres pays dans ce domaine, de façon à donner une idée plus complète de ce que l'on peut tirer des expériences relatives à la mise en oeuvre de ces projets.

Kiyoshi SAWADA (Japan): My comment will be brief as usual. My Government really appreciates the efforts made by FAO in challenging the subject of women in development. We understand that women in developing countries suffer from heavy work, malnutrition, illiteracy, and so on because at one time Japan had an old-fashioned feudal society which, however, still exists in local areas.

It is obvious that women, who make up half the population, play a very important role in every society. Improvement of their position needs an integrated approach which includes not only agriculture, but education, sanitation, etcetera. Fundamentally there is a need for the development of the total social condition and of the self-consciousness of people. Therefore, the activities of FAO should be conducted with other UN agencies and relevant organizations.

In response to the Action Plan presented by the United Nations and the FAO, my Government has established a guideline which takes into account women's participation, their benefit in planning implementation and the evaluation of projects. Also, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has begun three types of training courses for women in development. In plain language, one is for government officials, one is for cooperatives officials and another is for leaders of rural women's groups. However, in my personal opinion these courses are still a kind of case study in Japan. It is necessary to train trainers. We do hope FAO will continue to take the initiative in this field based on its expertise.

Ulrich D. KNÜPPEL (EEC): We would like to thank the Secretariat for an informative Report and Dr Dutia for his useful introduction. Both have paved the way for an extremely productive discussion and obviously we also welcome the proposed addition to FAO's programme priorities.

The actions taken by the European Community in support of women's integration in development clearly follow FAO's orientation in this field. Women in Development (WID) has become an increasingly important development issue, not only because of equity concerns, but also as a result of the recognition that the integration of women in development operations is of vital importance for the chances of economic success and sustainable development. Indeed, the fourth Lomé Convention between the European Community and 69 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific, underlines the important economic role of women and stipulates the need for both men and women to participate and benefit on equal terms from development operations. With the priority under Lomé IV continuing to be on rural development, the need to recognize and support women's role in the sectors of agriculture, livestock and fisheries is given particular attention.

Also in cooperation agreements between the Community and other development partners in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean countries, the women's dimension is increasingly incorporated. The Commission has undertaken a number of activities with the aim of producing tools and instruments to assist its staff in implementing the policy. Some examples include financial support for the production of a package of training materials on gender and development, finalized early in 1991 and which now serves for staff-training purposes. A further activity in this field was to carry out a thematic evaluation of nine mainstream projects in eight

African countries covering four sectors of rural development. In particular agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and village drinking water supply. The aim was to assess the extent to which women had been taken into account and benefited from these projects, with the ultimate objective of arriving at a set of operational guidelines for the integration of women in development projects and programmes. This evaluation was concluded at the end of 1990 and, on the basis of the results, staff instructions and guidelines have been formulated as to how to ensure that women participate and benefit from future development operations financed by the Community.

Another activity being planned this year as a follow-up to this evaluation, is the organization of a training seminar in Africa for high-level development administrators from the eight African countries where the evaluation took place. In addition, the Commission is financing the production of country-profiles on the situation of women in a number of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries which will describe the cultural position and the economic role of women in these countries and will serve as a tool for staff responsible for development planning in the countries concerned.

Another injection to enhance the inclusion of women in mainstream development planning is the provision of short-term WID programming consultancies to the Commission Delegations in a selected number of countries with the aim to assist Delegation staff and the relevant national authorities to incorporate the gender dimension in ongoing and planned EC financed projects and programmes.

As a result of these initiatives the national indicative programmes, which have now been formulated for the Lomé IV Convention, as well as programmes with Asian and Latin American countries, show an increasing awareness of the need to plan for measures to enable women to participate in and to benefit from projects financed by the Community.

This in turn has resulted in an increasing number of projects being prepared on the basis of gender-differentiated baseline data. This is the case, for example, in the Podor irrigation project in Senegal, which addresses, inter alia, women's need for irrigated fields, extension information and labour-saving technology.

In other projects, female technical assistance and/or local project staff has been appointed in order to make agricultural services accessible for women. This is the case in the Mono rural development programme in Benin, the Sekoto anti-desertification programme in Nigeria, the Savannes rural development programme in Togo and Punggur Utara irrigation project in Indonesia. In the artisanal fisheries sector, the Community-financed interventions usually include support for women's processing and marketing tasks through provision of credit, improved technology and training.

Also, specific actions for women are being financed such as the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Cameroon, the financing of support to 70 women's groups in Niger, etc.

Apart from such official cooperation, the Community has a large programme of co-financing in the field of NGO activity and, in this context, conditions are stipulated that project proposals have to provide information on how the women's dimension will be incorporated. The NGO

system of cofinancing is also a means of supporting innovative activities for improving the status of women, such as actions which address the issue of sexual violence, the legal status of women, awareness raising and networking.

We trust that our statement has shown that the Community and this Organization are following largely the same approaches. We are, therefore, confident that FAO and the Community in their cooperation in development projects will be able to include the dimension of women's participation to the largest extent possible.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Nous avons pris connaissance du rapport du Secrétariat avec très grand intérêt et tenons à féliciter ses auteurs pour l'analyse très pertinente et critique (dans le sens constructif) de la problématique en question.

Le rapport 1991 englobe d'importants éléments nouveaux relatifs à l'environnement, les problèmes de population, l'ajustement structurel ainsi que l'introduction d'une nouvelle approche "Gender Awareness". Il ne s'agit pas d'une version simplement remaniée des années précédentes répétant les mêmes discours d'intention et les propos justificateurs de ce que l'on n'a pas pu faire.

Le rapport évite tout ton "misérabiliste" que l'on retrouve souvent dans la littérature sur le sujet pour adopter une position positive vis-à-vis des femmes. Il met en évidence "la place de premier plan qu'elles occupent dans le processus de production, de transformation et de distribution, et le rôle vital qu'elles jouent dans la gestion de l'environnement. La plupart d'entre elles n'ont cependant pas accès aux ressources et aux services qui en feraient des partenaires sur un pied d'égalité". Le rapport ne s'arrête pas là mais cherche aussi à analyser les difficultés, obstacles et mécanismes du "cercle vicieux féminin", et en tire les conséquences qui s'imposent.

Nous soutenons pleinement la stratégie qu'entendent poursuivre à l'avenir les auteurs du rapport et souhaitons qu'ils (et elles) soient non seulement entendus mais également suivis dans leurs efforts par l'Organisation tout entière.

Nous souhaitons vivement que la formation en "Gender Analysis", que nous approuvons vivement, aura l'effet d'un catalyseur d'un réel changement dans les esprits et dans les interventions de la FAO et ne deviendra pas une simple mesure administrative obligatoire appliquée sans conviction.

Nous avons confiance que la direction de la FAO y veille, nous attendons d'ores et déjà avec intérêt le prochain rapport sur cette importante question qu'est l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

Il est bien connu que les femmes qui ont la possibilité et la chance d'avoir pu profiter d'une bonne éducation et formation professionnelle, de participer sur un pied d'égalité au développement, de prendre leur sort en mains en tant qu'individu souverain, que ces femmes sont aussi mieux préparées pour contrôler leur fertilité et pour aborder la question d'égalité à égal avec leur mari.

La participation des femmes au développement contribue ainsi à assurer que les enfants mis au monde soient des enfants effectivement désirés, des enfants aimés et des enfants qui ne sont pas laissés à leur sort, des enfants qui étaient véritablement susceptibles de pouvoir participer à leur tour au développement en tant qu'individu responsable de leur sort. Il y a là un lien important entre le problème des investissements insuffisants dans le capital humain, en particulier dans le capital humain des filles et des femmes, et la valorisation insuffisante de ce capital humain d'une part, et les problèmes démographiques et le défi d'assurer une alimentation suffisante pour les générations futures dans un monde de ressources limitées d'autre part. Ma délégation tenait à rappeler cet aspect de la question qui n'est pas apporté dans ce document.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): Señor Presidente, queremos agradecer al Dr. Dutia por su completa exposición del documento C 91/14.

Mi delegación ha leído con mucha atención el documento elaborado por la Secretaría y deseamos indicar que apoyamos el Plan de Acción indicado en el punto 7. Igualmente nos complacen las prioridades para la ejecución del Plan de Acción. En este sentido, creemos que se debe apoyar a la FAO, en todas sus iniciativas, que tienden a lograr los objetivos propuestos.

En conclusión, desearíamos indicar que, para España, debe hacerse un esfuerzo suplementario en el capítulo Formación y Capacitación, con procesos permanentes de reciclaje que le permita a las mujeres, igualar en sus oportunidades a los hombres, evitando en lo posible la pérdida del nivel alcanzado.

Apoyamos las propuestas de Colombia y Canadá, por su visión global y permanente en pro de la mujer.

Aplaudimos la integración del punto 8 de las prioridades que incorpora el "Desarrollo sostenible, gestión de recursos naturales y medio ambiente".

Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.¹

Samuel OGIDI (Nigeria): Women have been recognized as essential in our National Development a long time ago. Their recognition has been increasing steadily up to the present high peak, thanks largely to the dynamism of Nigeria's First Lady, Marian Babangida.

Thus Home Economics (HE) was taught at both secondary and tertiary institutions for educational, health and agricultural purposes.

The role of women particularly in Agricultural (Rural) Development was recognized at the Federal, State and Local Government Area (LGA) levels where Home Economics Division/Sections were created in their respective Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MANR).

¹ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

With the present administration's emphasis on Rural Development the HE Division of the Department of Rural Development was (in 1990) merged with the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures (DFRRI).

It was assumed that the organizers of this Conference invited DFRRI hence our coming unarmed with hard statistics to support this response. Organizers are requested to note the above information for follow-up action just as the speaker will take it up back home to keep FAO abreast of development in the area.

Effort to bring women fully into the mainstream of National Development in Nigeria is being made at both the political and institutional level currently.

At the political level the Nigerian First Lady has spearheaded and ably brought the gender issue to the limelight. She tagged her crusade "Better Life for Rural Women". It has gained wide acceptance and recognition both nationally and internationally. Better Life concept has now been established at the Federal, State and LGA levels.

Objectives: The Better Life objective has been to create awareness within the nation of the role women have been playing and could play in national development.

Sensitize women at all levels to their role and importance in national development politically and practically.

Facilitate their effective participation through:

More effective extension which recognizes cultural differences nationwide; supply of agricultural input; training; employment; encouragement of more interaction among women through workshops, seminars, and organization at village level of women cooperatives.

Results: As a result there is now:

A very positive political will to fully involve and harness our female human resources in development.

Women have organized and are organizing formally and informally down to the grass roots throughout the nation.

Better Life programme and HE have been organized at Federal/State and LGA levels.

Both Better Life programme and HE are receiving budgetary allocations.

Women in Agriculture is part of our Agricultural Development Programme nationwide.

In closing, while congratulating FAO for its commendable achievement so far, this delegation will like to support fully the action plan contained in the "Second Progress Report on Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development".

Strongly endorses the Nordic Countries' position, namely to include "more information on the results achieved in the various developing country projects and programmes, constraints experienced in implementing them, lessons learned".

This will not only justify FAO's expenditure on the WID programme but will also help in the cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences.

Thank you Mr Chairman.¹

Mrs Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): Thank you, Mr Chairman. It is a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to address this Commission, on behalf of the Thai delegation, and to voice our view on this important item.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the secretary for his report on the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development. It is no doubt that women, who make up half of the world population, have a development process at the national, regional and international level. My delegation strongly supports the Conference Resolution 7/89. My delegation appreciates that FAO has put forward their endeavours to the Integration of Women in Development into FAO Regular and Field Programme Activities for the Present Biennium 1990-91. We also support the idea that FAO urge member countries to support the Technical Training for Women and Training in Women in Development. My delegation is gratified with the fact that Thailand has been actively involved with UN activities in the field of women in development, such as the International Women's Year in 1975, the UN Decade for Women between 1976-1985 and the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. In this connection, we would like to reiterate our support to the Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.²

Russell MULELE (Zambia): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to make a brief intervention on the topic under discussion now.

In the first instance we would like to compliment Mr Dutia for his very brief and clear introduction of the subject.

In the same vein, we wish to commend the Secretariat for the high quality of the report we are now discussing.

Mr Chairman, the Zambian delegation is very pleased to note the steps taken and being taken by FAO in implementing the Plan of Action for the integration of Women in Development. In particular, we note with satisfaction the achievement made in the area of training FAO staff members in Women in Development and Gender Analysis.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

² Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

We have no doubt that this reorientation will give FAO a balanced approach in its endeavours to assist Member Nations in the programme of integrating Women in Development.

While, we note the laudable efforts FAO is making in filling some professional posts with women, we would like to caution that such an exercise should not be at the expense of the essential ingredients of requisite professional qualifications and experience.

Mr Chairman, we in Zambia, like many other countries truly appreciate the important role of our women folk in national development. For we cannot ignore the contribution of 50 percent of the population. Doing so would seriously slow down the process of development if not curtail it.

In this regard, Government intervention aims at giving women equal opportunities in the spheres of economic, social and political development, amongst others.

Mr Chairman, you may wish to know that in our efforts to continue to integrate women in development, the Government set up, early this year, a special fund targeted at women (especially the disadvantaged ones). From it, women can borrow money to start their small businesses, especially those related to agricultural and rural development. I should, of course, indicate that only viable project enterprises are funded. This fund is administered by one of the Agricultural Credit Banks - the Lima Bank. Following Government sensitization of women to this fund, an overwhelming response has been received. It is hoped that a number of women small-scale entrepreneurs will benefit from this Government effort and positively contribute to the development in Zambia.

Mr Chairman, in concluding, we would like, once again, to thank FAO for the actions and steps taken to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for integration of Women in Development. We heartily welcome the inclusion of the item of "Sustainable Development, Natural Resource Management and Environment" to the list of Programme Priorities for implementation in the Medium Term, 1992-97. This is very much in line with the increasing emphasis on matters pertaining to sustainable agriculture and development.¹

Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda): Women are an important cog in the development of agriculture and rural development the whole world over. In most countries with developing economies it is women who comprise the largest percentage of the population engaged in Agriculture. Our delegation noted with concern that farm women are faced with the lack of access to land and fewer opportunities to obtain credit, training extension and marketing facilities. However, it was pleasing to learn that FAO had addressed itself to these constraints in various member countries. We urge FAO to continue tackling giving necessary assistance and technical expertise in this regard.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

Mr Chairman, our delegation had the opportunity to participate in the Council Session held in June this year. Council recommended that research and technology should take into account women's special needs, particularly the reduction of the time spent by women on their agricultural production activities as well as on their household work. In this respect we call upon FAO to assist in the generation of technology related to the processing of crops and fisheries products and technologies which will reduce the drudgery of women in the preparation of food for their families. Mr Chairman as you might be aware, in developing countries, in a home, women do almost everything such as digging, fetching water, collecting firewood in addition to preparing meals. However, the technologies used are rudimentary making work very tedious. Thus the need to develop technologies for food processing and preparation. Our delegation commends the efforts so far made by FAO in reducing drudgery in this respect. We urge FAO to spread the technology developed in Burkina Faso to other areas of the African Continent and possibly other areas of the globe where millet is part of their diet.

We strongly commend the efforts taken by FAO in increasing the number of women professional staff on its payroll. However, we urge FAO to consider the possibility of introducing more preferential measures in favour of women candidates as was voiced during the Council Session in June this year.

Our delegation noted with satisfaction that "gender concerns are being addressed in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects" as indicated in paragraph 38. We urge FAO to continue giving preference to women in some specific project resources like those indicated in paragraph 40 because such projects create meaningful impact. In this regard we suggest that whenever possible resources should be channelled through village women groups rather than individuals. In Uganda we have women groups involved in vegetable growing, pineapple production and fish marketing. Our experience shows that in groups of that kind, it is relatively easy to effect coordination and management and the members can easily get access to credit.

We earnestly recommend that FAO continues encouraging women in carrying out income-generating activities as indicated in paragraph 52.

My delegation strongly supports the notion that assistance is needed in developing training materials and in redesigning curricula to reflect WID concerns in Home Economics and Agriculture at training schools and higher education institutions as revealed in paragraph 58. My Government has already taken initiatives in this direction. Agriculture is now a compulsory subject at all levels of education. Secondly it is because of the vital role of women in development that my Government recently created a whole faculty in one of our leading universities known as the Faculty of Women in Development to address the issues related to women-folk.

Last, Mr Chairman, we support the seven priority areas specified in the document and also endorse that FAO should address WID in sustainable development, natural resource management and environmental activities.¹

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

Hermann REDL (Austria) : My delegation is pleased to note that the second progress report, as pointed out in document C 91/14, once again provides a comprehensive review of the efforts made to improve the situation of women in agriculture and rural activities. There is hardly any other walk of life in which success in work and the family depends more on women than agriculture. But there is hardly any other in which the burden placed on women, in the family, in the home and at work, is heavier, particularly if - as in many developing countries - the main part of the burden of agricultural work lies on their shoulders.

Thus when we speak of women in rural development, my delegation believes that we must not forget the rural family.

Very often stock-breeding is also largely the responsibility of women. In part-time farming, which is widely practiced in Europe, they also act as head of the enterprise. In addition, the training and further training of girls and women lag far behind those of their male counterparts, so that women have a long way to catch up in this sphere.

It is heartening to note that training in home economics as an essential means of training for rural families is once again gaining importance and the FAO supports this development.

Special emphasis must also be given to the intensive technical training programme for women in Women in Development and the training programme for FAO staff.¹

W.D. MAALOUF (Officer-in-Charge, Human Resources, Institutions and Agrarian Reform Division): I wish on behalf of the Secretariat to thank all delegates who spoke on this important subject, integration of women in agriculture and rural development. I thank them for their keen interest and discussion in commenting on the Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action. I also wish to thank the delegates who have commended FAO for the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

I would like the first to stress the point that this subject, the integration of women in agricultural and rural development, continues to have high priority in FAO's Programme of Work.

This is clear from the increase in the budget allocation for this sub-programme and the strengthening of the coordinating unit, the Women in Agricultural Production and Development Service, by the appointment of qualified specialists in this field.

Having said that, I would like now to attempt to answer some of the questions from the delegates.

The delegate from Canada asked four important questions, and several delegates made reference to these questions in their interventions. In attempting to provide answers to these questions I hope that I am also responding to the points raised by these delegates.

¹ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request

The first question was: What tools or mechanisms exist to consider the gender concerns in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects? Several instruments have been designed to integrate women in development issues in FAO's programmes and projects, and a discussion of these addresses several points raised by the Netherlands and the United States of America, and other delegations.

The first of these instruments is that the nearly completed gender analysis training programme for FAO staff has given tools and skills to integrate WID concerns throughout the project cycle.

On behalf of FAO I would like to thank Canada for its assistance in funding the second pilot gender analysis training course, which was important for development training methodology. We also thank Canada and Finland for supporting this service, Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, through the provision of assistance professional officers, and we would be happy to accept a list of potential consultants in women in development from Canada and other countries that may have such candidates.

Another means in this direction is the production of manuals and guidelines being developed in many technical areas. I will talk more about this in a moment.

The technical staff who have completed the gender analysis training programme serve on many project task forces and, therefore, technically backstop many projects from the formulation stage.

The staff of the Women in Development of Agriculture and Rural Development Service and members of the interdivisional working group are also on these Task Forces and can offer more detailed gender information as required. They also brief missions on a project-by-project basis.

Another means to integrate WID issues is carrying out research and studies to improve knowledge and data on women. The results are disseminated, and their use by planners, decision-makers and development agents is promoted in order to improve project efficiency in women in development. On this last point I should say that FAO welcomes any Member Government's collaboration on methodologies for collecting and utilizing gender disaggregated statistics and data bases.

I would like now to respond to the second question by the delegate of Canada. The question was as follows: What progress has been made in producing guidelines and manuals to integrate WID and what is the near-term plan in this regard? What progress on sectoral guidelines has been made? Some examples of these publications are found in paragraphs 63 to 68. I would like to add that several meetings have taken place with the Technical Divisions to identify priority technical areas and to define the modalities for the elaboration of the guidelines in several other areas. These include, inter alia, guidelines/manuals in population, in environment and sustainable development, and agricultural mechanization and technology development and transfer. These guidelines are meant to be used both by FAO specialists and their national counterparts.

The Women in Agriculture and Development Service is also working on a general design or format for guidelines and reviewing existing ones from other international organizations so as not to repeat work already done. It

is also planning work on a field manual for the incorporation of gender parameters and project formulation exercises.

A further question from the delegate from Canada is: What is the role and mandate of the WID divisional working group on Women in Development? It is a senior level structure that governs the process of integration in FAO. The WID divisional working group on Women in Development was created in 1986 as an advisory body to the Director-General on policies and strategies for integration of Women in Development.

This group is chaired by the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Policy Department who reports directly to the Director-General. Since the action of the Plan of Action on Work this Assistant Director-General has been responsible also for monitoring the follow-up of the Plan. In recent years the membership has been upgraded by the addition of senior officers and this has increased the commitment of the senior level management structure for securing the implementation and follow-up of decisions. The interdivisional working group on Women in Development, members also act as focal points within their divisions and they maintain close contact with the Women in Development Service for the implementation of the service. For example, they are the contact points for the ongoing planning and development of guidelines and manuals. They also review their own programmes and projects for content and they assist the service in the preparation of periodic reports to Council, Conference and the Committees.

The fourth question, also by the delegate of Canada and referred to by several delegations, is the following: what progress has been achieved on screening projects for content and measuring impact. In April 1981 the post of Senior Officer onward was created with extra-budgetary funds from the Netherlands and I take this opportunity to thank the Netherlands for its assistance. The post is to assist in screening all FAO pipeline projects in order to check content. This is done in close collaboration with the Field Liaison Division and other Divisions as regards the measuring of impact, there are two main measures; one, we have designed a computerized system of all gender analysis training.

We plan to collect the first responses from trainees by 1992 on how they have used the training in their day-to-day work and the second is the coding system which has been developed this year with the active participation of the IDWG where the coding is proposed to be done three times in the project's life; the first time is the pipeline and the approval stage by the formulation mission and lead technical division, that means the task force which is in charge of formulation of the project is responsible for the coding.

The second time is the implementation stage through three tripartite review by the project task force. The third time is on the completion also by the project task force. There are three variables to be taken into consideration in this coding system. The first one is the potential of the project to include work; secondly the work targeted in work documentation, that means the project document itself; third, personnel participants and beneficiaries of the project. In addition evaluation missions receive the appropriate briefing from the service on agricultural development on how to measure the impact of the project on women using appropriate guidelines. We hope that through the system it will be possible to develop objective measures for the evaluation of the impact of the staff training.

Several delegations stressed the importance of staff training. I should like to provide some information about this activity. As pointed out by several delegations training remains crucial to the whole programme of integration of women in agriculture and rural development. FAO will continue to focus on that aspect and is envisaging the following measures for the future; gender analysis training for FAO staff at Headquarters and Regional offices. As mentioned by Dr Dutia in his introduction by the end of this year about 750 Professional Staff at Headquarters and Regional Offices will have completed their gender analysis training. The remaining number, 20/50, should complete their training within the first quarter of 1992. For this coming biennium training will concern new staff members, including FAO Representatives and Field Staff who have not yet attended the course. The training of the staff of the FAO Office in the Near East will be carried out early in 1992.

Now we will come to the second activity, which is with training at national level. The major thrust of the second phase of the training programme will be the training of key officers and the Ministries of Agriculture and the relevant national institutions of Member Governments. Upon request and depending on the availability of financial resources we intend to train national teams of trainers for country level training. FAO is continuing its efforts to encourage governments to include women in its training courses at all levels so that the number of women receiving fellowships, attending workshops, receiving training in the field could increase.

I wish briefly to respond to a question from the delegate of the Netherlands regarding the possible improvement of the training course. I wish to give a briefing on how this programme was developed and wish to mention that we have been privileged to have the assistance of four highly qualified institutions to their consultants; we had consultants from the London School of Economics; consultants from the Tropical Research and Development Centre in the United States and CIDA from Canada and also from the Royal Tropical Institute in the Netherlands. They helped us in the operation of this training course. Of course, improvement is always possible and we are thinking of reviewing the basic context of this programme. It has been only done in 1990 so it is a short time really but we intend also to have this review.

The second point of the question, of maybe the second question, is the training too general or can it be done more specifically by technical divisions. Well, the answer is that we have trainees in each course belonging to several technical divisions. It is costly, it is not even feasible, you would not find it possible to train the staff division-by-division; you could not stop the work of the division so in this respect we have to follow to some extent general topics but we also try to develop case studies by divisions so the participants from particular divisions can benefit. So we develop the exercise from various technical divisions but with regard to training of our colleagues in the regional offices we have developed case studies from that region. For example, from the region of Latin America we developed case studies of projects implemented in Latin America and Africa the same thing and the Far East the same thing and also the Near East. So this is the extent, the training becomes more specific in the regions than it is at Headquarters.

I would like to respond to comments from the delegate of India regarding the agricultural census and I would like to give the following information that as far as the programme for the 1990 World Census on Agriculture recommends all countries to collect data on gender of agricultural holders. This information is helpful to study the operational characteristics of smallholding run by women who are just starting preparations for the programme for the 2000 World Census for Agriculture where this subject will be further emphasized.

I would like to respond to some comments made by the delegates from regions of Latin America concerning the workshops which were held in El Salvador to define strategies and mechanisms for the implementation of the Plan of Action and I really thank them for commending FAO for holding these workshops.

With regard to the network, I would like to mention that FAO through the Regional Office in Latin America and FAO Headquarters provide assistance for holding the round table where this idea was endorsed and I am sure that our technical assistance will continue for this network but I would like to mention that it is up to the countries to give their assistance to this network for it to function.

I come to the last point which has been mentioned by several delegates concerning the employment of women in FAO and those delegates urge FAO to employ more professional women and they also requested Member Governments to present women candidates for vacant posts in the Organization. I wish to assure the delegates that FAO is doing its best to select five women candidates for vacant posts and certainly FAO encourages Member Governments to provide us with the women candidates for vacant posts as well as for consultants.

I hope that I have responded to most of the points of the question raised. Certainly I would be glad to provide more responses if the delegates wish me to do so.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Are there any further comments? If there are no further comments then I would like to sum up briefly the discussions of this particular item.

I would like to make four points particularly; first of all, you agree with the efforts developed by FAO to implement the Plan of Action for integrating women. These balanced efforts have been successful under the certain priorities set out in the Plan of Action. You have also agreed to adopt the eighth priority concerning sustainable development and the management of natural resources and all of the delegations have paid tribute to the training activities carried on by FAO.

Delegations have expressed their satisfaction at the various activities carried on by FAO and the implementation of the other priorities.

Secondly, delegations have stated that member countries, with the assistance of FAO, should pursue the implementation of the Plan of Action because no success can be achieved in development without the act of involvement of women, particularly considering that women represent half, if not more, of the labour force throughout the world.

Thirdly, the majority of speakers have stressed the fact that knowledge and education are the basis for effective participation. That is why it is essential that training should be made available at all levels and that it should be made available to women.

Most of the speakers recommended to the countries concerned that they should promote women's access to these training programmes and that every measure should be taken with a view to integrating women into the development process, taking account of the specifics of each country and the cultural and social values of individual countries.

Fourthly, amongst the points that have been most emphasized, there is the matter of cooperation between FAO and other intergovernmental organizations with a view to pooling skills. This is a very important feature of development. Delegations have also stressed the importance of pursuing the dialogue at a regional level with a view to achieving the best possible results in the implementation of the Plan of Action, and we hope that it will be possible to achieve the objectives that were established for the Plan of Action.

In conclusion, allow me to thank all of you for your very useful contributions. We now close the discussion on this item of the agenda.

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.4 Forestry (Tenth World Forestry Congress): Draft Resolution (continued)
- 6.4 Forêts (Dizième Congrès forestier mondial): Projet de résolution (suite)
- 6.4 Silvicultura (Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial): Proyecto de resolución (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We now resume our work on Item 6.4 concerning the forests, a draft resolution presented by Germany, Malawi and Tunisia. This draft was adopted by the World Forestry Congress. There are three documents submitted for consideration: C 91/LIM/42, C 91/LIM/41 and C 91/LIM/41-Sup.1.

We shall now be looking at this draft resolution. Does anyone wish to take the floor on this draft?

Hermann REDL (Austria) (Original language German): At the plenary, my delegation spoke out in favour of the results of the Tenth World Forestry Congress being introduced into the work programme of FAO. It was thus with special interest that we have followed the discussion concerning the World Forestry Congress here in Commission I.

My delegation supports the resolution text we have before us. As a co-sponsor, we would like to be included in the list of presenters.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the representative of Austria. Of course, we shall include Austria as a co-author of this draft resolution. May I call attention to the fact that this draft resolution is set out in C 91/LIM/41. Switzerland has made a proposal concerning paragraph 5 of this draft resolution, and therefore those of you who speak are invited also to give us your views on the draft amendment.

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): Australia has had an opportunity to look in detail now at the draft resolution before us in C 91/LIM/41 and the amendment proposed by the delegate of Switzerland in document C 91/LIM/41-Sup.1.

We are supportive of the general intent of the resolution which urges the Conference to endorse the Paris Declaration of the Tenth World Forestry Congress. However, because this is the intention of the resolution, we feel that the wording of the resolution should accord more closely with that of the Paris Declaration. We would, therefore, like to propose the following amendments to the resolution.

In paragraph 3, we suggest that the words "forestry development efforts" at the end of the paragraph be replaced with "forestry management efforts" as appears in the Paris Declaration. This would also then be consistent with paragraph 2 of the draft resolution which refers to "sustainable management" of forests.

In paragraph 4, we propose that the words "sustainably produced" be inserted on the first line before "forest products". We also propose that the words "not in conformity with the GATT" be added at the end of the paragraph.

The paragraph would then read: "Exhorts all countries to promote the sound utilization of sustainably produced forest products and to work towards harmonious development of international trade in these products free from the imposition of unilateral restrictions not in conformity with the GATT".

The inclusion of the words "sustainably produced", we feel, reflects more accurately the intent of the Paris Declaration which speaks out strongly for sustainable management of forests.

The conclusions and recommendations of the World Forestry Congress, which the Secretariat has provided for our consideration, also gives due emphasis to the sustainable management of forests and the sustainable production and utilization of forest products.

The second change to this paragraph again we feel more accurately reflects the wording of the Paris Declaration which mentions the prohibition of any unilateral restriction not in conformity with the GATT. This change would also make the paragraph accord with paragraph 23 of the Draft Report of Commission I on the Tenth World Forestry Congress, which we are to consider today.

We hope that the Commission will agree to these amendments to the Resolution.

Finally Australia is happy to support the proposal by Switzerland to strengthen paragraph 5 of the Resolution.

David JOSLYN (United States of America): My delegation was one of the delegations that welcomed this draft resolution when it was proposed by the distinguished delegate of Tunisia, but at the same time asked for more time to look at the specific language.

We thank you for that time. We have looked at the language of both the original Draft Resolutions and the amendment proposed by Switzerland. We have also listened to the suggested wording changes of the distinguished delegate of Australia to bring the language of numbers 3 and 4 of the draft Resolution into conformance with the Paris Declaration, and we fully support the Draft Resolution as it now stands amended.

David DRAKE (Canada): I would like to echo the words of my American colleague, and support the amendments which Australia has just made in their entirety, and the amendment submitted by Switzerland.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Quelques mots pour expliquer l'amendement proposé par ma délégation.

La délégation suisse propose l'amendement du paragraphe 5 afin de le rendre vraiment opérationnel, pour que notre Conférence donne un mandat clair à l'Organisation en ce qui concerne le suivi du Congrès forestier mondial de cette année. C'est là l'intention de l'amendement de ma délégation qui se trouve dans le document C 91/LIM/41-Sup.1.

D'autre part, ma délégation a été approchée par d'autres délégations qui ont demandé de proposer un court ajout au paragraphe ii). Nous proposons d'ajouter après les mots: "Programme d'action forestier méditerranéen", "ainsi que dans les régions où les forêts sont les plus menacées."

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): We too support the suggestions of the Australian delegate, because we were involved in both the Resolutions Committee and Drafting Committee in Paris, and the Paris Declaration must be brought as closely as possible into alignment.

Furthermore, we take the view that through the extension of the proposal as suggested by Switzerland this Draft Resolution has gained substantially.

I would also like to suggest that the first line of Number 3 in document C 91/LIM/41 should read: "Appeals to the international community to provide assistance to developing countries...", thereby deleting the words "financial and technical". This is to avoid possible difficulty with Finance Ministries at home.

I would again be grateful if we could have the amendments read out, please.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have many amendments before us now and I hope that this will not add to the general confusion.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): As you have said, we have quite a few amendments now, in addition to the original proposal, upon which we would also like to comment.

Let me start by referring to the proposals put forward by the distinguished delegate of Australia who said that we should adhere as closely as possible to the wording of the Paris Declaration. However in some unaccountable way he then proposed the addition in number 4 of the words "of sustainably produced products". That was not mentioned in the Paris Declaration. I do not have strong feelings against this, but I think he has gone somewhat beyond the Paris Declaration in trying to interpret it when, of course, his intention is to improve on the Paris Declaration.

In the same spirit of trying to improve on the Paris Declaration, I think we should leave in the words "forestry development efforts" there. I do not think there is an exact parallel between the use of the word "management" in that sentence, and the second paragraph of this Draft Resolution. The first wording is more restrictive. I also was there - I also was in the Drafting Group of the Paris Congress, and I think that the idea was to assist developing countries to develop their forestry sectors. I am here again referring to the spirit of the Paris Declaration. On this point therefore I would like to make a linkage between these two amendments - the one on "development" and the one on "sustainably produced" - that is, the two amendments proposed by the delegate of Australia in numbers 3 and 4.

On the other amendment, "free from the imposition of unilateral restrictions not in conformity with GATT", I find it unnecessary. I have always believed that it goes without saying. However, if there is insistence on it, I have no objection.

If I may now refer to the proposal submitted by the delegate from Switzerland concerning paragraph (i): I think that here we have a proposal which is a little too ambitious to be accepted without further in-depth discussion. I do not want to say that we should not have an international programme for monitoring the status of the world's forest resources, but I think it is premature at this stage to have the Conference endorse, or request the Organization to formulate, such an international programme. My suggestion is that this sub-paragraph just be deleted - completely deleted.

In sub-paragraph 5(iii) I suggest that the words "the uncontrolled destruction of forests" be deleted and replaced with the word "deforestation". I make this proposal with the goal of contributing to a more sober examination of these issues.

In sub-paragraph 5(iv) the reference to participation "in the formulation of related international cooperative agreements and arrangements" seems to me somewhat vague. We all know that agreements and arrangements are usually synonymous with legally binding instruments, and, since we do not have consensus on this, I think that we should end the paragraph with the word

"strategies", so that the words "and to participate in the formulation of related international cooperative agreements and arrangements;" should be deleted.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As I said before, amendments are now coming in thick and fast. We have amendments now from Australia, Switzerland, Germany and Brazil.

Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I requested the floor to make some comments on the Australian suggestion, but my Brazilian colleague has almost taken the words out of my mouth. I agree with him that if, as the Australian delegate was at pains to say, the wording of this Resolution should be harmonious with, or in conformity with, or close to spirit of, the Paris Declaration, then for instance the words "sustainably produced" were certainly not mentioned there. I also attended the World Forestry Congress, and, like Brazil, I was personally in the Drafting Group. I would therefore suggest that the words "sustainably produced" should be deleted. Regarding Australia's other amendment, on forestry development through management, I think we would prefer the one word "development" because, as Brazil said, that has less restrictive connotations.

As for the other amendments suggested by Australia, "not in conformity with GATT":' my delegation can live with that, because during the discussions concerning the phraseology to be used in the Paris Declaration, we did indeed come across the phrase "not in conformity with GATT".

Coming now to the proposal of the delegate of Switzerland: we also agree that 5(i) should be deleted, because this is a new programme which merits a more profound discussion. For it just to appear in a resolution is not giving it the attention which it should have.

My delegation has no objection whatever to monitoring, especially as FAO has the World Forestry Assessment. Perhaps at the end of it all, if there is a necessity to continue, we should discuss this at greater length, and we would certainly give it our favourable attention. So I agree that 5(i) should be deleted.

As for 5(iii) I am also in agreement with the delegate of Brazil that the phrase "the uncontrolled destruction of forests" be deleted and replaced with the word "deforestation", because I think the phrase "the uncontrolled destruction of forests" is unnecessarily emotive and we certainly need to discuss the subject of deforestation or any forestry issue with a great deal of calm.

As for 5(iv) my delegation agrees with the delegation of Brazil that we should delete the last phrase beginning with "and to participate in the formulation of related international cooperative agreements and arrangements", not only because it is rather vague, but because of what FAO has been asked to do in (iv) if the outcome is such that it would lead to the formulation of whatever. That would follow quite logically, and there is no need to pre-empt what we are asking FAO to do, and to pre-judge the outcome with this phrase. So my delegation would like to have that phrase deleted.

Those are my delegation's preliminary comments at this stage. Of course, we will take the floor accordingly when we hear other comments.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like us to go through the Draft Resolution paragraph by paragraph, so we will begin with the first paragraph of the operational part. This is obviously preferable to amendments being made here and there to the whole Draft Resolution which are then difficult to assimilate. So would delegates agree that we should go through paragraph by paragraph?

May I remind delegates that we are looking at the Draft Resolution on the Endorsement of the Paris Declaration of the World Forestry Congress presented by the delegations of Germany, Malawi, Tunisia and Austria. Are there any other co-sponsors?

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): Briefly, if the amendment of the delegate of Switzerland is acceptable, then Poland would also join the co-sponsors or co-authors of this Resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As far as the amendment of the delegate of Switzerland is concerned, there are those who approve it and those who reject it. We might reach a compromise, but would you like to be one of the co-sponsors, or not?

Tadeusz SROJWAS (Poland): I understood you asked if we would like to be a co-sponsor of the whole Resolution, or do you have in mind only one paragraph?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Of course I am asking you to co-sponsor the whole Draft Resolution.

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): Poland generally is very, very much in favour of approving this Resolution. I asked earlier for the floor to support wholeheartedly the amendment proposed by the delegate of Switzerland. If, now, we are going to discuss the text of the Resolution paragraph by paragraph, I have nothing to say at this moment, but I shall, with your permission, ask for the floor when the amendment of the delegate of Switzerland is discussed.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We will start with the first paragraph. "The Conference, considering the importance of the Tenth World Forestry Congress held in Paris, France in September 1991 on the theme "Forests, a heritage for the future" as a means to renew the commitment of mankind to sustainable management of this vital natural resource."

That is adopted.

Second paragraph - "Recalling that it had on many occasions in the past drawn attention to the threat posed by the rapid disappearance of forests and that conservation and rational use of forests has become imperative." Are there any comments? Adopted.

Third paragraph - "Convinced that the present generation has an obligation to act as a responsible trustee of forests as resources of vital importance for future generations." Any comments? Adopted.

Fourth paragraph - "Noting with satisfaction the recognition given by the Congress to FAO's work in the field of forestry." Any comments? That is adopted.

Paragraph 1 - "Fully endorses the Paris Declaration;". Any comments?

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): During our interventions three or four days ago we called attention to the fact that the recommendations and conclusions of the Paris Conference were not made very clear. May I propose, perhaps with the help of the Secretariat, an improvement in the language so that this paragraph would say in English, "Fully endorses the Paris Declaration and the recommendations and conclusions of the Tenth World Forestry Congress in Paris".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have a proposal from the delegate of Indonesia to amend the first paragraph to read as follows: "Fully endorses the Paris Declaration and recommendations and conclusions of the Tenth World Forestry Congress in Paris". Are there any comments?

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): Perhaps we could amend it to say, "Fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Paris Congress". I think the Paris Declaration is included in one of the conclusions and recommendations of the Paris Congress. If that is correct, we can amend paragraph 1 as I am suggesting.

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): With respect to the amendments being proposed, the Secretariat would be quite happy to support the idea of referring both to the recommendations and conclusions as well as the Declaration. In fact, these are two separate documents. The process, so to speak, of the conclusions and recommendations distributed a couple of days ago shows clearly this document referring to conclusions and recommendations complements the final Declaration of the Congress. These are two separate things - one is directed to administrators, professionals and the like, and the other is directed to policy makers. So I suggest you refer to them both so that the phrase can read, "Fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations of the Congress and the Paris Declaration".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Do you insist on your proposal, delegate of India?

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): No.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): So we now have the proposal put forward by the delegate of Indonesia. If there are no objections then we can adopt this amendment proposed by the delegate of Indonesia. Adopted. It is adopted with the amendment of Indonesia.

Paragraph No.2: Calls upon Member States, institutions and individuals to heed the solemn appeal of the Tenth World Forestry Congress for actions to green the world through afforestation, reforestation and sustainable management of the multiple functions of trees and forests and to implement programmes in pursuit of Congress recommendations.

Are there any comments on paragraph 2? I hear no comments. It is adopted.

Paragraph No. 3: Appeals to the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition in support of their forestry development efforts.

For this paragraph we have two amendments, one tabled by Germany for the deletion of the words "financial and technical", and another one from Australia to say, instead of forestry development, the management of forestry. Two countries have rejected this amendment.

May I ask the delegate of Australia if he insists on his amendment?

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): Mr Chairman, I still feel that the word "management" more closely reflects what is in the Paris Declaration. There are a number of references throughout the wording that comment on sustainable management. I have not found the word "development" anywhere in the Declaration.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Just a word to help the delegate of Australia. In the Paris Declaration it is affirmed that the real challenge is to reconcile the economic use of natural resources and protection of the environment through an integrated and sustainable development approach.

The next sentence of the Paris Declaration says that the solution to forest problems requires combined effort to reduce poverty, increase agricultural productivity, etc., and promote development. There are other references that, if necessary, I could point to.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Iran and India have asked for the floor, but may I give the floor first to the Secretariat because it seems that Mr Murray has a compromise solution.

C.H. MURRAY (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): In order to take into account the views expressed by the delegates for Brazil, Malaysia and Australia, may I suggest that we use the expression that has been worked out and is being employed in the UNCED process. That declaration is deposited in the Declaration to which you are referring. Instead of simply referring to "development" or simply referring to "management", we might say "management, conservation and sustainable development". If that were to

be accepted, the clause would then read: "Appeals to the international community to provide assistance to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition in support of the management, conservation and sustainable development of their forests".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We now have this compromise put forward by the Secretariat. Are there any comments on this compromise?

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I just want to support the amendment proposed by Mr Murray because his terminology from a technical viewpoint is somehow different. We need conservation of forests and we also need management of forests. We also need sustainable development concerning the forest issues. Therefore, from a technical viewpoint I strongly support the amendment proposed by Mr Murray.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Perhaps we can now adopt the amendment proposed by the Secretariat. As far as the first amendment tabled by Germany, which asks for the deletion of the words "financial and technical", are there any comments?

Samir ABU-JAWDEH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Nous ne souhaitons pas soulever une polémique. Malheureusement nous ne pouvons pas demander à une organisation, à un pays ou à une société de faire quelque chose, et ensuite se retourner contre eux. Alors comment pouvons-nous demander à la communauté internationale de fournir une assistance sans parler d'assistance financière et technique? C'est pour cette raison que nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale pour une assistance financière et technique, sinon cet appel n'aurait plus aucun sens. A mon avis, nous préférierions ne pas supprimer les termes "assistance financière et technique", bien au contraire, nous ne devrions pas modifier cette partie de la phrase.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): Mr Murray mentioned the wording from UNCED, and in the Paris Declaration it says increased national and international provisions. I would plead that we should adopt a similar formulation and, therefore, I will withdraw my reservation. I agree with the current form.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Can we then adopt paragraph 3 with the amendment proposed by the Secretariat? I hear no objection. It is adopted.

We move now to paragraph 4: Exhorts all countries to promote the sound utilization of forest products and to work towards harmonious development of international trade in these products free from the imposition of unilateral restrictions.

On this paragraph there was an addition to be added at the end of the paragraph, "especially those that are in contradiction or who do not agree with the deliberations going on at the GATT". Is there any objection to this addition? I hear no objection.

There was a proposal to add after the word "forest" the word "sustainability" or "sustainable". Are there any comments?

Paul Neville ROSS (Australia): I made the suggestion earlier that the words sustainably produced" be inserted before the words "forest products" on the first line. Having heard the comments of the delegates from Brazil and Malaysia, in the interests of compromise I am prepared to withdraw that suggestion.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): May I take it that the Commission adopts paragraph 4 with the addition of "especially those that are not in agreement with the negotiations going on at the GATT"?

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (Españá): Solamente desearía rogarle nos pudiera leer cómo ha quedado definitivamente el punto 4 con las modificaciones introducidas.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Paragraph 4 remains as it is without any change but at the end of the paragraph we add the following "especially those that do not agree with the deliberations going on at the GATT".

David JOSLYN (United States of America): My only problem on that is with the English translation we are receiving. I believe the original proposal was in English and was something like "not in conformity with the GATT". If that is how this is recorded I have no problem with it.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Yes, this is the amendment "not in conformity with the GATT". I hear no objections. It is adopted.

On paragraph 5 we have a proposal tabled by Switzerland but firstly I have a question to put to you. Would you like to have the paragraph as it is in the draft resolution or do you prefer the paragraph put forward by Switzerland?

Samir ABU-JAWDEH (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la délégation suisse car son amendement est beaucoup plus clair que le texte initial. Je pense que nous devrions étudier ce texte en détail car, à une seconde lecture, nous constatons qu'il est bien plus clair. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons la proposition faite par la délégation de la Suisse; et je demande à la Commission de faire de même.

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): I would strongly endorse what has just been said by the representative of Lebanon. This amendment proposed by the delegation of Switzerland brings more clarity to the whole resolution the aim of which, as we understand, is to endorse the Paris Declaration and all the resolutions of the World Congress from Paris.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Concerning paragraph 5-Sup.1 I would like to support the amendment made by the delegates of Brazil and Malawi but in some part of this paragraph "we will fully support" that means to promote completion of 1990 World Forestry Resources Assessment. Delete sub-paragraph 1 and change it to this sentence if possible, "promote the compilation of 1991 World Forest Resources Assessment". Sub-paragraph 2, we fully support sub-paragraph 2 as is mentioned in the amendment made by the delegate of Switzerland. Subparagraph 3 my delegation would like to support the amendment made...

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): At the present time we are not discussing paragraph 5. We are discussing the amendments, whether we wish to adopt paragraph 5 as we had it in C 91/LIM/41, or the Swiss-proposed amendment.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): If you are not going to discuss in detail I would like to support the amendment by the delegate of Malaysia.

Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I think you have made a very sound proposal, that is to ask us whether we would like to see C 91/LIM/41 paragraph 5 remain as it is and do away with the proposal submitted by the delegation of Switzerland. In that case my delegation would like to support the proposal that we retain LIM/41, paragraph 5 as it is and not deal with the proposals submitted by Switzerland.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Would anyone care to second that proposal by Malaysia? I see no seconder for that proposal.

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): I could live with the paragraph as in the original document C 91/LIM/41. In that case we can retain this paragraph 5 and not consider the other one.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have a balance here we have two delegations in favour of the Swiss proposal and two countries that would prefer us to maintain paragraph 5 as we have it in C 91/LIM/41.

Paolo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I just wanted to say that I could also live without the amendment proposed by Switzerland and leave the fifth paragraph as it is.

Hermann REDL (Austria) (Original language German): I wanted to state afresh that we support the Swiss proposal and also the statements by Netherlands and Poland.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I have the impression that the amendment of the Swiss delegation is not necessary so I support Brazil, and, I believe, Malaysia. I do not think that added to what we already have in the other operative paragraphs, so it is more a practical reason that we can have the operative paragraphs. We could shorten the discussion.

David JOSLYN (United States of America): I am not sure I am going to be awfully helpful with this, except to tell you what I think about this. It seems to me that while, of course, my delegation can live with paragraph 5 as it is, like so many delegations have said, what had me so confused, is that if in fact the Conference, which is the ultimate body that makes the decision about FAO is going to the trouble of working on some sort of a resolution coming out of the Paris World Forestry Congress why would it stop in making recommendations, short of making recommendations to its own agency? So far this resolution only talks in general terms, only endorses the Paris Declaration which, of course, we do too, but now we are about to stop short of suggesting to the FAO what it might do. I have serious concerns as to why in fact we are even doing a resolution in that case. Why don't we just endorse the Paris Declaration and go about our business? I can live with paragraph 5 as it is but I do believe that the Swiss recommendation for amendment actually puts some substance to our work and might be worth ten or fifteen minutes to go through and see if we can make some sense out of it, for the institution that we are in fact governing at this time.

Srta. Martha VAZQUEZ (México): La delegación mexicana podría en principio aprobar el párrafo 5 del C 91/LIM/41 en su forma actual, uniéndose a lo expresado ya por algunas delegaciones.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): We can agree with the proposal of Malaysia and then India. It is not because we wanted to see the more detailed explanation on the other papers but this ministerial conference should try to have a broad consensus on this matter and I think that Germany, Malawi and Tunisia proposed this, it has taken into account all aspects to get the successful approval of this Conference. We have committees on forestry; we will deal with this on details, so, I am so happy to see this paragraph 5, the old paragraph 5 proposed by Tunisia and Germany.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): May I ask the delegate of Switzerland if he wishes to press his proposal?

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Pour aider notre Conférence à continuer ses travaux dans les délais impartis, ma délégation est prête à retirer sa proposition d'amendement.

Nous espérons cependant que l'on arrivera à retrouver quelques idées opérationnelles dans le rapport de notre Commission sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand): I do not intervene on a matter of substance. I think there is a way in which one small part of the Swiss amendment could be retained, and is in the title of the resolution. If you look at the title of the resolution in C 91/LIM/41 it says "...of the X World Forestry Congress", whereas for stylistic reasons it should be spelt out as the word "Tenth".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): In Arabic we have no problem in understanding that that means the Tenth Congress. Therefore, we will adjust the other languages and bring them into line with the Arabic.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Swiss delegation at this time, since the Swiss delegate has withdrawn his proposed amendment, may I take it that paragraph 5, as we have it in document C 91/LIM/41, is agreed?

Good. Then we have approved paragraph 5 and we can therefore consider that the whole document relating to the various declarations had been adopted. This is the draft resolution presented by Austria, Germany, Malawi and Tunisia. Does Poland wish to be added to the list of sponsors?

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): Yes, thank you very much. Poland will endorse this resolution with great pleasure, and we of course support the resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): May I thank the delegate of Poland for agreeing to become one of the co-sponsors.

May I thank all concerned. This draft resolution has been adopted.

7. FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development: Draft Resolution(continued)
7. Activités de la FAO en matière d'environnement et de développementdurable: Projet de résolution (suite)
7. Actividades de la FAO en relación con el medio ambiente v el desarrollo sostenible: Proyecto de resolución (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We can now move to Item 7 which is the draft relating to the Conference Resolution of FAO's Activities Related to Sustainable Development and Environment. We have before us C 91/LIM/44. We shall be taking this text paragraph by paragraph, beginning with the first paragraph "Recalling Conference Resolution 3/89 requesting the Organization to strengthen its activities related to sustainable development and environment and its cooperation with the UN system in the field ..." through to the end of the paragraph.

Are there any requests from the floor? If not, may we take it that this first paragraph is adopted?

We go now to the second paragraph "Welcoming the measures taken by the Director-General in response to Conference Resolution 3/89 as reported to the FAO Council at its Ninety-eighth, Ninety-and Hundredth Sessions", are there any comments? That is not the case, so the second paragraph is approved.

We move now to the third paragraph, "Noting the significant contributions made by FAO ..." through to the end of that paragraph.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Just a detail: I have the impression that the name of the FAO/Netherlands Conference in Den Bosch was on Agriculture and the Environment. If that is the case, I think it should be corrected.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The delegate of Brazil is right, and we will correct the text accordingly.

Are there any other comments on the third paragraph? If not, the third paragraph is approved as amended by Brazil.

Turning to the fourth paragraph, "Welcoming the process of streamlining of FAO Special Action Programmes ..." through to the end of the paragraph, are there any requests for the floor? If not, that is agreed.

Then the next paragraph "Emphasizing the crucial roles to be played by the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors ...", are there any comments?

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Again a minor comment. I suggest that we delete the word "protection" just so that it is not restrictive; I find the word a little restrictive. It might be better if we left it at "environment objectives" or perhaps "environmental objectives", deleting the word "protection".

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I agree with the distinguished delegate of Brazil that the word "protection" should be deleted, but could I suggest that we substitute "conservation" so that it would read "environmental conservation objectives".

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I have worked for many years in the field of nature protection, and I know that many people are allergic to the word "protection" but it is a characterization of a certain activity. I think it is right as it is used here, but in a spirit of compromise we will accept the phrase "environmental objectives". That is no problem. I will try to convince you about "protection", but I will do that in the coming years; I will try to convince you that protection is part of the whole work of society.

Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia): Surprisingly my delegation can also agree with the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands at this time. We can accept "environmental objectives" without the word "protection" because "environmental objectives" would also embrace all protection activities.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Brazil, do you agree to the words "environmental objectives"?

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you for your cooperation.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Pour la traduction française ma délégation proposerait: "Objectifs environnementaux" plutôt que "Objectifs de l'environnement", ce qui en français ne veut rien dire, et peut être en anglais "Environmental objectives".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I think the French-speaking delegates approved what you said, Switzerland.

Can we now adopt this paragraph with the concession made by the Netherlands? We approve the paragraph.

We now move to the first paragraph of "Decides that:" which begins "(i) sustainable development ..."

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): La délégation ne comprend pas tout à fait pourquoi nous utilisons le conditionnel, dans ce paragraphe et dans la seconde ligne du texte en langue française, on lit "devrait être un objectif" pourquoi ne pas dire, puisque nous sommes ici à la conférence, "sont un objectif" et de la même manière dans le même texte, les stratégies et les propositions présentées dans le document C 91/30 "devraient être précisées", mais "sont à préciser". Je pense que nous devons donner des mandats clairs et pas de mandats peu clairs. C'est un point peut-être mineur mais c'est pour la clarté que je fais cette proposition.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I think that all this relates to the translation - that is why we are using this form, particularly in the French version. However, the Secretariat has taken note of what you have said.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): The concerns which we have arise in part from what has been said by Switzerland, but they go much deeper. It is our understanding that through the process whereby the programme budget outline, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the Programme of Work and Budget are adopted, it is determined that these are

high priority areas. If that is the case, it does not seem to me that a resolution should decide that these are high priority areas, being divorced as it is from the process which is ongoing elsewhere in the Conference.

We wonder therefore if it might not make more sense to have another preambular phrase which encompasses what is in the first four lines of the paragraph under consideration. We could perhaps start with the words recognizing that: sustainable development and protection of the environment is a high priority objective of the Organization for developing and developed countries in the field of agriculture", and then a slight alteration: "both in the next biennium and in the medium term". We would then strike out the next four words and we would then start with "Decides that: and continue with what is left - "the strategies and proposals ..." as it now reads, with the addition which has already been provided by Switzerland.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I think that the Resolution. formulated before Commission II approved the Medium-Term Plan. Could I ask the United States delegate to give us his proposed changes in writing? -because I think the changes are in the formulation and not in the substance and meaning of the paragraph.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I have a more fundamental point that I would like to raise which relates to (a) in this paragraph commencing "in the light of the observations, comments made and decisions taken by the conference ...". As we have yet to agree the record of the discussions on these changes, I feel that we are being asked to accept what is in effect a blank cheque. I would like to look at the record of this changed item in parallel with this discussion.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much for your suggestion, but I would prefer to take this stage by stage. We will come back to your proposal when we have finished with the suggestion made by the United States. We would like the United States proposal in writing, please.

R.C.A JAIN (India): After hearing what the distinguished delegate of the United States has said, I am inclined to go along with his suggested changes, with one exception.

The phrase "medium term" should be replaced by "long term", because sustainable development in the long term is a high priority - not only for the next biennium or the next five or six years but in the long term. I therefore suggest that "medium term" be replaced by "long term".

I shall come to the latter part of this paragraph later, but as far as the United States proposal is concerned I limit my remarks to the above.

Morad Ali ARDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In this sub-paragraph, I would suggest adding after the word "agriculture" in the third line the words "forestry and fisheries", so it will read "... developed countries in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the next biennium ..."

I would like also to support the amendment made by the distinguished delegate of India, because we are talking about sustainable development, and sustainable development should be long term, not medium term.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to answer the question concerning medium term and long term. "Medium term" is terminology within FAO. It does not refer to sustainable development.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): Within FAO "medium term" means six years, and it also broadly corresponds with what is understood outside the Organization by "medium term". The point that I was making was that when you speak of sustainable development, FAO is committed to the concept not only for the next biennium or the medium term, but also in the long term. It is possible that FAO has not taken the kind of decisions that they have taken in respect of the next biennium or the medium term - but FAO has prepared documents for the long-term strategy, such as "Agriculture: Towards 2000". I believe that the concept of sustainable development is integrated in those documents.

Therefore, when you refer to priority, you should be referring to the longest term for which FAO has made a commitment. I repeat my suggestion that "medium term" should be replaced by "long term".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): In the medium term the Organization has a plan and it is called "Medium-Term Plan". Therefore, we will not be able to change its name because it is called the Medium Term Plan. The question is, shall we change the name and call it a long-term plan? The question relates to the name of the plan. However, we could put "long and medium term". Would you accept that?

R.C.A. JAIN (India): Thank you for that clarification. If the intention of the Secretariat is to record the high priority accorded to sustainable development only in the Medium-Term Plan perhaps what you are suggesting is right. But are we suggesting that FAO is not committed to sustainable development in the long term? If that is the case then yes, we can limit the period to medium term, and to be more precise to the Medium-Term Plan. But I think that is definitely not the case. FAO would like to maintain the position that they are committed to it in the long term as well as the short term. I still insist, with the permission of the House, that the word "medium" should be replaced by the term "long".

Paolo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I think the suggestion in the "consideranda" is useful and the addition of "forest and fisheries" is also useful. Whilst I recognize that the reference you are making to the language used in FAO is to the reference to the budget process in FAO, I do not see why we have to refrain from making a reference to long term. The reason I asked for the floor was to say that whilst I agree with the change to the "consideranda" I wanted to change the word "protection" in this paragraph. I suggest we change it to "conservation" which, as the delegate of the Netherlands knows, is very much a synonym with protection and gives more the idea of moving away from the harmful acts and interventions of

mankind whilst "conservation" has a more dynamic connotation and makes a welcome link with the considerable contribution that thermo-dynamics have given to the environmental scientists. So my suggestion is that we put "conservation of the environment" in the first line of that sentence, and change the word "protection".

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I think that the delegate of the United States has made a good proposal. If this is part of the Preamble starting with "Recognizing" and so on - perhaps now you have it in writing you could read it out again, but we fully agree with that proposal. I support you in your opinion about "medium-term" because if you use it here it was the first part of the operative paragraph of this Resolution and now it belongs to the Preamble. When we use it here we can review what is going on in these six years of the Medium-Term Plan, so it was on purpose we used the phrase "medium term". We fully agree with the delegate of India that we have to look at the long term. Of course, that is implicit, so we can agree with all the changes proposed, and especially that of our Brazilian colleague. "Conservation" is better than "protection". We have the World Conservation Union now which is the new name for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, so it is better that we use that term.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): This is to support what our Indian colleague said. I think sustainability is in the long term, and he is right in this. I do not see why we have a problem because on the one hand we note the reference to the medium term and also to the long term, so why not have one after the other? I suggest we say "in the medium term as well as in the long term", and then we have covered both important aspects.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I am looking at the Resolution in the Arabic text, and we say "Medium-Term Plan". This is not as it is in the English text. In order to reach agreement we have suggested "the medium and long term". The delegate of India has nodded his consent and we thank him for that.

Morad Ali AREDESHIRI (Iran, Islamic Rep. of): I just want to support my neighbour. If you insist on "medium term" because the Secretariat is going to put in their budget and so on, we can say "Medium-Term Plan" as well as "long-term plan" - just long term.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): I am very sympathetic to the idea that sustainable development and conserving the environment are likely to be high priority items for FAO for some time to come. But to me that is different from recognizing that these have been identified already as longer-term priority items. To me what we know is that in the Medium-Term Plan and for the next biennium we have gone through a priority-setting process that is identified with this, a very explicit high priority item for the Organization to be pursuing. In that context, referring to the Medium-Term Plan would be our preference.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I think everybody who wished to has made their comments on this paragraph. I will ask the Secretariat to read out the paragraph as amended and we will see what we will do with it.

P.J. MAHLHER (Special Adviser to the Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development): We have noted the following: sub-paragraph (i) in the first four lines would be taken back into the Preamble and it would read instead "Recognizing that sustainable development and conservation of the environment are a high priority objective of the Organization for developing and developed countries in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the next biennium and in the Medium-Term Plan" - I go as far as this and then we have still the problem of whether we add or replace "medium" by "long term". If I may venture a suggestion, it would be, "in the next biennium and in the Medium-Term Plan and for the long term".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We thank the Secretariat. We have a proposal, "the Medium-Term Plan and the long term". I think this is a compromise solution and I hope it will be accepted. If no-one asks to speak, this part of paragraph 1 is adopted.

Now we move to paragraph (a) "in the light of the observations, comments made and decisions taken by the Conference as guidelines for future international and national action in this field".

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I want to support what has been said by the delegation of the United Kingdom. If we take all the observations and all the comments made into account we do not know where we are, so it is better we take only "decisions" and delete the words "observations, comments made and", so that the sentence reads "in the light of decisions taken by the Conference as guidelines for future international action in this field" - I think that is simple, but it is better.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I thank the delegate from the Netherlands for his suggestions. However, I still have a problem in that the United Kingdom delegation does feel strongly that sustainable agricultural and rural development criteria should be fully implemented within all of FAO's programmes. This is not made clear in the record of the discussion on this item. I cannot accept this clause (a) without either the record being clarified to make it plain that that decision has been taken or a specific clause being added to this paragraph to incorporate that.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would ask the delegate of the United Kingdom if he has an amendment to make, please present it.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): Dans sa déclaration, ma délégation avait fait exactement la même suggestion. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons la proposition du délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Nous avons proposé que le Secrétariat fasse un rapport sur l'ajustement des programmes de terrain de la FAO pour les mettre au service du développement durable. Nous avons suggéré que ce rapport soit présenté à la session du Conseil de l'année prochaine. Mais puisque l'on reviendra sur cette partie plus tard, dans le texte de la Résolution, je ne pense pas qu'il faille faire une phrase aussi longue. Il s'agit donc de "présenter un rapport sur l'ajustement des programmes de terrain de la FAO pour les mettre au service du développement durable".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The third paragraph of this Resolution talks about a report that should be made to the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session in November 1993 on the implementation of this Resolution. I think that this covers your query. Thank you.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I somehow regret not having supported the delegation of the United Kingdom earlier because I was fully in agreement with his first comment. I now find that there is a certain contradiction between what he said and what the Netherlands has proposed, which is deleting observations and comments made in the course of our discussion here. Now the delegation of the United Kingdom wants to introduce its comments and observations in the Resolution.

I think we have to have a closer look at that, because in that case we could also make reference to our statement, just as the delegate of Switzerland has just done.

Going back to what the delegate of the United Kingdom said earlier on, he had expressed his concern at the possibility that we might be giving a blank cheque here in approving this Resolution without knowing exactly what the decisions are. That is not something that worries me because I suppose that the FAO Secretariat usually carries out the decision taken by the Conference, or, whatever the decisions may be, the Secretariat is supposed to be carrying them out. But his reference to a blank cheque has drawn my attention to sub-paragraphs (b), (c) and (d). In (b) it is said that the Secretariat should then go on and undertake close collaboration with other UN and non-UN institutions. Sub-paragraph (c) talks about close cooperation with NGOs. Here we are referring to the elaboration or further elaboration of the ICPF.

Then in sub-paragraph (d), through the greater use of inter-secretariat mechanism. This looks pretty much like a blank cheque to me. In fact, when I first read this proposal I almost had a feeling of jealousy. I had the impression that the Secretariat would listen to us during the Conference and then leave us behind to go on and further elaborate the ICPF in conjunction with other NGOs and other institutions, as well as the other Rome-based organizations.

Drawing on the reasoning first presented by the United Kingdom, we might perhaps drop these three sub-paragraphs.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like for us to work paragraph by paragraph. For the time being we are focusing on sub-paragraph (a).

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I want to propose an amendment to be taken somewhere in this paragraph to the effect that C 91/30 should be further elaborated by FAO integrating sustainability criteria fully into all of its programmes and activities.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): May I ask the United Kingdom delegate to please read out the suggested amendment fairly slowly, if he would be so kind.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): At the end of the first four lines: Decides that strategies and proposals presented in document C 91/30 should be further elaborated by FAO (a) integrating sustainability criteria fully into all of its programmes and activities.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : May I ask the delegate of the United Kingdom for clarification. Do you mean that you want to add this text to that first paragraph and have this new suggestion replace the former subparagraph (a)?

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): My suggestion is that it should be an additional sub-paragraph.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We now have a proposal from the United Kingdom delegation to add a new sub-paragraph that would precede the present sub-paragraph (a). The new suggestion from the United Kingdom would be sub-paragraph (a); the present sub-paragraph (a) would become sub-paragraph (b), and the new sub-paragraph (a), would read: "Integrating sustainability criteria", etc.

Before I call upon the delegate of the Netherlands I will ask the Secretariat to read out this amendment once again.

P.J. MAHLER (Special Adviser to the Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development): The operative part of the Resolution will start: Decides that the strategies and proposal presented in document C 91/30 should be further elaborated by FAO, and then (a) integrating sustainability criteria fully into all of its programmes and activities.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I have no substantive contention with what has just been proposed by the delegate of the United Kingdom. The problem is that I find it a bit confusing, that is, the addition of this particular sentence right here. Again, as I said, it seems as if it is trying to recollect observations of many delegations, but putting it somewhat out of context.

We are here dealing I think with the elaboration of the ICPF. In document C 91/30, which is the basis of our discussion, we have, for instance, in paragraph 51 the considerations made by the Secretariat on the different relationship between FAO programmes and activities to the ICPF, and the

part that sustainable development plays in it. If we add this sentence saying that the environmental or sustainability concerns should be fully incorporated into all activity, it somehow detracts from the nuances presented in that document. In the end we might end up going somewhat against the next sub-paragraph, which would read in the light of the decisions taken by the Conference.

As I said, I have no contention with the substance of that amendment. Perhaps it could be worked in the considerations or something like that. Right here I think it would be confusing.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I think my colleagues made a good proposal. Let us try to get the preamble. I have a proposal for the rest of the paragraph. May I read it out right from the beginning.

The operative paragraph starts with "Decides that: "strategies and proposals presented in Document C 91/30" and then starts with "as well as the decisions taken by the Conference". We use all the works already here but we make a new mixture, "as well as the decisions taken by the Conference are to be further elaborated by FAO into guidelines for all programme activities". That is the beginning of "Decides that:" and how to do it; by (a), (b), (c), (d).

P.J. MAHLER (Special Adviser to the Assistant Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development): I well understand the intent of the proposal of the delegate of the Netherlands. However, the Secretariat would be somewhat embarrassed to elaborate the decisions of the Conference. I think we may take into account, or we may implement the decisions of the Conference, but elaborates the decision of our governing body, I do not think it would be proper, so perhaps we should say "taking fully into account the decisions of the Conference ... are to be further elaborated by."

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): It seems to me that this is perhaps a good way to handle it. It is quite clear because obviously the Secretariat must fully take into account the decisions taken by the Conference but they cannot elaborate for their body. They do whatever they do in the light of decisions.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland) : I think first of all we need to give to the Secretariat some leeway in what it is to do so there are not so many decisions by the Conference; it is more encouragement, suggestion, so on. So in fact I was a little bit saddened by the proposal by the Dutch delegation to delete this part. I think we should give the direction. Decisions are going to be taken in Rio de Janeiro I think, so I would suggest that one retains the United Kingdom's amendment but slightly changed and I would read out my proposal "Decides that: the strategies and proposals in document C 91/30 be further elaborated by FAO with a view to integrating sustainability criteria fully into all of its programmes and activities" and then we would go on with the (a), (b), (c), (d), as it stands originally in the Dutch text. So the operative part would be "Decides that: strategies and proposals in document C 91/30 be" - we could

delete this "should" because I think if we decide, "be further elaborated by FAO with a view to integrating sustainability criteria fully into all of its programmes and activities". Then we have (a), (b), (c), (d) without the deletion of observations, comments made and so on because there I think the Secretariat has taken note of it, it has to have a certain freedom, it has to work towards Rio de Janeiro.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have noted your proposal and indeed, as far as I understand it, you are proposing this change in the wording and then (a) through to (d) would appear exactly as in the printed paper. That is correct. You have all heard this very clear proposal from Switzerland and I would suggest that it is a very judicious proposal, a good proposal, it seems to me, so if there are no comments thereon, no objections, may I take it that this proposal from Switzerland is acceptable to you all. Can we adopt it?

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): You are now referring to adopting the whole paragraph. There may have been a problem with translation. Could we hear it again, this proposal about the beginning of this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): No, I did not talk about adopting the whole paragraph. I talked about adopting the Swiss proposal. Could Switzerland read his proposal slowly.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): The opinion of my delegation is that by bringing an objective into the whole thing we are admitting that there is a process, a process which certainly is not finished today, a process which will go further, to Rio de Janeiro and will go further and I think this would allow the Organization, it has got many suggestions; it has participated in PrepCom and so on, it would give it the leeway by saying it has a clear mandate. Sustainability is a very high importance and that is what we have adopted by consensus in the medium-term planning points of our agenda.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): To do bits of drafting takes longer and longer, as the day gets later and later. What am I asking myself is what is the purpose of this resolution? Everything that we have in this draft here is in fact contained in the draft report C 91/I/REP/3 of our Commission. Now when Conference and Plenary adopts that REP/3, then surely this is just as binding on the Secretariat as this resolution we have here now. Why don't we forget about the resolution and stick to REP/3?

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): First of all, I would like to support the proposal put forward by Switzerland, I think it is a good proposal. Of course, we have to discuss the paras (a), (b), (c) and (d) because we have heard some objections from our Brazilian colleague so I would like to suggest that you will go paragraph by paragraph so that we can see what kind of problems we have. I wanted to say something else using the language of our colleague from Germany. I do not understand why he does not

understand, after all this resolution is the fruit of our discussions and a lot of things were said and a number of things that were said were in REP/3. This also is based on what Mr Mahler, ADG for this subject told us, what he is doing here inside FAO and we must understand it is important for the Organization to have something in the form of a resolution. We started quite a few years ago with this whole idea of sustainable development and it is good that we should give it more weight now by putting it in the form of a resolution.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I would like to begin by saying that I have the highest regard for my friends from the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Thailand who have sponsored this resolution but at the same time I entirely agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that what we are doing, trying to sort out in this resolution, is already included in REP/3 that we have worked out the day before and yesterday and if we could just go through that we would probably forget this resolution.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I do not like to disagree with my German neighbour, I just would like to recall certainly we do not find any new substance, but that is not the question. What we want is to have new quality, it is no new content and the new quality is by adopting the resolution we give another commitment to FAO's activities, another mandate to FAO as by just adopting the new report. That is the whole difference, what we would wish and what we have welcomed, I think there is a consensus on the priority given to sustainable development. We say there is a strong challenge for FAO and I think it would be a little bit weak in performance of our Conference if we would not have a resolution in this field. This would not give a clear mandate in this field and I think we should give this clear mandate.

Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia) : I support the comment made by our distinguished colleagues from India.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Are there any other delegations wishing to express a view on the Swiss proposal? It is the Swiss proposal that we are now addressing.

Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Gracias señor Presidente. Yo no me voy a expresar con relación a la propuesta suiza. Yo quisiera reflexionar con relación a lo que nos acaba de señalar nuestro colega de Alemania, que fue apoyado por India y por Malasia. Señor Presidente, cuando la delegación argentina miró este proyecto de resolución, se preguntó efectivamente, como lo hacen otras delegaciones, ¿cuál era el objetivo de este proyecto de resolución? Se nos dice aquí, señor Presidente, que el proyecto de resolución tiene como objetivo realzar, poner en relevancia, dar prioridad a la cuestión del desarrollo sostenible y a la cuestión del deterioro del medio ambiente.

Señor Presidente, yo creo que si la Conferencia tiene cuestiones de sustancia que hagan a las políticas de la Organización y a las políticas de los Estados Miembros que quiere poner de relieve, la mejor manera para

hacerlo es un proyecto de resolución, pero este proyecto de resolución es algo así como mecánico, es un proyecto de resolución que lo único que hace es establecer procedimientos. No estamos aquí hablando de políticas, no estamos aquí hablando de sustancias, estamos hablando de procedimientos que ya están incluidos en el texto del informe, como ya fue señalado.

Por lo tanto, señor Presidente, mi delegación comparte las apreciaciones formuladas por Alemania, India y Malasia.

Nosotros no creemos necesario este proyecto de resolución en vista del informe que ya fue elaborado, y creemos que es una pérdida de tiempo seguir discutiéndolo en sus menores detalles. Creo, señor Presidente, que como fue sugerido por nuestro colega de Alemania, podríamos analizar el texto del informe y estar seguros de que en el texto del informe se da un mandato claro a la Secretaría, y con eso habremos cumplido con nuestro cometido.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Just a reference to procedure. Mr Chairman, you mentioned that you were expecting comments on the Swiss proposal. I think first we would have to decide on the German suggestion which has been supported by quite a few delegations.

Neil PIERRE (Guyana): The discussion has gone on somewhat since I first asked for the floor. I just wanted to say that my understanding of conference procedures is essentially that a report has its purpose and so does a resolution. In my delegation's understanding, very often the intent of a resolution is to reinforce the objectives of a report after it has been adopted. Therefore, I simply do not understand some of the arguments. It may be repetitive, but a resolution as I said, has a separate and distinct purpose from the adoption of a report, for the purpose of a report.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I have another comment to make concerning this reference to mechanical procedure that Argentina used. In every report that is produced here in this Commission, every part of our report, we have not only a request usually, but a demand on the Secretariat. We give instructions to the Secretariat to avoid duplication and overlapping with other institutions, and so on. This is our standing instruction to the Secretariat: avoid duplication. Here in this Green Room we are all giving an example of duplication and overlapping. We are doing the same thing twice over. I am not a specialist in procedures, conference or otherwise, but surely if we have a report which has been blessed by the Conference then surely it carries as much weight for the Secretariat as a resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We were discussing the draft resolution. We now seem to have shifted the focus of our attention on to a subject as to whether we should have a resolution at all. It seems to me that there are a number of delegations now who would rather do without the resolution altogether. It is getting late. I have a long list of speakers. I see more and more name plates going up. I am asking you: what do we do? Do we go on discussing the resolution as we have been doing, or do we take

this new trend and do we now simply decide to do away with the resolution so as to avoid overlapping and duplication as the distinguished delegate of Germany has said?

As I say, I have quite a list of speakers here. I have the United Kingdom, Poland, Kenya, Uruguay and the Netherlands. We will hear these delegates. I would be grateful if they would address this point.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): When I first intervened, I did suggest that we took the reports and the resolution in parallel. Could I now go one step further and suggest that we consider the report and, having considered the report, we could decide whether we should go on and also consider the resolution.

CHAIRMAN: We have this resolution; we have to conclude with it. Then, if we need to go to the other item, we will do so after concluding with this matter. We are not going to start on the adoption of the report before we conclude with this resolution.

Tadeusz STROJWAS (Poland): I will answer your question straightaway. Yes, I think we should have this resolution, and in this connection I respectfully disagree with the distinguished representative of Germany. After all, we all know - we should know - that conferences are, inter alia, to exchange views, to analyse problems and to agree. If we agree with certain paragraphs, conclusions, commitments, and so on, we put them in resolutions. This is what we have. We have in front of us a resolution which, in the view of my delegation - and I hope not only in the view of the delegation of Poland - will be an expression of support on the very important problem, and the name of this problem is sustainable development and the environment. That is one thing.

Secondly, we have already travelled quite a long distance down the road of acceptance of the text of this resolution, and we could continue without interruption. In this connection, my delegation supports the very constructive amendment and proposal by Switzerland. We could do with this proposal and come to the next paragraphs, (ii) and (iii), if necessary.

Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): Thank you for giving me the floor to contribute in this fairly lively debate. My feeling is that FAO has been working fairly well within the guidelines laid down for Conference and Council meetings.

I fully support the suggestion of the honourable delegate from Germany. I think we could drop the idea of having the resolution. We have been working fairly well without resolutions and it is a bit early to talk about resolutions to do with the environment in this particular context. I would rather that we continue supporting the way the FAO is working in the area of sustainable environment, without the necessity of having to prepare a resolution. I see this resolution as quite different from the other resolutions that we have just adopted on forestry. This is quite a different thing altogether and there tends to be an overlap of the responsibility of FAO with the responsibility of another UN body.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): If the draft resolution is to be withdrawn, it should be withdrawn by its proposers, by its proponents.

Julio César LUPINACCI (Uruguay): Mi delegación, señor Presidente, comparte algunas observaciones que se han hecho en el sentido de que existe una diferencia entre un informe, un documento o una resolución. La Asamblea que estamos constituyendo, que es la forma más democrática de expresar la voluntad de todos los países miembros, puede adoptar una resolución en la que no solamente se ratifique lo que dice el informe, sino que da una orden, una instrucción que le da un respaldo político muy importante de todos los países miembros, por lo menos a los que la apoyan, a un documento o a un informe.

Por eso, señor Presidente, mi delegación piensa que ya que se presentó este proyecto de resolución debíamos adoptarlo dándole, quizás, un mayor sentido sustantivo, como también se dijo aquí que le falta. En ese sentido creo, señor Presidente, que la propuesta de la delegación de Suiza contempla esa aspiración de dar un sentido más sustantivo al hablar de un criterio fundamental, el de la sostenibilidad, que lo adopta ahora la Conferencia como un criterio básico y una directiva fundamental para el trabajo futuro de la FAO. Por tanto, mi delegación estima que debíamos aprobar una resolución en ese sentido con las enmiendas propuestas por la delegación de Suiza y quizás con algunas enmiendas más en el desarrollo del debate que hagamos sobre este proyecto de resolución.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): To be brief, I shall simply say that Mr Tadeusz Strojwas of Poland has said exactly what I would like to say. We are half way - perhaps even further than half way - then suddenly the German representative says, "It is useless". Why has he not said that from the very beginning, when we started from the first paragraph? Now, he is supported by others! No. We will finish the work. If somebody has a dinner appointment and wants to get rid of this resolution - please, let him go.

David DRAKE (Canada): The hour is growing late, and many of the delegates here are growing tired. I think we all know that some delegates have spent a long time working on this resolution, but others are not convinced that this is the best way to go under the circumstances. I know that you are trying to make us work in the best way possible, Mr Chairman, but, if I may make a suggestion - and here, I seek your guidance - the hour is late, we have had a proposal from the United Kingdom which, I think, might satisfy us, and that is to put this item in abeyance for a short time. During the time that elapses, we could review what we actually have before us in terms of a report and come back to this and reflect on whether we actually need a resolution or not. I am not taking a position one way or another on that - I simply seek your guidance on this matter, Sir. I would certainly support what I think was a very constructive suggestion by the delegate of the United Kingdom which might help all of us in our work.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much. I still have Malaysia and Switzerland on my list, but, before giving them the floor perhaps I could make a proposal and see what you think about it. As I said before, I am not particularly keen on the proposal made by the United

Kingdom, but if the Commission feels that we should do it in the way that he proposes, the Chair shall of course do whatever the Commission thinks best. But I am not too happy about leaving something hanging up in the air, an item on our agenda - that is not an ideal way to proceed.

Perhaps we could establish a small working group to look at this resolution - this may be a way to make some progress. I would like to ask you if you agree that we set up a small working group which would meet tomorrow to make some progress on this resolution?

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Germany) (Original language German): We may be able to find a compromise on this. Perhaps the sponsors of this draft resolution could be asked to consider withdrawing this before we get to the adoption of the report in the light of this debate, and then we would not need to set up a working party which may only waste more time.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you for that suggestion but, as you know, there is a procedure which must be followed. How can we have a temporary withdrawal of a draft resolution until we have seen a report? Should we ask the sponsors to withdraw it, and then submit it again to the Resolutions Committee, and then bring it back to us here? There are procedures which we have to follow. This has landed our desk now - it has been responsible for this whole procedure and there it is.

My idea to try to achieve a compromise which would lead to a consensus on this is the one which I put to you just now - to have a small working group. I shall ask the sponsors of the resolution: Do you think it is a good idea to have a small working group to work out the final version of the resolution, and then come back to the full meeting of the Commission? I would suggest as members of that working group: Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, and Thailand - because they of course are the sponsors so all of them will have to be there - and then we would add India, Argentina, Malaysia, Brazil, United Kingdom and Germany. Of course if any one of these countries do not wish to take part in this working group, they can stand down and say that they do not wish to take part.

That is my proposal; but if you want to go ahead discussing the resolution here, I am quite happy to go on until we come to some decision. We might, of course, have to vote in the end if we cannot do it any other way -but I would not like to do that now.

Miss Ting WEN LIAN (Malaysia): I do follow your line of argument, that you have certain procedures to follow. I had intended to take the floor just now, to echo sentiments which the distinguished delegate from Canada has voiced. The United Kingdom proposal, as I understood it, seems to have been a good one but perhaps we will put this aside - I know you have some very strong objections to it. After looking at the report, the sponsors may feel that there is no necessity to proceed with it. However, you have answered my question on that score.

My second point is: Thank you for the honour of including us in the working group, but we would like to decline.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I think we have two discussions here. One is on substance, the other is on principle. Let me turn first to the principle.

One can discuss for a long time the role of a resolution - yes or no. I think delegations should be consistent. There is a delegation which is sponsor of the resolution which now says, in another context, that resolutions are not a useful instrument. I would like that delegation to make clear to us what its position really is.

Turning now to the substance: we have come quite a long way with this resolution, and we are probably not very far from the end if we give it enough time. I believe that a resolution should in a way condense the report and give it a clearer message. If we could perhaps end our discussion on this procedure that would comply with the efficiency which has been advocated by our German friend.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I have three points. First, regarding our being so close to the end of this discussion, I do not want to overestimate the difficulties, but I do have a number of other points which I would have to raise if we continue with the resolution.

That brings me to the point that of course I would be interested to participate in any group which may be set up to analyse this, but I would like to know when this group would be meeting. The problem is that if this group were to meet at the same time as the Commission is approving the report, then it would be difficult for us to take part in it.

My third point, Mr Chairman. You mention the possibility of voting. Here, I would like to address a question to the Secretariat: would we be in a position to vote if we had to do it now, tonight? What are the requirements necessary? What is the situation regarding a quorum? In fact, I would like to make it an open-ended question to the Secretariat: what are the requirements for approval of a resolution in terms of quorum?

Finally, I think the suggestion that we either leave it or leave it aside might be the wisest one.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Of course, you are perfectly free to have your views. In response to your question about this small working party and when it would meet, if the Commission decides that it wants to set up such a working party, we would have to determine when it would meet, but I can assure you that it would not be meeting simultaneously with the proceedings of Commission I - that goes without saying.

As to the idea of a vote, I said that this would really be the last possible resort; but we will not do that today. We will have to wait until tomorrow, when we are sure that we have a quorum, if we do have to resort to a vote. I can tell you that at present we do not have a quorum, so there is no possibility of voting. But, as I said, that would be the last resort if there is no other solution.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I think your proposal about the working group is a good one. I think the group is too big, however. Some of them have no other ideas than talking about procedure and if we want to improve the resolution, it would be better to have a smaller group with those delegations who have expressed interest in the resolution.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Malaysia has apologized for not being able to attend the working group; accordingly, it is smaller. However, I have put on the list the countries which either support strongly or are against the resolution, and that is in order to reach a compromise solution so as not to re-open the debate in Plenary. A group of ten countries is not a big group. Therefore, we hope that this group can reach a compromise solution.

Does the Commission approve the setting up and the composition of the working group? There is no opposition. We approve the setting up and the composition of the working group, which will include Germany, India, Argentina, Brazil, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 19 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/14

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION I

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(22 November 1991)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours
Mr Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Chairman of Commission I. presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15
sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhareiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development: Resolution .../91 (continued)
- 7. Activités de la FAO en matière d'environnement et de développement durable: Résolution .../91 (suite)
- 7. Actividades de la FAO en relación con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible: Resolución .../91 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): There is a change according to the Journal of the Conference, we should be starting with the adoption of our Report, but I thought it would be preferable to begin by going back to the resolution that we left pending yesterday, that is to say, the Draft Conference Resolution on Sustainable Development and Environment. We set up a small working group yesterday to look at the question of amendments to the resolution, and they managed to produce a new text which seems to have satisfied all members of that working group. You will find it in C 91/REP/3-Sup.1. I would like to thank all the members of the working group for their hard work and for having achieved this compromise.

I would like to call upon the delegate of Switzerland so that he can put before us the results of the work of the working group.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): First, may I thank you, Mr Chairman, for the suggestion which you made yesterday evening which proved to be very helpful. We conducted our work in a good spirit and in a relatively short time came to a conclusion which seems to have satisfied all the parties in the working group.

May I recall that yesterday we had already reached agreement on the introduction of the resolution, and our discussion was therefore limited to the operative part of it. We now have five different points in the operative part of the text. The first point has been added in order to recall that whilst aiming to include sustainability criteria in FAO's activities, FAO should not forget its mandate, and its mandate is clearly the alleviation of poverty and the elimination of hunger. That is why we have this first point.

The second point - this is what we had in paragraph (i) of the old version, where we had this reference to C 91/30. You will recall that yesterday we had different points, (a), (b), (c) and (d). We have now deleted (c) and (d), as we found they did not add very much to the content of the resolution. So we have (b) of yesterday's version covered in (iii).

Point (ii) of yesterday's version has become point (iv) with slight changes and the old point (iii) has become point (v). So the points in yesterday's resolution are now just points (ii) and (iii) of today's version.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Is everybody happy with this resolution? We can then start on the adoption of the resolution. Let us start with paragraph (i), which refers to FAO integrating sustainable criteria into its programmes and activities, as was mentioned yesterday. Do you have any comments on this paragraph? No. It is adopted.

Are there any comments on paragraph (ii)? None. Paragraph (ii) is adopted. Paragraph (iii)?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): In paragraph (iii), I think something has been omitted from the text which was decided upon. This is the phrase "concerned with sustainable agriculture and rural development". This was in the text and led to no discussion; it seem to be a typographical error and I think it should be retained.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): You are quite right. The Secretariat has noted what you say. It was a typographical error, and we will add it to the paragraph. Is the paragraph now adopted? Yes. Paragraph (iv) is adopted, with the restoration of that phrase.

Are there any comments on paragraph (v)? No.

With the adoption of that paragraph the resolution is hereby adopted. I thank everybody for their cooperation, and also, of course, the members of the Secretariat for their hard work.

We can now carry on with our agenda and move to the adoption of the Report.

We now turn to C 91/I/REP/1, but first I would like to give the floor to the Secretariat to deal with some announcements and correction of typographical errors in this document.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1

ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Commission I): On page 3 of this document in the English version in paragraph 8, would you please delete the sentence which commences with the word "Particular", which is the very last word on that page, and concludes on page 4 in the first line with the words "drastically worsened." This sentence has crept in by mistake and should be deleted.

The second error which has crept in is in paragraph 16 on page 6 in the second line, the last but one word, which is "Heights". We refer here to "the occupied Syrian Golan Heights", and the word "Heights" should be taken out ... no, I am sorry, I am looking at an old version. It has already been deleted in the version which delegates now have.

I shall now ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to introduce this item on our Agenda.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The original text which was received by the Secretariat was approved by the Drafting Committee with a change in paragraph 15. We have come to a compromise, which you will now find in REP/1 in paragraph 10. The suggestion made during the Drafting Committee meeting, promoted by the distinguished delegate from Syria, was: "The Conference approved that FAO should undertake a mission..."

In the Drafting Committee we felt that it was not the whole Conference but just two member countries who suggested this mission, so we agreed to the version which has now been slightly extended in paragraph 16 in the hope this version will find the agreement of the delegate of Syria.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We should adopt this Report paragraph by paragraph.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have to apologize. My Brazilian colleague from the Working Group on the Resolution on Sustainable Development has just noted another omission in the text with respect to point 4 of the operative part. The Working Group agreed on this point. Perhaps I can read it out and hand it to the Secretariat. In the last line dealing with fisheries it says "activities in the context of the proposed UNCED agenda". This is another omission. We handed it to the Secretariat and I do not know how it has come to be left out.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I think this paragraph was already approved yesterday and the Secretariat will insert this addition to the final draft.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Quisiera aclarar que el punto 4 que menciona el delegado de Suiza, en la versión española está correcto. Dice "actividades agrícolas, forestales y pesqueras". Debió ser una omisión en el momento de pasarlo.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The necessary changes will be introduced into the version where this omission has been made. We will now take the adoption of the first part of the Report paragraph by paragraph. This is the World Food and Agricultural Situation, Item 6: 6.1, The State of Food and Agriculture.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 17

PARAGRAPHS 1 A 17

PARRAFOS 1 A 17

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Paragraphs 1, 2, 3? Approved.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): On paragraph 4, my delegation has no problem with the English text, but I would say that the French text is slightly different. The mention of "policy assistance" we cannot find in the French text. I would like to ask the Secretariat to bring the French text into line with the English.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Secretariat has taken note of these observations in the French version which will be amended accordingly in order to add this reference to policy advice. May we then consider that paragraph 4 is adopted with the amendment?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have just been informed that the Drafting Committee had no French text at all at its disposal, so it seems there was no discussion on this. My remark extends to the full Report. It would be quite useful if the Secretariat went through the whole French text again.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The Secretariat will take note of this. Paragraph 4 is approved. Paragraph 5? Approved.

Nader NADER (Syria) (Original language Arabic): In paragraph 6 I only want to say that the right wording is "occupied Syrian Golan". This is the right wording so there is no change in the English text.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We should delete any reference to "Heights" in this connection. We should have "Syrian Golan" only.

Paragraphs 7, 8, 9, 10? Approved.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina) : En el párrafo 11 creo que ha debido haber una confusión en la redacción. Yo sugiero que la tercera oración, que en español empieza "Se señaló asimismo ...", pase a ser la segunda oración del párrafo, de tal manera que quede al final: "La Conferencia instó a la FAO a examinar estas cuestiones ...". Es decir, las dos cuestiones, la que plantea la primera frase y la que plantea la segunda frase.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Any other comments on the amendment suggested by the delegate of Argentina? Then paragraph 11 is approved with the amendment.

Paragraphs 1 to 17. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 17. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 17. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 1. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. première partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 1. así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - DEUXIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 13
PARAGRAPHES 1 A 13
PARRAFOS 1 A 13

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We now come to the second part of our Report relating to the World Food and Agriculture Situation; 6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment: Seventh Progress Report. We will take it paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1, 2? Approved.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Paragraph 3 in the French text in the second line it reads "modifications lourdes de conséquences". This way of expressing the changes which have been adopted in the countries concerned gives a very negative judgement. So I think in French we would say "important changes", we should be neutral or far reaching, but at least not the French way which gives a negative judgement on these changes.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As I told you before, the Secretariat will look into the French text in order to bring it into line with the English text.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 13 son aprobados

Paragraphs 14 to 20 approved
Les paragraphes 14 à 20 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 14 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 27 approved
Les paragraphes 21 à 27 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 21 a 27 son aprobados

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We are making good progress. This indicates that the Drafting Committee has done its work in an excellent manner.

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 2. was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. deuxième partie, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 2. es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - TROISIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We now move to the third part of the Report: Major Trends and Policies in Food and Agriculture, Item 7, FAO Activities Related to Environment and Sustainable Development.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 14
PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 14
PARRAFOS 1 A 14

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 1? Adopted. Paragraph 2? Adopted. Paragraph 3?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): In this paragraph on the third line it says: "It was noted, however, that national efforts towards sustainable development could not succeed". In French it is even more negative "resteront vains". In English we would say "are hindered" instead of "could not succeed". These efforts are certainly not useless.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): With regard to paragraph 3, we would like to suggest the insertion of a phrase. In the third line from the bottom we would like to insert "subsidies that have adverse impact on prices".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Would you kindly indicate what your amendment is to paragraph 3 and where you would like to insert the words?

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): On the sixth line of the paragraph beginning "unfair terms of trade", delete the word "and" and continue "protectionist barriers". After that we would like to insert "subsidies that have adverse impact on prices", and then the sentence would continue starting with the word "alleviation".

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I wonder whether we could not even improve the suggestion of the delegate of the United States by saying "any type of subsidies that have adverse impact on prices".

Neil FRASER (New Zealand): I find the phrase "that have adverse impact on prices" somewhat ambiguous. Possibly we could say "that distort prices".

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): I have no problem with any one of the suggestions. Either one is fine.

SECRETARY (Commission I): It is in the second last line of the paragraph in the English text "economic relations of unfair terms of trade" now the amendments come in "any type of subsidies which distort prices," and then we go on "protectionist barriers" the rest is unchanged.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Would you also be kind enough to repeat the Swiss amendment.

SECRETARY (Commission I): As we recorded the representative of Switzerland did not make an amendment. He suggested that "sustainable development" this is the second sentence, "It was noted, however, that national efforts towards sustainable development were hindered", so "could not succeed" would be replaced by "were hindered".

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil) : I have no problem with the amendment of the United States but with reference to the amendment proposed by the delegation of Switzerland, I think it depends on where you stand, the impression that you have on the factors which constrain, which make it easier to achieve sustainability in agriculture. I do agree that perhaps this is too negative for Switzerland. For Switzerland, "these improvements in international economic relations" might help but they are not indispensable. On the other hand I think that it has been made very clear by several delegations of developing countries that for developing countries it is considered indispensable to have this improvement, so that I suggest that instead of changing that verb "could not", we leave it as it is and at the beginning of that line we drop "national" and add "the efforts of developing countries", so that the sentence would read, "It was noted, however, that the efforts of developing countries towards sustainable development could not succeed without parallel improvements" and the sentence goes on as amended by the delegate of the United States.

Mohamed Ibrahim ELMi (Djibouti): Je crois que pour que cette phrase, puisqu'il s'agit vraiment d'efforts vains, et qui resteraient vains s'ils n'étaient pas accompagnés par les mesures proposées, ce changement du mot "vain" me semble inutile. Deuxièmement, pour ce qui concerne "l'élimination des termes inéquitables de l'échange", puisqu'il s'agit vraiment de "termes inéquitables", pourquoi essayer de jouer sur les mots et ne pas laisser "les termes inéquitables de l'échange"?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As to the expression "unfair terms of trade" there was no suggestion that those words be deleted in any way.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): The point of the amendment I proposed was that we should not have a negative statement, say it is useless to do something, we have first to wait for the international environment to be good, so I think we should not have a negative attitude. I understand very well the point of Brazil and when he was explaining it he gave a wording, he spoke of "indispensable". May I suggest along these lines "It was noted, however, that in order that national efforts could succeed it was indispensable

that" and then follow with the sentence. I think that would reflect the sense of the Brazilian intervention and also accommodate our point.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand): As to the suggestion of the delegate of Brazil that it be confined to the developing countries. I do not think this is a fair reflection. I do not think developed countries should be excluded. Their efforts towards sustainable development certainly are prejudiced in both free trading and highly subsidizing countries by the measures outlined here. So I do not think it should be confined at all, it is a global situation.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Could I ask the delegate of Switzerland to read out once again his new amendments to the sentence in paragraph 3.

Igor MALINCEK (Switzerland) : What I was reading out would accommodate also the New Zealand colleague because I was coming back to the initial wording. So, "It was noted, however, that in order that national efforts towards sustainable development could succeed it was indispensable that" and we go back to the old text and at the very end of this paragraph "be made" would be "realized" or something like that.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We now have one amendment put forward by Switzerland, a second one proposed by the United States, which was in turn further amended by the delegate of New Zealand. Can we now accept paragraph 3, including the Swiss amendment which would add the word "indispensable" and reword that sentence consequently, and can we also accept the amendment by the United States and further amended by New Zealand? On that basis can we adopt the paragraph? I see no objections and therefore I take it that paragraph 3 has been adopted.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): We would like to suggest the following modifications, line 5 reads "reform, to ensure people's participation, employing market processes" and at the end of this paragraph we would like to add the following sentence "To this end FAO is encouraged to cooperate with other Rome-based United Nations organizations as well as bilateral donors".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you for these two amendments that you have proposed. Now the first one, if I have understood rightly, consists in adding on line 5 after "to ensure people's participation" to insert the little phrase which says "employing market processes and then we add an additional last sentence saying "To this end FAO is encouraged to cooperate with other Rome-based United Nations organizations as well as bilateral donors." Do you have any comments?

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): As you can imagine, I am happy with this proposal. Perhaps we can also add the NGOs in that sentence - the last sentence which was proposed by the United States delegation.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Thank you very much for that proposed addition. We have an addition to the last sentence proposed by the United States, simply to add NGOs at the end.

Switzerland, do you wish to comment?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have no problem with this addition. Could you read out the first part of the United States amendment because I have not really understood how it reads?

SECRETARY (Commission I): "It underlined the pressing need to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, to introduce land reform, to ensure people's participation, employing market processes in the development process ..."

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): Could I please ask for the complete sentence, with the amendment from the Netherlands, to be read out. I will then be able to form an opinion on it.

SECRETARY (Commission I): I will read the second sentence of the paragraph and then the new third sentence.

"It underlined the pressing need to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, to introduce land reform, to ensure people's participation employing market processes in the development process and, in particular, to enhance the role of women in all activities leading to sustainable development." The amendment there is "employing market processes". Then there is the new sentence proposed by the United States as amended by the Netherlands: "To this end, FAO is encouraged to cooperate with other Rome-based UN organizations as well as with bilateral donors and NGOs."

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): Having had some consultations with our colleague from Canada, we have agreed to modify our first amendment and put the "employing market processes" after "development process", so this line would now read "... people's participation in the development process as well as employing market processes ...".

P.J. MAHLER (Conseiller spécial du Directeur général, Sous-Directeur général pour l'environnement et le développement durable): Je voudrais demander des éclaircissements sur les instructions que le Secrétariat reçoit, en quelque sorte, dans ce paragraphe et en particulier dans la dernière phrase qui est proposée. Dans cette dernière phrase, nous sommes encouragés à coopérer avec les organisations basées à Rome, avec les donateurs bilatéraux et avec les organisations non gouvernementales.

Je voudrais signaler que, dans le domaine dont traite tout ce paragraphe relatif au développement durable, ce que le Secrétariat avait compris, c'est qu'il était nécessaire de coopérer également avec le PNUD, avec la Banque mondiale et avec les banques régionales. Nous avons d'ailleurs des relations avec eux et je me demande si le texte tel qu'il est ne fait pas une exclusive. Je demande donc à la Commission s'il ne serait pas

souhaitable, puisque l'on a proposé d'ajouter les organisations non gouvernementales, de ne pas oublier nos partenaires traditionnels en matière d'assistance technique de même qu'en matière des projets d'investissement. C'est une question que je pose.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): What the Secretariat has just said is more or less what I had to say. You now have a long list of organizations. You start with the Rome-based ones. I do not know why it should only be the Rome-based organizations. What about other city-based ones? You then include donors, and then after donors, you then include the NGOs, and so on. Could we not simplify this because these are all concerned parties in the programmes. I suggest that we could just say "with all concerned parties". That makes it very obvious. We then have to ask ourselves what to do about this sentence. I think we should go back to the original and not say specifically "Rome-based" but all related UN agencies and also, if you wish, bilateral donors, then we can make it very general without mentioning specifically one or other component of these partners.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As regards this question of Rome-based organizations, perhaps you will allow me to speak on this issue. We have the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome. That is a Rome-based organization. I would like to recall the agreement through which that organization was established, which is certainly more substantial and more important than our report in a way, specifies that that Fund shall cooperate in all areas of its competence with FAO. It is specified; they have it in their statutes.

Now let us think of another Rome-based organization. There is the World Food Programme (WFP) which is the joint child of the United Nations and the FAO. It is already linked to FAO anyway.

It is up to the Commission to make up its mind but, modestly, I would like to point out that IFAD have it in their statutes that they have to cooperate closely with the FAO, and WFP in a way is a child of FAO. We should bear that in mind in commenting on this.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): Whilst I agree with the usefulness of adding this sentence here, I also agree with you, Mr Chairman, and with Mr Mahler, that the danger we face when we begin a list is that everyone who is not on that list will feel excluded.

Perhaps we should draw on the sentence which is in the resolution proposed by the Netherlands which mentions cooperation with other UN and non-UN institutions concerned with sustainable agriculture and rural development. Then we could do away with this short list and perhaps the sentence could read, "To this end, FAO is encouraged to cooperate with other UN and non-UN institutions concerned with sustainable agriculture and rural development." and drop the rest.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Thank you very much for that proposal, Brazil. I do feel that your amendment is a good one. It is also in accordance with the resolution we adopted on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Hugh SMITH (United States of America): The United States fully supports the modification to this last sentence which was made by Brazil.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): May I thank the United States for their agreement.

Frederik C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): As the author of the resolution, we also can support this proposal.

I do not want to come back to what you have said, Mr Chairman, about Rome-based organizations. You have put forward the idea about this being a family matter, that it is a family matter here. You have the mother and the daughter, and I believe that IFAD is a daughter of the World Food Council. Whether or not it is a happy family, you can give advice on something.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We now have the amendment proposed by Brazil which the United States have accepted as an amendment to their original amendment.

I would now like to ask the Commission whether you feel that we can now adopt paragraph 4 with these two amendments? I hear no comment, so paragraph 4 is adopted.

We now move on to paragraph 5, adopted. Paragraph 6? Adopted. Paragraph 7? Adopted. Paragraph 8?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): We propose a slight amendment in the first line where it reads "The Conference decided to launch the International Cooperative Programme". We would request that the word "the" be replaced by "an", or, in the French, "une".

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): A very minor suggestion in line 4, paragraph 8, where the present wording could be interpreted to mean that sustainability is a new concept, which it is not. I would propose that it read "national levels, to introduce the necessary changes to give greater emphasis to sustainable agriculture ...", rather than the words "leading to".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We now have the Swiss amendment to line 1 and the United Kingdom amendment to line 4, paragraph 8. Are there any comments on these? I hear none. Paragraph 8 is therefore adopted as amended.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I have some amendments to paragraph 9. I would like to add to paragraph 9 these words: "In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran offered that a case study for sustainable agriculture and environment can be made in the province of Bakhtaran in his country." We have discussed this in Conference, and I would like to see this inserted.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : You have all heard the proposal for an additional last sentence at the end of paragraph 9. Do you have any comments on substance?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I would like some clarification, please, of the exact meaning of the word "offered" in this proposed addition.

Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Over the last two years we have been working for sustainable agriculture and environment in this province of 2 250 000 hectares. We have had cooperation from FAO, and we are looking for the cooperation of all UN agencies. As this issue has been discussed, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to have this province as a case study to be an Action Plan; because this needs both legislation and a lot of work. We have a five-year plan and target on agriculture, and we are ready for this very important issue which has already been discussed. We are ready to do the Plan of Action.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Should we not say "invited FAO to", instead of "offered"? If I understand it correctly that is more the sense of the amendment.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): This is clearly just a matter of wording, so perhaps we can adopt this paragraph with this addition, and move on to paragraph 10.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): In line 7 of paragraph 10 after "existing mechanisms" I would like to see inserted the words "and programmes". The sentence would then continue as before.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Can we now adopt this paragraph with the addition of those two words suggested by the delegate of the United Kingdom? It is so agreed, and we move on to paragraph 11.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): Having spent a long time discussing the resolution, I wonder if we could re-word paragraph 11 as follows: "The Conference called for the Organization to", and then insert "integrate fully sustainability criteria in its programmes and activities". We can then either end the sentence and the paragraph there, or continue with the wording which exists at the moment - but I think that first clause subsumes the rest of the paragraph.

P.J. MAHLER (Special Adviser to the Director-General, Assistant Director-General for Environmental and Sustainable Development): I would like some clarification, please? Would "integrate fully sustainability criteria in its programmes and activities" replace the reference to "streamlining and rationalization", or is it an additional clause?

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): It would be a replacement, in the terms of my suggested amendment.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): My delegation fully supports the amendment proposed by the United Kingdom delegation which in fact reflects the operative paragraph (i) of the resolution.

I think Mr Mahler's query is justified, and we think we should leave the rest, especially this "streamlining and rationalization of its Special Action Programme". That is more an organizational idea, whereas sustainability is more a question of orientation, so we should perhaps keep both elements in the paragraph.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Sweden. Shall we then keep both elements in? That is, as the United Kingdom proposes where the United Kingdom has suggested it, and then continue with the remainder of the paragraph. Can we all accept this? It is so agreed.

We now go on to paragraph 12. Adopted.

P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia): The second sentence of paragraph 13 reads: "The Conference invited Governments to ensure the active participation of Ministries concerned," and so on and at the end "in the preparation and follow-up of UNCED". The sentence is not the problem but the relevance of this wording. To begin with, to invite governments to ensure, and so on, is a little ambiguous.

With regard to "and follow-up of UNCED" we are still waiting to see whether UNCED has a follow-up. I know there should be a follow-up but now the Conference has requested my Government to prepare for the follow-up and that is too much. The preparations I think are welcome, but on the follow-up could we have some modification?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): My comment is on the first sentence of this paragraph, second line, where it reads : "and in mobilizing financial resources for its implementation". The sentence idea which states that it is necessary to give due attention to agriculture in this Agenda 21 - that is a clear message. But the second part does not speak about financial resources with respect to these sectors, but is a very general statement. I suggest we just drop this, or if we want to have something there we should relate it to agriculture. This is just a general sentence and does not make sense in this place. My suggestion is just drop the second part of the sentence so that the full stop is after "Agenda 21".

Alejandro NDJOLIMEDIKO (Guinea Ecuatorial): Nuestra intervención va en la misma esencia que la realizada por el Representante de Indonesia en relación a la línea cuarta del párrafo 13, en el que nosotros queremos agregar una proposición que textualmente sería: "gobiernos hicieran esfuerzos a fin de garantizar la participación activa de los ministerios interesados".

Vishnu BHAGWAN (India): I would like to react to the suggestion of the delegate of Switzerland. His suggestion is to delete the words appearing at the end of line 2 on the basis that this does not refer to agriculture and allied activities, and does not really make sense. On the other hand, the words in particular "give due attention to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in launching Agenda 21 and in mobilizing financial resources for its implementation", the reference to "implementation" is in relation to these three sectors and mobilization of resources for these three items, agriculture and allied areas. To my mind, in the Drafting Committee it was clear that the mobilization of financial resources was for these three areas. It should remain.

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The answer is very easy and I can support what my colleague on the Drafting Committee from India said, that we insisted on having this financial issue included with regard to financing these three sectors.

Secondly, regarding the modifications proposed by the delegate of Indonesia, we had a long discussion on this - governments and ministries. The problem is that in many countries the environment comes under the responsibility of the environmental ministry, and not only under agriculture. We decided we would call upon governments so that they could decide the ministry concerned and, therefore, we have taken up this wording.

As to the remarks on the follow-up of UNCED, in the Drafting Committee we agreed that there will be a kind of follow-up although we did not want to define it exactly and therefore kept this wording.

Paulo Estivallet de MESQUITA (Brazil): I am afraid I did not ask for the floor to help you, but I have another proposal to make in the last sentence which reads: "It requested the Organization to take a still higher profile at the UNCED in order to influence the process and effectively assist in the implementation of Agenda 21". The thing is that there are divergencies or different points of view with regard to the role of international organizations and the role of each respective international organization in the process. Again, I think it is somewhat beyond the powers of what should be the effective organization to actively influence the process. We accept that FAO should effectively assist in the operation of UNCED after Agenda 21 so I propose to delete the words "influence the process and" in the middle of the last sentence so that the sentence now reads: "It requested the Organization to take a still higher profile at the UNCED in order to effectively assist in the implementation of Agenda 21". I draw to your attention the fact that this could well be in line with the resolution we have just adopted.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have two comments. First of all, in my proposed amendment I have said we have had no problem with the reference to mobilization of financial resources. I suggest we make it clear we are speaking about agriculture. I think the English delegate has given me the answer already as to how we can tackle this problem. We say "in launching" and then we take "mobilizing financial resources for Agenda 21". Then we have a clear link between agriculture and mobilizing financial resources for Agenda 21. That is my first point.

The second one is in respect of the proposal of the delegate of Brazil. I share with you the view that the words "influence" is not appropriate. That is not the role of international organizations. I suggest we say "in order to fully participate in the process of effectively assisting in the implementation of Agenda 21".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : The changes that have been made are multiple so I will ask the Secretary to read them out.

SECRETARY (Commission I): "The Conference recommended that UNCED give due attention to agriculture, forestry and fisheries in launching and mobilizing financial resources for agenda item 21 in these fields."

The second one is: "The Conference invited Governments to make efforts to ensure the active participation of ministries concerned including those dealing with food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the preparation of UNCED". It is suggested that "and follow-up" be eliminated.

The last sentence: "It requested the Organization to take a still higher profile at the UNCED in order to fully participate in the process and effectively assist in the implementation of Agenda Item 21."

P.J. MAHLER (Special Adviser to the Director-General, Assistant Director-General for Environmental and Sustainable Development): It is a point for clarification. My understanding was that in the second sentence "UNCED" was not deleted, so that it read "in the preparation and follow-up of UNCED". May I have confirmation that this is the agreement of the Commission?

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Could we then adopt this paragraph after inserting the amendment?

David DRAKE (Canada): Forgive me for taking the floor as a member of the Drafting Committee, but I have one comment and then perhaps I could ask for clarification from you, Sir.

With regard to the reference to "follow-up of UNCED", I am not clear on whether this is to be included or deleted. Perhaps I could refer to the discussion in the Drafting Committee where we discussed this at length. It was unanimously decided that it should appear, after consultations with the Secretariat to determine just what was said in the Plenary session of the debate. My delegation certainly feels that we would like to see "follow-up of UNCED" included.

We would also like to see a reference in the last sentence to UNCED, and we support Switzerland in this regard.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): The amendment proposed would keep the words "and follow-up of UNCED". The amendment has been read out by the Secretariat and it has been made clear that this reference will not be deleted.

Could we adopt the paragraph as amended?

P. Natigor SiAGIAN (Indonesia): I am in the hands of the majority, but I would like to express my Government's view on inclusion of the words "follow-up of UNCED". In our understanding this is a kind of binding statement. There is the proposition that there should be a follow-up of UNCED while UNCED itself failed to be convinced.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the delegate of Indonesia for his cooperation. However, making efforts is not binding. Calling upon governments to make efforts is not binding. We are just inviting governments to make efforts.

Paragraph 13 is adopted as amended. Paragraph 14?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Since we have slightly amended paragraph 11, we would like the reporting to reflect the amendments of paragraph 11. Perhaps we could just introduce a reference to paragraph 11 in paragraph 14 and say "report on progress with respect to the points mentioned in paragraph 11, in particular" and then continue the sentence as it stands, or even drop the rest of the paragraph, until as far as "the Hundred-and-Second Session of the Council and at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We have a proposal from the delegate of Switzerland that the Secretariat report on the points mentioned in paragraph 11, and then delete the remainder of the paragraph with the exception of "at the Hundred-and-Second Session of the Council and at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference".

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I just want to say that, I do not think "progress" was mentioned.

P.J. MAHLER (Special Adviser to the Director-General, Assistant Director-General for Environmental and Sustainable Development) : The Secretariat is in the hands of the Commission. I just wanted to point out that the scope of paragraph 14 is somewhat broader than that of paragraph 11, as it talks about UNCED and also about putting ICPF/SARD into operation. It is up to the Commission whether to replace it merely by a mention of the points in paragraph 11 or perhaps to combine the two.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): As I believe this paragraph 14 as it is would serve the purpose, may I ask the delegate of Switzerland if he thinks we could keep it as it is?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): I have no problem with the suggestion made by Mr Mahler. I would then suggest that the reference to paragraph 11 be the only amendment. Could I read it out: The Conference requested that the Secretariat report on progress regarding the points mentioned in paragraph 11, including", and then continue with the paragraph as it stands.

J.M. SCOTT (United Kingdom): I wish to record my agreement with the points put by the delegate of Switzerland.

H.E.J. JORRITSMA (Netherlands): We support the proposal put by the delegate of Switzerland.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Could we then adopt this paragraph as amended by Switzerland? I see no objection.

Paragraphs 1 to 14. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 14. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 14. así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 15 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 24 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 3. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. troisième partie, ainsi amendé.

est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 3. así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 7

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 7

PARRAFOS 1 A 7

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 1-5 approved.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): My point is on paragraph in the second last sentence my delegation would suggest a reference to the objectives mentioned under item 8, which we had dealt with, which is a progress report

on WCARRD. I think these objectives are not reflected in the sentence and they are nevertheless important in this connection so we could just make the reference to item 8 in this part of the report.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Please indicate where this insertion would take place.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): The third line from the end of the paragraph, after "support services" the sentence would continue "and of the objectives mentioned under item 8, which is the progress report of WCARRD Programme of Action".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : So we have this amendment proposed by Switzerland. Are there any comments on that amendment? I see none. I then consider that we wish to adopt this paragraph as amended by Switzerland.

Paragraphs 1 to 7. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 4. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. quatrième partie, ainsi amendé.
est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 4. así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours,

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/I/PV/15

Twenty-sixth Session
COMMISSION I

Vingt-sixième session
COMMISSION I

26° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15^a SESION

(22 November 1991)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15^a sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Waleed A. Elkhoreiji. Presidente de la
Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 5

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 12

PARRAFOS 1 A 12

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We shall now continue with the Report of the Commission. We have reached REP/5 of the Report, "The Commission of Plant Genetic Resources and International Undertaking Progress Report", item 9.

Jaime GARCIA Y BDIAS (España): Nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, ante el documento en cuestión que usted nos propone, después de haber escuchado a otras delegaciones y conocido por nuestra parte el consenso que se produjo en el Comité de Redacción, desearíamos proponer a la Sala y a nuestros colegas, si habría algún inconveniente en aprobar todo el tema en bloque por consenso por parte de todas las delegaciones.

Creemos que dada la discusión que se produjo en el Comité de Redacción, donde todas las delegaciones coincidieron en su planteamiento, podría ser una buena oportunidad para adelantar nuestros debates y continuar en esta línea de consenso, que se está produciendo en esta Comisión, tan bien dirigida por usted.

E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): We too are extremely pleased with the document as it now stands, not only the section on plant genetic resources but the section on PIC as well. So we would be willing to accept the entire document.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): My delegation can go along with the suggestion with respect to item 9.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We have a proposal to adopt the Report, REP/5 en bloc.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 13 TO 20

PARAGRAPHERS 13 A 20

PARRAFOS 13 A 20

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): We have a slight addition to paragraph 18. The intention is that we must remember that we do not only have the PIC, and that we should not prevent the other Articles of the Code of Conduct dealing with PIC

The amendment which my delegation suggests would come at the end of paragraph 18 and would read as follows: "In the same time, the Conference recalled that continued attention needed to be given to the implementation of the other Articles of the Code which did not deal with PIC".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have taken note of this proposal. Is there any comment on it? If there is not, we can adopt the Report en bloc with the amendment suggested by Switzerland. The Report is adopted.

Paragraphs 13 to 20. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 20. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 20. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 5. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. 5ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 5. así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 6

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : We now move on to Part 6 of the Report, Plan of Action on People's Participation.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 9

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 9

PARRAFOS 1 A 9

Srta. Maria S. LANDAVERI (Perú): No quisiera pecar de optimista, pero si esperaríamos tener igual suerte que la propuesta hecha por nuestro colega, el delegado de España, de que si fuera posible y dado que sabemos que en el Comité de Redacción este tema no tuvo mayores dificultades y que el documento incluye la mayoría de las modificaciones solicitadas, tal vez podríamos pedir la aprobación en bloque de este tema, si no tuviera oposición por alguna delegación o, tener una pequeña explicación del Sr. Dutia si lo considerara necesario.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We have a proposal from the delegate of Peru to adopt Part 6 of the Report en bloc. As I see nobody asking for the floor I take it you approve of that. Therefore, Part 6 of the Report concerning Major Trends and Policies in Food and Agriculture and the Plan of Action on People's Participation is adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 9 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9 son aprohadns

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 6. was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. 6ème Partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. Parte 6. es aprobado

SECRETARY (Commission I): As you know, the Drafting Committee met extraordinarily at 14.00 hours to examine for the last time the Draft Report, Item 7, Women in Development: A Project Report. That draft was fully examined and approved without amendment, but even so it has to be processed. We should have it by 16.30 hours so we will have to wait until it is available to adopt it. That will then complete the Report.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the Secretary of the Commission. I suggest we adjourn and meet again at 16.45 hours.

The meeting was suspended from 16.15 to 16.55 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 15 à 16 h 55

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.15 a las 16.55 horas

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 7

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISTON I - PARTE 7

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We shall now take up Part 7 of the Report which concerns the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agriculture and Rural Development.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 11

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 11

PARRAFOS 1 A 11

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Paragraph 1. Are there any comments or suggestions on paragraph 1 of Rep/7? I see none. The paragraph is adopted. Paragraph 2? That is approved. Paragraph 3?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): The first sentence in this paragraph underlines our commitment to this Plan of Action, which I think is very positive. Then comes the second sentence which may not be a very fortunate formulation. The way it is formulated, it questions our commitment somewhat, and I think what I see here is that there should be some reflection in the paragraph that there are also other values that should be taken into account when we put the Plan of Action into practice. They are of a cultural nature, cultural in a broad sense. We should have a formulation which indicates clearly that this consideration of the other values does not question our commitment to the Plan of Action.

What I propose would be a shortening of this sentence in the following way: "It stressed the importance of taking into consideration ..." and then delete "socio-cultural and religious differences when implementing the Plan of Action" and then put a full stop and delete the words "in different cultural settings" because that is a repetition. If you wish I will read it out again; "It stressed the importance of taking into consideration cultural differences when implementing the Plan of Action".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): You have just heard a proposal by Switzerland that we replace "socio-cultural and religious differences" with "cultural differences" and delete the last four words of the sentence.

I would like to make a personal comment. I would like to keep the socio-cultural differences and just drop the reference to religious differences. We would therefore stress the importance of taking into consideration socio-cultural differences. We would delete the word "religious" and of course the last four words of the sentence. I will read out the paragraph. The first sentence remains unchanged. Then it says: "It stressed the importance of taking into consideration socio-cultural and religious differences when implementing the Plan of Action".

I see no requests for the floor. Can we therefore adopt paragraph 3, as amended, and as read out by me? Paragraph 3 is adopted. Can we now go to paragraph 4?

Enoch K. Kandie (Kenya): The last sentence reads, "It regretted that women still confronted obstacles...". I think it is more correct to say that they still encountered obstacles" or "they met obstacles".

Imorou SALE (Bénin): J'interviens au niveau de la dernière phrase du quatrième paragraphe dans la version française. Il est dit: "Elle a déploré que la pleine participation des femmes au développement agricole et rural se heurte encore à des obstacles et a demandé que l'on s'intéresse davantage ...". Je crois que l'on pourrait dire: "... a demandé que l'on s'intéresse davantage en accordant un soutien accru aux femmes dans leur rôle.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): We now have two proposals, one from Kenya and one from Benin. I think the latter concerns only the French text. The Secretariat has noted that change to the French version, and also the proposal from Kenya.

Can we now therefore adopt paragraph 4, as amended by Kenya, and also take into account the change to the French version pointed out by Benin? Paragraph 4 is adopted. Paragraph 5 is adopted. Paragraph 6?

Hans-Dietrich VON BOTHMER (Presidente, Comité de Redacción): En cuanto a la versión española hay alguna fricción en el idioma. Por eso quisiera proponer que en la sexta línea, después de las palabras: "de la FAO", introducir las siguientes palabras: teniendo en cuenta las diferencias de sexo. Y tachar "el análisis en función del sexo."

Esto se refiere solamente a la versión española.

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): Solamente, señor Presidente, decir que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción se nos ha adelantado y era esa, exactamente, nuestra observación con respecto al castellano.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Can we now adopt paragraph 6, taking account of this change in the Spanish version only which has been submitted to us by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee? That is then decided, and paragraph 6 is adopted. Paragraph 7?

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Several aspects of women's integration in development are mentioned in paragraph 7, such as health and education opportunities, population and nutrition information, which go beyond the mandate of FAO. For this reason my delegation suggests that there should be, at the end of this paragraph, a reference to coordination with other UN agencies, in the form of the following sentence: "In this regard the Organization is invited to coordinate this and to draw on the experience of other UN and international organizations".

Wilberforce SAKIRA (Uganda): One aspect of this matter which emerged when we were discussing this was accessibility to land - it was noted that women do not have access to land. We wonder whether, in the second sentence where we are enumerating the various problems, this could be included, so that the sentence would read: "This involvement and support was seen to be most important in terms of the elaboration of policies and programmes that increased women's access to income, extension services, training, technology, productive resources ..." - we suggest that the word "land" be included. We would just like to highlight the fact that land is an aspect which has been left out.

Carlos BASCO (Argentina): Una cuestión de traducción solamente. En todo el texto se traduce la palabra "sexo" y en inglés dice "gender" (género). Yo sugiero que podamos poner todo "género", que es lo que se está usando ahora universalmente, en vez de "sexo", eliminando así muchos problemas de redacción. Es decir, que en castellano se ponga "género" donde dice "sexo".

Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España): No quisiera alargar excesivamente el debate, señor Presidente, pero la pureza lingüística expresada por el ilustre delegado de Argentina me hace intervenir. Comprendo su inquietud cuando expresa su interés por que se indique la palabra "género"; pero, en español, como sabe muy bien el delegado de Argentina, si no se incorpora "masculino" o "femenino", puede ser incluso peyorativo el término "género". Por consiguiente, estoy de acuerdo con lo indicado por el delegado de Argentina, siempre que se le acompañe "femenino" o "masculino".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : Could we leave this to the Secretariat? They can groom the Spanish text, and I am sure they will come up with the most felicitous term in Spanish.

May we now return to the proposals made regarding amendments to this? The first proposal was made by Uganda. Would anyone object to his suggestion? No-one objects. That brings us to the amendment suggested by Switzerland.

There is a proposal which would slightly change the Swiss addendum: "In this regard, the Organization" - that is, FAO - "was invited to pursue this coordination regarding this work, to draw upon the experience of other institutions within the UN system."

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Perhaps you could read that out again. I have not taken a note of it, and I do not know exactly where it comes in this proposal.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): My proposal is basically a slight amendment to what you yourself suggested. You have suggested: "In this regard, the Organization was invited to coordinate" - but coordination already exists; so, in order to make it a little clearer, I would suggest "invited to pursue" - "continue coordination". That is the only change I suggest - "In this regard, the Organization was invited to continue coordination", together with the necessary grammatical changes. We would then refer to other international organizations - we want coordination to be done between this Organization and other organizations within the United Nations. I think that suffices.

David DRAKE (Canada): I am not entirely certain why we are restricting this to United Nations and international organizations. As several donors indicated, I believe they might have similar experience which they might be able to share as well as others. Perhaps we can expand this a little more to reflect what was said in the debate.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Yes, we could talk about "other organizations". We could say "international and bilateral organizations". I think that would cover those organizations in their entirety. Can we then take it that we adopt paragraph 7?

Ms Maria GALVOLGYI (Hungary) : My delegation is quite satisfied with the amendment proposed by the delegate of Switzerland. In that case, if we are proposing "bilateral organizations and international organizations", I would propose that we put "FAO" at the very beginning of the sentence in order to avoid many repetitions of the word "organizations".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : There is no difficulty in that as far as I can see. We can start the sentence by saying "FAO was invited to pursue coordination", etc. Can we adopt paragraph 7?

Kiala KIA MATEVA (Angola): Si vous le permettez, je voudrais intervenir sur le paragraphe 7. Je crois avoir entendu le délégué de l'Ouganda faire état d'une préoccupation. Il a demandé où l'on pourrait introduire la question concernant les problèmes fonciers.

Il me semble que c'est là l'amendement présenté par le délégué de la Suisse sans pour autant satisfaire la demande du délégué de l'Ouganda. Voilà ce que je voulais dire.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : I said that we have agreed to the proposal of the delegate of Uganda. This was adopted and after "productive resources" was written "including access to land". That was to be inserted after "productive resources". I trust that was clear and therefore the proposal by the delegate of Uganda was actually agreed before we started looking at the Swiss proposal. Are things clear to you, delegate of Angola? Very good. Paragraph 7 adopted. Paragraph 8.

Imorou SALE (Bénin): A la quatrième ligne du paragraphe 8, toujours dans la version française, le mot "confrontations" me semble peu heureux. Je propose qu'on l'élimine et qu'on le remplace par la phrase "l'importance des échanges d'informations et d'expériences entre pays membres" parce que le terme "confrontations" suppose un gagnant ou un perdant.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : This has been noted by the Secretariat and the French text will be changed as you wished. Paragraph 8 is adopted. Paragraph 9? Adopted. Paragraph 10?

Srta. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia): En la segunda oración del párrafo 10 dice: "Pidió a la Organización que no cesara en sus esfuerzos por aumentar el número de mujeres entre el personal profesional". Entendemos que es un error solamente de máquina, no de fondo. Hay que cambiar una letra: "que no cesara", porque se lee "cejara", y eso no tiene ningún sentido. Se debe decir "cesara".

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Any comments? Paragraph 10 is adopted. Paragraph 11 is also adopted.

Paragraphs 1 to 11. as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I. Part 7. as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I. Partie 7. ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I. parte 7. así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): This means we have finished the adoption of the last part of the Report of this Commission. At the end of our work I express to all of you my sincere gratitude for the efforts you have made and the honour you have done my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and me in having entrusted me with the task of chairing this Commission.

Thanks to the way we have worked together we have been able to get through our work before the date written into our timetable, thanks to the fact that you kept your comments short and to the point; thanks to your cooperation and thanks to the good spirit which prevailed in this room. I think we can say today that the Report of the work of this Commission can be adopted without difficulty. I repeat my thanks to you. I also thank the Secretariat of FAO for the great work they have done for this Commission. I thank the Secretary of this Commission and all the other members of the Secretariat staff for all the help they have given us here. We have been happy to benefit from their assistance.

I would also like to thank the interpreters for the work they have put into the meeting and commend by name the Chief Interpreter, Mr Ben Ameer, our hostesses and messengers and all the ancillary staff who have really brought in a breath of fresh air and youth to this room. I wish you all a good end to the Conference and I now adjourn the meeting.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas.