

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF COMMISSION II  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION II  
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION II  
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# **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# **conférence**

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

# **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/1

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

## **FIRST MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PRIMERA SESION**

(12 November 1991)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la  
Commission II

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.00 horas

baio la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de  
la Comisión II



II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION

14. Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91

14. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91

14. Examen del Programa Ordinario para 1990-91

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, the first meeting of Commission II is called to order. I will start by making a few general comments on our way of working but, firstly, I want to express the thanks of my Government on my being elected Chairman of Commission II. I shall do my best to make things work well and I hope you will help me throughout.

I had hoped to be able to announce the names of the Vice-Chairmen but this matter is not yet ready and will be taken up tomorrow morning at the beginning of the meeting.

We have a very heavy schedule, of course, and a very tight timetable. Speaking frankly, we cannot allow ourselves a delay of half an hour in starting the meeting. Please help me in this respect. The tight timetable also means that I must ask delegates to be very concise in giving their statements. This is the more so because we have an extra problem on Thursday morning when there is an audience with the Pope at 12 o'clock which means we have to finish our meeting at 11. My suggestion is, and you can think a little about it, that we start Thursday morning at 9 am.

Further, we come on tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget. The end of that debate must conclude by Thursday evening since the report on this matter has to be put to Plenary the following week. There has to be a vote on the level of the budget and, therefore, we are in a rather tight situation. I reserve the right to say from the very beginning that if we are getting into trouble with the timetable we must foresee night sessions.

So far as documents for the individual items are concerned I would ask you to look at the Journal of the Conference. You will have a list of the documents there and please note that in addition to the Regular Programme which we will be discussing this morning there is a document, C 91/LIM/12 to be included. If any delegate wishes to make a written statement he is welcome to do that and hand the report to the Secretary of the Commission. Information on that will be announced toward the end of the afternoon meeting.

The Commission has to establish a Drafting Group and the Drafting Group has to start work fairly early. Therefore I urge on the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Chairman of the OECD Group to get together as quickly as possible so as to come forward with a proposal for the Drafting Group.

Finally we get on to the first item of the Agenda which is the Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91 and the documents are C 91/8 and C 91/LIM/12. I think we can start on the first item of the Agenda and I give the floor to Mr Shah.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, as you begin the work of Commission II, permit me to say at the outset that it is an honour to serve the Commission and I look forward to extending every support on the part of the Secretariat together with my colleagues. May I also say, Sir, that with you as Chairman it is a particular personal pleasure to be associated in serving you.

The document before the Conference you have already drawn attention to it. This document was examined very carefully by the Programme and Finance Committees at their session in September and by the Council at its Hundredth Session last week.

In view of the valuable comments offered by the Programme and Finance Committees, the Council thought it fit to draw these to the attention of the Conference. These comments of the Programme and Finance Committees are accordingly submitted to you in the document to which you have referred.

This is the seventh edition of the Review of the Regular Programme since its inception in 1979. The Review is the main mechanism in informing the Governing Bodies on the achievements of the FAO programme implementation and it forms part of the Review process of past and proposed Programmes of Work and Budget. For this reason, the Conference has always preferred to consider the Review before considering the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. This time you consider it also before looking at the future of the Medium-Term Plan.

May I now draw attention to three aspects of the Review. Firstly, the Review is a part of the overall mechanism for evaluation and the evaluation system, in addition to the Review, comprises the review of Field Programmes (which you will be examining later), the auto-evaluations conducted by programme managers, the evaluation of selected programmes, including evaluations by the Joint Inspection Unit and evaluation of field projects, which are always carried out on a tripartite basis of the governments concerned, the funding government or organization and the representatives of FAO.

Secondly, the format of the Review; we have maintained the basic format because that has met with the general satisfaction of the Governing Bodies in the past. So you have the three parts, Mr Chairman, Part One, which is an implementation report; Part Two which covers four selective Sub-programmes which are evaluated in some depth and Part Three, which is an in-depth evaluation and this time we have taken the subject of technical cooperation networks.

The third aspect, Mr Chairman, is that although the Review is entitled a Review of the Regular Programme it also reports on activities under the Field Programmes where appropriate and that is because, as you know, the two programmes, the Regular and the Field Programmes, are linked in substance and because tangible results of the Regular Programme is observed at the field level.

I have said that the structure of the Review remains the same but always there are improvements which we try to introduce. This time in Part One a section has been added containing objectives and priorities for each Programme. This is to provide a context - a base - for the Performance Report. Major inter-disciplinary activities are highlighted for each of the Major Technical Programmes. In Chapter 4, you have a comprehensive report

including the existing data bases in FAO. Part Two includes findings of project evaluations. There again this is in response to your special requests in the past. In Part Two I would also point out that paragraphs 66-74 draw attention to common themes and issues arising from the in-depth reviews.

The four Sub-programmes which are reviewed in Part Two have a common theme and the common theme this time is the rational and sustainable use of natural resources for agricultural production, a topic which is of priority interest to most Member Nations. Part Three, on the Technical Cooperation Networks, is also a subject of widespread interest. As distinguished members will have noticed, a large number of Technical Cooperation Networks are promoted and supported by FAO with the cooperation and involvement of institutions, particularly in developing countries. Despite their widespread use, the approach and method of promoting networks and an assessment of their performance have not been reviewed until now. So I hope, Mr Chairman, the Commission will find this in-depth review of topical interest and that Review ends with some conclusions and lessons for the future which, if endorsed by the Conference, we would look forward to implementing.

Mr Chairman, I keep my introduction short in order to give maximum discussion of the issue but my colleagues and I will be ready to respond to any question or request which the Commission may wish to address.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Shah, for a very concise introduction. Before giving the floor to the first delegate I just want to say that I think it would be practical now for you to concentrate mainly on Parts Two and Three of the Report. Part One has a lot to do with the Programme of Work and Budget to be discussed later but I give you some leeway on this. I must point out we have to finish this item this morning. I give the floor to the first delegate.

**Gerard P. KHOJANE (Lesotho):** Being the first speaker, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the high office of this important Commission. You can count on our delegation's full support for this important task. I also want to congratulate Mr Shah for his illuminating introductory remarks, with his usual eloquence.

It is pleasing to learn that Regular Programme implementation during the biennium 1990-91 in general shows an improvement over the biennium 1988-89. We hope this is the beginning of an upward trend of the curve and we can expect further improvements in the future.

In the field of environment and sustainable development, favourable conditions for success have no doubt been created with the appointment of a Special Advisor to the Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development Issues who will also chair a high-level FAO Secretariat Steering Committee for the purpose. We are already encouraged that the inputs of the Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development have been taken into consideration. As a result it has been possible to produce the special Action Programme of Conservation and Rehabilitation of African Lands and the studies on sustainable management of fragile eco-systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Den Bosch Declaration and Agenda for Action on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development are another good outcome of a follow-up on the deliberations of the Regional Conferences. We have strong reasons to believe that meticulous implementation of the priority areas of the Den Bosch Declaration and Agenda for Action on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development as listed in paragraph 1.13 of document C 91/8 should make a desired difference.

It is, however, most disappointing that the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme received no new pledges of fertilizer during the period under review. The scheme has made a remarkable contribution to the improvement of agriculture in Lesotho. It would be a pity if it could be deprived of the necessary resources at this critical time of the need for agricultural rehabilitation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where long spells of natural disasters reduced agricultural production to far below average. It has always been our hope that the donor community would heed to long appeals from the developing countries to support the campaign for aid-in-kind for agricultural inputs and, in that context, contribute generously to the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme.

With respect to livestock development, the Lesotho delegation strongly supported the idea of prosopis bushes and leguminous shrubs on the marginal lands and under arid saline conditions when the subject was first discussed during the Twenty-fourth session of the FAO Conference in 1987. At that time, experiments were being conducted with the kind assistance of the Government of Italy. It is obvious from the contents of document C 91/8 that the experiments have been successful. We are therefore happy to learn that the rehabilitation and development of arid and semi-arid grazing lands, through the introduction of leguminous fodder trees and shrubs, especially those of high-yielding and drought-tolerant ecotypes, are now an established priority. Like we expressed keen interest in 1987, we are once more looking forward to a day when Lesotho will be included among the beneficiaries of this activity.

While we accept that the promotion of cooperative organizations in general is the responsibility of the International Cooperative Alliance, we nevertheless feel that FAO has a role, too, to play, particularly with regard to agricultural cooperatives. This is why we warmly welcome the news that FAO has conducted country studies in the field of agricultural cooperatives with the purpose of offering alternative participatory arrangements for the provision of inputs and services to small farmers and for alleviating poverty.

As it has already been proven in other parts of the world, there can be no better way of involving small farmers in research, extension, training, credit, input supplies and marketing than through cooperative arrangements. We therefore urge FAO to persist in its resolve to encourage formation of cooperatives wherever it is feasible to do so, and to help revive the spirit of cooperation where unfortunately the negative forces have succeeded to kill this spirit. It is a difficult task, which may sometimes render FAO unpopular among certain groups of society, but it is certainly worth pursuing.

We do not know what techniques FAO employs to sell an idea and to make it attractive for acceptance. But we certainly know that such a technique is required to demonstrate the importance of the joint FAO/WHO/Food Standard Programme (Codex Alimentarius) particularly for the developing countries.

In our humble observation, participation by developing countries in the Codex Alimentarius Commission's sessions is disappointingly low. It could be better.

As we hail the recommendations and conclusions of the FAO/WHO/International Conference on Food Standards, Chemicals in Food and Food Trade, held in Rome during March 1991, in cooperation with GATT, we remain concerned as to how the benefits of this important Conference will reach the desired maximum number of developing countries if the attitude of most of them towards the Codex Alimentarius Commission is not changed. We therefore appeal to the FAO Secretariat to do everything possible to highlight advantages of active participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission's sessions to all countries, including the developing ones. We, of course, recognize that the two Secretariats' task could be made easier if the donor community would come forward with generous extra-budgetary resources to finance attendance of the developing Member countries at the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as recommended.

With reference to the Technical Cooperation and Development Support Programmes, we first of all wish to reiterate our long-felt satisfaction with the performance of the TCP Programme as a politically neutral facility for FAO to quickly respond to requests for urgent and unprogrammed assistance. Although the ceiling for TCP projects' allocation is low, the impact of the Programme is significant and visible. This is the reason why its popularity among the developing countries is ever increasing. We also wish to commend donor countries which operated joint programmes with FAO during the 1990-91 biennium. Special remarks are addressed to the Governments of the Netherlands, Italy and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which have been listed as the largest donors of trust funds to the FAO Development Support Programme.

While Lesotho is disappointed that she is not a beneficiary of these trust funds, we consider them to be a welcome arrangement. We hope efforts will be made by donors to cover as many developing countries as possible, including Lesotho, in their trust funds programmes.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Delegate of Lesotho. Before giving the floor to the next delegate I want to read out the list of those who have asked for the floor: the Netherlands, India, Denmark, Congo, Germany, China, Angola, Belgium, France, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Mr Chairman, I would like to join first of all the former speaker who so expressed satisfaction with your acceptance of the appointment of being our Chairman. We think the Conference took a wise decision in putting this heavy duty on the shoulders of such an "old hand" in FAO affairs as you are.

In his foreword to the document before us, the Director-General states that he attaches importance to evaluation as a tool for sound management. Evaluation of FAO's activities requires more and more attention and the Review of the Regular Programme is part of such a continuous evaluatory process; and indeed, Mr Shah just confirmed that idea.

We find the document very useful and when making some critical remarks here we only do so in order to try to improve future editions of the Review of the Regular Programme.

The document gives an overview of the activities of the biennium 1990-91. The severe financial situation of our Organization had implications on the achievements of the Programme that was accepted during the Conference two years ago. As a result of the crisis, vacancies were not filled or appointments postponed; there were delays in the start of new activities or existing programmes experienced delays. But delays or changes were not the result of the financial situation only. The rapidly changing political scenery of the world since the 1989 Conference had influence on the execution of the Programme too. We therefore think it would have been good when changes or cuts in the Programme were presented together with the reason for such changes. It would have enabled us to appreciate better the influence of the various factors on the execution of the Regular Programme, and that is important in an attempt to improve evaluation. Therefore, we request to do so when the next Review of the Regular Programme is being prepared.

Now I am coming to more specific points of the Review. We appreciate the improved cooperation with other organizations and we are particularly pleased with the increased cooperation and discussions with NGOs. We also noted with satisfaction the increased attention for more horizontal subjects such as sustainable development and women in development and we encourage FAO to continue and increase this attention.

We also appreciate FAO's activities in the sub-areas of sustainable development such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), so very appropriately emphasized yesterday by giving the Sen Award to Dr Kenmore who is working and stimulating IPM in the rice-growing areas of South-east Asia. Also the activities of biodiversity. Further we would like to mention the good work of FAO for the Global Information and Early Warning Systems. A special word of appreciation should be voiced on the alertness of FAO in the fight against the locusts and screwworm. Successes in this are admirable. The Netherlands will continue to attach great importance to policy advice, including support to countries in transition from centrally planned to market-oriented economies. The critical food and agricultural situation in many parts of the world and especially in Africa rightly receive and received much attention. In the fisheries sector progress has been made with collection of information and activities in the framework of women in fisheries development.

An important subject is training and the Review presents many data on training activities. It is good to see that these activities have increased after a decline in recent years, though still lower than in the 1984-85 biennium. The presented data would have been even more valuable if training activities connected with women in development would have been given. We request to do so for the next biennium.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we as a major donor for field activities, saw with much satisfaction that backstopping activities for field projects is on the increase again after the sharp decline in the former biennium and we express the hope that the same level as before should be reached shortly.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** I too would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. I am confident that under your outstanding leadership and guidance the Commission will be able to deliberate on various substantive developmental issues with a fruitful outcome.

Permit me to record my appreciation for the quality of document C 91/8 brought out by the FAO Secretariat for discussion under Item 14 of the Agenda. The document provides a succinct overview of the objectives, programmes and activities of the FAO during the previous biennium as well as the progress of selective development issues. We express our support for the basic overall priority in FAO's Major Agricultural Programme of Africa, some small-scale producers and other disadvantaged groups, including the very poor and women, as well as the emphasis on the establishment of national institutional capability to plan agricultural and rural development.

The period 1990-91 has shown greater integration of the Organization's work on environment and sustainable development, particularly as a result of Resolution 3/89 of the 1989 Conference. We also welcome the strengthening of the FAO with the appointment of an Assistant Director-General, the establishment of a Steering Committee, and the restructuring of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Environment and Sustainable Development and the activation of a number of working groups for this cross-sectoral concern.

It is a matter of great concern that the planned Programme of Work during the previous biennium could not be executed in full because of financial constraints. The situation has been further compounded by the new demands arising from the external review on sustainable development. We welcome, however, the strengthening of cooperative arrangements between FAO and other institutions which was an unintended benefit of the financial crisis.

The studies and preparations of the Interdisciplinary Conference have been facilitated by drawing resources from several programmes and managing these as internal projects. These approaches have led to the advantages of pooling resources to achieve common objectives. This process is to be further accelerated for undertaking collaborative programmes with other institutions. We fully support the proposal to establish a coordination mechanism for cross-programme responses, particularly in the areas of sustainable development, policy analysis and planning.

FAO's contribution to the successful conclusion of the Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and Environment in May 1991 is commendable. It is also gratifying to note that the recommendations of the Conference are being given due consideration and the follow-up action has been initiated. It is suggested that a time-bound action plan may be formulated to implement its recommendations.

We appreciate the FAO's leading role and support for its international campaign on the New World screwworm from North Africa. We understand that the spread of the pest has been contained and its reported attacks have declined significantly in recent months. We would like to have details on the measures taken to contain this pest menace and request FAO keep a watch and take prompt action in eradicating such potential threats to livestock and crop production systems in vulnerable zones in other countries.

Despite not providing funds in the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget, support was given to preparatory activities for the International Conference on Nutrition planned for 1992. This action amply demonstrates FAO's commitment to tackling the issues of hunger and malnutrition. We fully support the initiatives taken by FAO in this regard and hope that the outcome of the Conference will be a concrete programme of action for the common good of the world's hungry and malnourished people.

While appreciating the achievements made in implementing the various programmes in the fisheries sector, we would like to suggest that an integrated coastal management programme may be formulated so the vast potential of this untapped fishery-related resource is harnessed for the benefit of a large fishery community, especially in developing countries.

With regard to the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, we appreciate that the ad hoc meeting of experts agreed on general goals and objectives of forestry development, and endorsed the concept that TFAP could be a country-led process. In agreeing with this approach, we believe that natural resources, including forestry resources, should be managed in accordance with the national priorities of Member Nations of FAO.

The document devotes one full chapter to the review of Technical Cooperation Networks. We feel that TCNs have served as a very cost-effective vehicle in catalyzing more self-reliant inter-country cooperation. We suggest that a suitable formulation mechanism may be evolved to involve participating countries through the project formulation, implementation and evaluating stages in order to obtain the fuller benefit of the network programmes.

**Carl THOMSEN (Denmark):** We understand that there will be an opportunity later to comment on the first part of the document under discussion, C 91/8, so in accordance with your wishes we shall concentrate our comments on Parts Two and Three of the report. We would, however, like first to express our appreciation of the efforts which have gone into the preparation of the report and for the introduction by Mr Shah. We particularly welcome the summary to the report, which has facilitated us in obtaining an overview of the report's contents. We fully support the view that programming for the future should be based on past experiences. The lessons learned should be an important tool of management for the Secretariat, as has already been said, and of governance on the part of the Governing Bodies. It is from this point of view that we particularly appreciate Part Two, covering in-depth reviews of selected Sub-programmes over the three biennia.

We have studied the sections on impact and effect as well as the sections on issues and critical factors with special interest. We very much liked this part of the text, but we would have liked the tabular information on resources allocated to the Sub-programme selected to be accompanied by corresponding figures for the actual expenditure under the Regular Programme. This would enable us to see how much has in fact been made available to the Sub-programme. We suggest that consideration be given to the possibility of including such information in future versions of the report. We would also suggest, as we have before, that more emphasis be given to the quality as compared to the quantity of information provided. This of course is where the results of the evaluations performed are particularly valuable.



It appears that the question of technical back-stopping to the field programme is a common issue and we fully support the statement that a clear assessment of the carrying capacity of the technical programme is needed. We submit that this should be an important challenge for the management in the future in connection with this close collaboration of the field programme and technical programmes which we support. With regard to the Sub-programme on crop improvement and management, we have noticed that there is a need, as is stated, for a more selective approach in setting priorities in this Sub-programme and efforts should be made to meet this need. In our view, this is probably not the only Sub-programme where such efforts are needed. We commend the report for its frankness in dealing with this and other issues, and hope that this type of approach in drafting such reports will gain preponderance in future.

Part Three of the report, on Technical Cooperation Networks, deals with a very important aspect of the work of the Organization. The selection of this topic is thus especially pertinent. The results of the internal study are very interesting indeed and will provide a good guide to the future works on such networks. Among the critical factors referred to, we would particularly emphasize the point that networks should be targeted on critical areas of perceived need and that an incremental approach will most often be preferable. We also agree with the general conclusion to this part that caution is required in setting up new and numerous - sometimes perhaps too numerous - and that efficiency is not the only criterion to be applied to the operation of networks. In short, we find that this is an excellent part of the report and look forward to more examples of this kind of evaluation as part of the Review process.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** Prenant la parole pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission II de la vingt-sixième session de la Conférence de la FAO, sur l'adoption du point 14 de son ordre du jour, permettez à la délégation congolaise ici présente, de vous adresser ses vives et chaleureuses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection.

Comme d'habitude, c'est avec une attention particulière que notre délégation a procédé à l'analyse du sujet en cours de débat, à savoir l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91 de la FAO, sujet dont la présentation vient de nous être brillamment faite par M. Shah.

Deux documents principaux ont servi de base à notre analyse de ce point 14 de notre ordre du jour. Ces documents sont: C 91/8 qui vient de nous être présenté par M. Shah et le document C 91/LIM 12, contenant les extraits du rapport de la soixante-treizième session du Comité du Programme, des extraits de la soixante-douzième session du Comité financier tous consacrés au sujet à l'examen, ainsi que des extraits de la centième session du Conseil de la FAO toujours relatifs à l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91 de notre Organisation.

L'essentiel de mon commentaire étant axé sur la première partie que nous aurons l'occasion de voir ultérieurement, pour les parties à l'examen actuellement, à savoir les Parties 2 et 3 nous serons brefs, d'autant plus que nous sommes tout à fait solidaires des commentaires très détaillés qui ont été faits au plan technique par les délégations du Lesotho et de l'Inde.

Au terme de notre analyse des divers documents suscités sur le sujet à l'examen, nous avons abouti aux considérations ci-après, que nous aimerions partager avec les autres délégués participant aux travaux de notre Commission, tout comme le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier.

D'une manière générale et globale nous nous déclarons nous aussi satisfaits du travail accompli par le Secrétariat dans l'exécution du Programme ordinaire 1990-91 de notre Organisation.

En effet, compte tenu des graves problèmes financiers qui ont dominé le biennium qui s'achève, les résultats obtenus sont à nos yeux des résultats fort appréciables.

Le document C 91/8 qui nous rend compte de cette exécution du Programme ordinaire nous a paru bien structuré, synthétique et à la fois équilibré.

Nous avons noté avec un réel plaisir certaines modifications et améliorations apportées à cette septième édition de l'Examen dans le but de répondre de mieux en mieux aux vœux des organes directeurs de notre organisation.

Les progrès accomplis par l'Organisation dans les domaines prioritaires tels que l'agriculture et l'environnement nous ont paru encourageants. De même le succès éclatant obtenu dans la lutte contre la lucilie bouchère en Lybie et les pays voisins est sans doute parmi de nombreux exemples du bon travail de la FAO.

La faim n'étant toujours pas éradiquée de la surface de notre planète comme nous n'avons cessé de l'espérer, nous estimons que malgré les succès déjà accomplis la FAO a encore beaucoup à faire pour relever les nombreux défis qui pèsent sur les domaines relevant de son mandat.

Devant la tâche ardue qui nous attend tous au cours des prochains mois nous encourageons la FAO à redoubler d'efforts et à persévérer dans la voie difficile qu'elle a choisie, mais qui est à notre entendement une voie sûre pour assurer à chaque humain son pain quotidien et sa dignité, même si c'est dans un avenir encore lointain. Aussi est-ce la raison pour laquelle nous regrettons vivement que l'exécution du Programme 1990-91 ait eu à pâtir des conséquences de problèmes financiers graves rencontrés par l'Organisation au cours du biennium qui s'achève. Nous espérons que cette situation ne se répétera pas pour le prochain exercice biennal et pour y contribuer nous exhortons tous les Etats Membres de notre organisation à assurer à cette dernière une base financière stable en s'acquittant à temps de leurs cotisations.

**Harald HILDEBAND (Germany) (Original language German):** Mr Chairman, thank you for calling me to speak. Might I be permitted to start by warmly congratulating you, Sir, on your election. I can assure you that my delegation is prepared to play an active and constructive part in dealing with the comprehensive Agenda of Commission II.

I should like to thank the Secretariat of our Organization for submitting a document which is well structured and easy to read. I should also like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to this particular Agenda Item.

Could I support the suggestion made by the Danish delegate that in future, when reviewing the Regular Programme, there should be a table indicating sums allocated to, and spent on, the individual parts of the Programme?

When we spoke to the same Agenda item two years ago during the Twenty-fifth session of the Conference we expressed our regret at the fact that the financial situation of FAO had not made it possible for the full 1988-89 Work Programme to be implemented as it had been decided on. At that time we spoke about the resulting dangers-, particularly in terms of FAO's ability to keep or to recruit highly qualified specialists.

Alas, Sir, that trend has persisted although the Organization, as the document submitted to us demonstrates, has caught up in important fields as far as Programme implementation is concerned. Nonetheless, there are many activities which were decided on and which were important in terms of their priorities which have not been implemented. Bearing in mind the increasing worldwide need for agricultural services in the multilateral field, we do very much regret that development. We would like to express our hope here that FAO's financial crisis will soon be over, and that we shall accordingly be in a position in which we can make further progress.

We approach the role of the Regular Programme first and foremost from the angle of maintaining and developing an effective infrastructure which will enable FAO to play a lead role in overcoming world agricultural problems. That necessarily involves being able to analyse the many and varied present and future problems of world-wide agriculture, and helping Member Governments to overcome them. Accordingly, we are glad to see that the advice and assistance to Member Nations has increased considerably, as have training activities, over the last biennium, when compared with a certain low point in 1988-89.

We are also very glad to see that the information system called WAICENT has now started operating worldwide. We regard the system as being one of the central activities of the Organization and one of the most important services. It concerns the collating of agricultural data and processing, and publishing them in a user-friendly way. The smooth operation of its administration which is so important for the Organization will, we hope, be enhanced by the coming on-stream by FINSYS/PERSYS data processing system.

As far as FAO's programmes and activities are concerned, we can indeed say that the Organization has worked well within the framework of its financial resources and possibilities. In the biennium concluding now, we believe that we have seen the future problems of world agriculture and world food security thrown into sharper focus. Thus, in particular, the question of the load that can be borne by existing natural resources has come to play more of a central role. The necessary consequence of this is the call for the establishment of sustainable agriculture: that is to say, the production system whereby foodstuffs are produced in a way which maintains the limited natural resources available to us, rather than using them up.

We are convinced that the work of FAO must increasingly bear the stamp of that need; that is, the supplies to its work and the consequences of its work. Of course, this also concerns a problem of the maintenance and the proper use of tropical and temperate forests, and the maintenance and use of fishery resources. We expect FAO to be even more actively committed in

these fields than it has been in the past and to play the part appropriate for it, bearing in mind all the specialist skills assembled in the Organization.

The report before us could be the subject of many further comments but, because of the limited time available to us, I will leave it there, thanking you for your attention.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** This is the first time the Chinese delegation has spoken in Commission II. Therefore, I should like to take the opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Commission II. I am sure that under your leadership and the leadership of the Vice Chairmen to be elected, the work of Commission II will be successful. I should like to thank Mr Shah for his very clear introduction just now.

The Chinese delegation has carefully studied document C 91/8. We feel that it is a document which is rich in content, which reflects the successes achieved, and also presents problems which exist and recommendations for improvement. This is useful for our full understanding of FAO's Regular Programme and for our study of ways in which to perfect the work of our Regular Programmes.

I should now like to make the following observations in this regard. Firstly, we are pleased to note the progress in many areas of the activities of the Regular Programme in the current biennium. In particular, activities of the three Major Programmes of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have seen a marked improvement compared with the previous biennium. This is a result of FAO, under difficult financial conditions, taking measures to adjust the programmes, streamline personnel, reduce administrative expenditure and ensure the carrying-out of Major Programmes.

However, we have also noted with concern that, because of staff vacancies and the reduction of non-personnel expenditure due to financial difficulties, the implementation of some substantive programmes has been adversely affected. Therefore, we hope that FAO and Member States will make concerted efforts and their due contribution to overcoming these adverse effects caused by financial difficulty.

Secondly, the first part of the document reviews the implementation of the Regular Programme in the current biennium. We have noted that there are two prominent characteristics in the activities of the Regular Programme of the current biennium: one is that many activities have been carried out in the environment and sustainable development and can be found in the Major Programmes of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry, and in particular, in the great deal of work which has been done for the preparation of the World Conference on the Environment and Development. The second characteristic is that support for field programme activities has been further strengthened. At the same time we hope that FAO will further strengthen coordination of Regular Programmes and Field Programmes, improving coordination between Regular Programme activities and Field Programmes, according to changes in the way in which projects in the field are implemented, so as to increase efficiency further and extend the impact.

Third, Chapter Eleven of the document exclusively reviews the Technical Cooperation Networks. We are satisfied to note that FAO has made progress in providing support to these networks. Facts have proved that activity in these networks is of vital importance to the strengthening of technical cooperation among developing countries. For FAO these networks are an effective way of promoting the exchange of experiences and carrying out technical cooperation among developing countries, as they require low investment that generates high benefits. The Review points out the achievements made and, at the same time, elaborates on key problems to be solved for future improvement - for instance, formulation of practical work programmes and seeking more resources. We hope that efforts will be strengthened to this end.

Fourthly, Part II of the document makes an in-depth review of four Sub-programmes. We are satisfied with FAO for activities carried out in this regard. Here, I wish to emphasize Sub-programme 2.3.1.4 - that is, forest food, fodder and fuelwood system. At a time when the present world forest resources are diminishing and the ecological environment is being destroyed, forestry development is of great strategic and practical significance for the sustainable development of food and agriculture. Some of the developing countries, in particular, are suffering from a shortage of energy in rural areas. There is an urgent need and broad prospects for the development of fuelwood and the integrated utilization of forest techniques. It is our hope that FAO will continue its efforts in this field.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** Prenant la parole pour la première fois dans cette Commission, permettez-moi, M. le Président, de vous adresser mes vives félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à cette importante Commission ainsi qu'à vos deux Vice-Présidents. Nos félicitations s'adressent aussi à M. Shah pour son exposé clair et précis du document dont nous sommes saisis.

Ce document est très clair et d'une grande utilité car il nous fournit des informations très importantes sur l'activité et les objectifs atteints par l'Organisation.

A cet égard, nous nous félicitons des nouvelles améliorations apportées à la présentation de ce programme ordinaire et nous ne pouvons que reconnaître les efforts toujours déployés par le Directeur général pour renforcer la capacité d'évaluation et de suivi de l'Organisation.

C'est avec beaucoup d'attention, M. le Président, que nous avons lu ces documents; comme on peut le constater, les contraintes budgétaires ont rendu difficile la réalisation de certains programmes et sous-programmes. Malgré les difficultés financières, la FAO s'est efforcée d'atteindre ses objectifs afin de pouvoir satisfaire les besoins de ses Etats Membres et particulièrement des pays en développement.

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

Nous nous félicitons des efforts déployés par la FAO pour soutenir la campagne internationale de lutte contre la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord et son éradication complète. Bien que cela n'ait pas été prévu dans, le

Programme de travail et budget de 1990-91, nous nous félicitons également du soutien qui a été accordé par le Programme ordinaire aux préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Mais nous regrettons seulement le retard causé par les difficultés financières à la création d'une unité spéciale chargée de favoriser la coopération entre la Commission du Codex Alimentarius et le GATT. Nous nous réjouissons aussi de la coopération de la FAO avec d'autres organisations comme la Banque mondiale, le PNUE, l'OMS et le GATT dans les domaines prioritaires et souhaitons qu'elle soit de plus en plus renforcée. Nous aimerions exprimer notre satisfaction face à la poursuite de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement de la pêche approuvée en 1984 par la Conférence mondiale de la FAO ainsi que les cinq programmes d'action. Nous regrettons seulement qu'un de ces programmes n'a pas été mis en oeuvre et que certaines activités relatives au développement de l'aquaculture ont dû être interrompues.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'achèvement de l'étude sur les besoins de la recherche halieutique internationale pour les pays en développement; celle-ci permettra une utilisation rationnelle de nos ressources. Nous remercions les institutions qui l'ont coordonnée et nous sommes aussi d'avis que pour sa mise en oeuvre la FAO devrait jouer un rôle de premier rang.

Pour terminer, nous nous félicitons de la participation très active de ce grand programme aux préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique nous réitérons notre appui et nous souhaitons le renforcement de ses ressources. Quant au Fonds fiduciaire, nous ne pouvons que féliciter et remercier les Pays-Bas, l'Italie, pour leurs contributions et exhortons les autres donateurs à suivre l'exemple de ces derniers.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** Ma délégation a étudié avec beaucoup d'intérêt l'Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91. Le document C 91/8 constitue l'un des outils indispensables pour évaluer l'action de la FAO.

En ce qui concerne la première partie c'est-à-dire celle qui analyse les grands programmes de la FAO, nous aurons bien sûr l'occasion de nous pencher à nouveau sur ces programmes. Nous aimerions ici saluer les efforts de présentation qui permettent de passer systématiquement en revue les objectifs principaux, les priorités et surtout l'aspect interdisciplinaire des programmes ainsi que des Sous-programmes qui s'y rattachent. C'est cependant avec quelque frustration que nous avons lu la partie de l'Examen consacrée au service financier; je veux parler du Programme 5.2.2 et du Programme 5.2.3, service ordinateur. Nous aurions en effet aimé en savoir un peu plus et voir par exemple figurer sous ces chapitres des indications chiffrées sur ce qu'a coûté jusqu'ici l'installation de FINSYS-PERSYS.

Pour ce qui concerne la deuxième partie de l'examen qui passe en revue ce qui a été fait pour quatre sous-programmes, nous apprécions là encore la présentation, et ce, d'autant plus qu'il s'agit d'activités prioritaires appelées à connaître des développements dans les années à venir. Nous sommes particulièrement intéressés par le Sous-programme 2.1.4.4: télédétection et agrométéorologie. Nous continuons de plaider en faveur d'une coopération étroite entre ces deux domaines auxquels la Belgique participe.

Quant au réseau de coopération technique auquel est consacrée la troisième partie de cet Examen nous considérons que leur déploiement constitue une étape essentielle dans le processus d'application des autorités nationales des pays bénéficiaires aussi bien au niveau du financement qu'au niveau du savoir-faire. Toutefois, nous sommes relativement inquiets sur le mode de financement de ces réseaux, et nous aimerions notamment demander au Secrétariat une évaluation de l'impact des nouvelles modifications des modalités d'exécution des projets de terrain sur les ressources disponibles pour la constitution des réseaux sachant que ces activités sont financées principalement par des ressources extrabudgétaires.

En conclusion, cet examen tend à prouver à ceux qui en doutaient encore l'étroite imbrication qui existe entre les activités techniques du programme ordinaire et celles bénéficiant du financement extrabudgétaire.

Nous restons d'avis que cette étroite liaison est saine pourvu qu'elle reste équilibrée. Elle démontre la complémentarité du rôle normatif et du rôle opérationnel de la FAO.

**Jean-Pierre POLY (France):** M. le Président, laissez-moi vous dire tout d'abord combien mon pays se réjouit de vous voir présider les travaux de cette importante Commission. Merci également à M. Shah pour sa présentation claire comme à l'habitude du rapport qui rend compte à notre Conférence de l'exécution du Programme ordinaire sur la période précédente.

Conformément à vos souhaits, ma délégation analysera plus en détail les activités de l'Organisation dans une perspective d'avenir, lors de prochains points de l'ordre du jour de nos travaux. Je me bornerai, à ce stade, à faire quelques commentaires de portée générale.

Le rapport C 91/8 rend compte à notre Conférence de l'exécution du Programme ordinaire sur la période 1988-89.

Cette période, comme la précédente, s'est inscrite sous le signe, à la fois des difficultés de trésorerie persistantes de l'Organisation et de la mise en oeuvre des recommandations de l'examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Ma délégation, cependant, se félicite que le taux d'exécution du Programme au cours de l'exercice en voie d'achèvement soit en amélioration sensible par rapport à celui constaté lors des deux dernières sessions de notre Conférence, au cours desquelles avaient, trop souvent, été relevés, dans les activités de l'Organisation, de sévères abattements et des impasses préjudiciables à la situation financière de la FAO.

Ma délégation considère également que le récent examen de notre Organisation a largement contribué au renforcement souhaitable de la coordination des programmes dans les domaines prioritaires de la FAO comme le développement agricole durable, l'analyse et la planification des politiques, la mise en place d'une base de données intégrées.

Cette coordination intersectorielle et interdisciplinaire a contribué à la réussite des manifestations auxquelles a participé la FAO comme la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas sur l'agriculture et l'environnement et au rôle

qu'elle joue dans les préparatifs d'autres manifestations importantes comme la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'environnement et le développement (CNUED).

Comme à l'habitude, la plupart des activités des programmes techniques (agriculture, forêts, pêches, programmes de soutien au développement...) interviennent en appui direct au Programme de terrain de l'Organisation.

Ma délégation se félicite de cette orientation qui traduit le souci de la FAO d'apporter une aide concrète aux Etats Membres sous la forme de services consultatifs ou d'appui technique et opérationnel aux projets de terrain. Ce constat nous conduit à penser que la FAO, dont la qualité des services est généralement reconnue et qui justifie souvent d'avantages comparatifs bien établis, continuera à jouer un rôle important de conseil et d'appui aux pays en développement dans le nouveau contexte de l'exécution nationale des projets.

Toutefois, ma délégation relève que les difficultés financières persistantes de l'Organisation durant cet exercice n'ont pas permis au Programme de terrain de mettre un terme à son intervention dans certains secteurs du Programme ordinaire pour y colmater les brèches, obérant ainsi en partie ses capacités purement opérationnelles.

Il serait souhaitable, par exemple, que le Programme ordinaire, dans la perspective d'une meilleure gestion de l'ensemble des activités de l'Organisation, participe plus largement à la gestion informatisée du Programme de terrain; j'entends par là de l'ensemble des activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation.

Dans de prochaines interventions, ma délégation reviendra sur les relations qu'il convient d'établir entre le Programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire, qui se complètent mais poursuivent en fait des objectifs différents dans des perspectives à plus ou moins long terme.

Ces considérations me conduisent cependant à souligner dès à présent à la fois l'intérêt du Plan à moyen terme, dont notre Commission s'apprête à examiner le projet, et l'importance du Comité du Programme de la FAO, qui doit garantir la cohérence du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain.

Ma délégation se félicite, enfin, de la poursuite de l'effort accompli par l'Organisation dans le domaine de l'évaluation et reconnaît la pertinence du choix opéré dans les activités soumises, lors de cette session, à un examen approfondi. Qu'il s'agisse des quatre sous-programmes figurant dans la seconde partie du rapport (et notamment la gestion des ressources naturelles, des systèmes forestiers intégrés, de la conduite rationnelle des cultures...) ou du rapport sur les réseaux de coopération technique, il s'agit bien là de thèmes particulièrement liés aux activités de la FAO en matière de développement durable, priorité s'il en est pour notre Organisation.

Ma délégation y voit la démonstration des capacités d'évolution de la FAO pour mettre à la disposition de la communauté internationale, confrontée à de nouveaux défis, une expertise de qualité.



Je veux également pour preuve de cette expertise les succès que l'on ne peut passer sous silence dans la lutte contre les grands fléaux: les acridiens, la lucilie bouchère, ou dans la gestion de systèmes globaux d'information ou d'alerte rapide.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom)** : I recall commenting at the Conference two years ago that very few, if any, other organizations produced such an excellent retrospective Review of the Regular Programme. I still think that the production of a document such as the one we have before us today is a wise practice and should continue.

I should like to congratulate the Secretariat on the production of the document, and I should like to thank Mr Shah for his very clear and concise introduction to the paper. There is a wealth of detail in this document, and again it raises many interesting issues about what the Organization has and has not accomplished with the assessed contributions paid by Member States.

As in previous reviews, the link between the Regular and Field Programmes and the extent to which they are reliant on each other is quite evident. Here I should like to support the comments made by the Belgian delegation regarding the need to ensure an appropriate balance.

The Regular Programme includes FAO's core activities. It incorporates the fundamental raison d'être for the Organization's existence. In the opinion of my delegation FAO has a comparative advantage in many of the functions it performs within the Regular Programme, particularly those of policy advice and global information systems. However, we again found it difficult to disentangle those activities which would and should go on irrespective of the Field Programme.

With the introduction of new arrangements for agency support costs, it will be even more important that we have a detailed breakdown of these activities. Of course we shall be addressing the support costs issue under another Agenda item.

FAO has undergone an extremely difficult period in terms of available finances, and the Organization is to be congratulated for the way in which it has protected the priority areas and the back-up of Field Programmes. That said, there is still a tendency for the objectives and priorities set for each programme to be all-embracing.

In our view, there is insufficient discussion of the Organization's comparative advantage and of the methods used to determine priorities. By and large, the paper fails to set clear milestones or targets against which to measure the progress made by FAO towards achieving its objectives. The quantification of the outputs and impact of the Programme is by and large retrospective. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to cite the Livestock Programme as one of the many examples. Paragraph 1.56, Basic Objective, and paragraph 1.57, Priorities, cover a whole range of objectives and priorities without mentioning the words "dairy" and "dairying". However, paragraph 1.70 on Sub-programme Implementation is devoted to dairying, although prior to reaching the paragraph the reader could well have assumed that dairying was not a priority. Paragraph 1.70 does quantify the number of courses held, projects supported and so on, in recent years, but no targets or milestones are set for the future. My point here is that we

should like to see FAO set clear targets against which progress could have been, and for the future can be, monitored and evaluated. It would then be possible for Member States to review progress against agreed criteria.

The sort of thing we have in mind can be seen in the Livestock Programme where an example of an objective with a clear time-bound target is the global eradication of rinderpest by the year 2000. This can be found in paragraph 1.64. We welcome this example of a target and will monitor progress with interest, but even here we should like to have seen some milestones along that road such as eradication from all West African countries by, say, 1994, and from Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia by 1997.

Part Two of the document gives a very welcome effort to carry out an in-depth review of selected Sub-programmes, but again because no quantifiable targets were set in the previous period it is difficult, and in some places impossible, to assess the extent to which the achievements of the last five years or so compare with what it was hoped would be achieved.

The point was made by the External Auditors that we also consider the results of evaluation so that lessons learned will provide an input into future planning projects. And here I would like to support the comments of the Danish delegation. This is another point made by the External Auditors. I will not labour these points any further.

The Organization's commitments to fully integrated environmental concerns within the activities of the Regular Programmes are to be commended. My delegation considers that such an approach is essential. Environmental issues pervade all activities and care must be taken to ensure they are not marginalized. We welcome the establishment of a departmental working group on fisheries and environment, the formation of an inter-departmental task force on integrated coastal zone management and the introduction of a system approach to aquaculture development. These initiatives acknowledge the necessity of adopting an integrated approach to fisheries sector and management and recognize the key cross-cutting issues of environment stability and socio-economic impact.

The formation of these groups reveals a welcome awareness that problems and programmes in the fisheries sector cannot be addressed in isolation by technical solutions.

FAO's programme of networks is held in very high regard by my delegation. We are, however, concerned with what we see as an explosion of new networks around the developing world. There is a very distinct danger of duplication and we hope that FAO will continue to collaborate closely with other organizations to ensure that this does not happen.

In conclusion, my delegation welcomes the advances made in the presentation of this document and the information it contains, but we would like to stress once more the advantages of setting quantifiable targets.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before giving the floor to the next delegation I will read out the list again: United States, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Canada, Kenya, Mexico, Iran, Indonesia. I give the floor to the delegate of the United States.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** Mr Chairman, thank you very much and we would also like to thank Mr Shah for his very succinct opening introduction.

The biennial Review of FAO's Regular Programme provides members with the unique opportunity to render judgements on how FAO is doing its work, looking at highlights and shortfalls, measuring accomplishments versus plans, assessing how responsive the Organization is to changing member requirements, and evaluating what FAO's main contributions have been during the past two years.

Taking a look at the Regular Programme performance will enable us to make more sound judgements when we consider the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget later this week.

The views of the United States regarding FAO's most important activities have been stated many times at many FAO fora during the past year. Several of them were reinforced during Secretary Madigan's address today. To reiterate a few of them: activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission data and information-related activities, pest and disease eradication, policy analysis and advice, establishment of an IPPC Secretariat and other activities in support of GATT, environment and sustainable development, GIEWS, Global Information and Early Warning System, and various activities relating to genetic resources. Thus, we generally agree with the priorities as described in the Review.

Reading the Report from cover to cover is extremely informative; the issues and outlook sections are particularly valuable; the increased emphasis on environment and sustainable development throughout the Regular Programme is commendable; but the Report is also very time-consuming. Perhaps a way could be found to shorten the Review without significantly reducing the substance. We note here that comments thus made so far have tended to point out where additions could be made and so this will be a difficult task indeed.

It is useful to know the ratio of extra-budgetary to Regular Programme resources in each Programme. This information is provided for all programmes in a tabular form but is not discussed in each programme review.

We are pleased to see that resource constraints had a less severe impact on Programme implementation this biennium than it did the previous two. In instances where resource constraints are given as a reason for not being able to carry out a programme, those things omitted suggest where priorities lie. We are generally not sympathetic to difficulties encountered in delivering field programmes as a result of shortfalls in Regular Programme resources. A case in point is the Forestry Department where extra-budgetary resources account for about 85 percent of the total. While we recognize that the Regular and Field Programmes must be mutually reinforcing, we do not believe the primary function of core programmes should be to service Field Programmes. Plus, we support comments made in the Expert Review of FAO which suggested that the ratio of field to core programme resources should not be too large within any programme.

We have been looking forward to the full implementation of WAICENT for some time. This should enable the Organization to provide data and information which is more reliable and more timely. External users will benefit from more direct information access. Will WAICENT include the Geographic

Information System? What about forestry statistics? From the statement on page 35, we presume environmental data will also be included to a greater degree.

FAO's contributions to the UNCED preparatory process have been noteworthy. The issues are often controversial, so it is important that the scientific and technical expertise that is unique to FAO be made available to the process. These activities should be no less important following UNCED.

FAO's efforts in the livestock area are supported by the United States. The programme for conserving animal genetic resources is off to a good start. We look forward to the expert consultation on animal genetic resources in early 1992. We are pleased to have collaborated with FAO to eradicate the New World screwworm. Under FAO's leadership, and with good donor response, this potentially devastating outbreak was effectively curtailed.

As we get closer to a GATT agreement, it becomes more essential that FAO be prepared to backstop it through scientific input. Work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission has progressed to the point where Codex food standards have achieved widespread acceptance. They will provide a solid basis for reducing non-tariff trade barriers. In this regard, we believe that FAO/WHO scientific evaluations of substances including food additives, pesticides and veterinary drugs, should be accelerated to provide the sound scientific basis needed to promote harmonized international trade of food and food products. Progress in establishing the IPPC Secretariat has been less satisfactory. The Secretariat must be put in place as soon as possible. It needs to be adequately staffed and highly visible.

FAO's increased focus on environment and sustainable development is commendable. It is evident throughout the programs in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. We presume that these increased activities have not seriously detracted from other work. Is the Sub-program on sustaining resource potentials supposed to be the cornerstone of FAO's involvement in this area?

Rapid population growth is a continuing concern in many regions of the world. We would like to know more about the role of Regional Population Advisors, as noted on page 26.

Integration of the World Food Report into the State of Food and Agriculture appears to have been a move resulting in greater efficiency. The Commodity Review and Outlook and Special Reports on Africa continue to be high quality releases. We look forward to seeing the study on "Agricultural Commodity Prospects" for the 1990s when it is made available next year. Presumably, the results of this study will feed into the next update of Agriculture Towards 2000.

The United States commends FAO for exploring ways in which to assist Eastern European countries in their transition to market-based economies. We hope that FAO has been able to analyse policy that will be useful to these countries. The important role of the private sector is demonstrated in this and other areas FAO has engaged in over the past biennium. Involving the private sector in FAO's Intergovernmental Commodity Groups is commendable. A study of selected Asian countries once again reveal that the private sector can play a pivotal role in implementing price policies.

Finally, the expansion of collaborative activities by FAO during the current bienium is commendable. It enables FAO to use its resources efficiently and to focus on areas where it has a comparative advantage.

**Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia)** : In the interests of moving the Agenda along as quickly as possible I will be exceedingly brief in this item.

Firstly we would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Committee II. We would also like to congratulate Mr Shah for his clear and detailed information. I would like to express our deep appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for the outstanding work carried out in the preparation of document C 91/8. As the previous delegate said most of our observations I will not repeat them and at the end I would say only that Yugoslavia supports the Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91.

**Marcos I. NIETOS LARA (Cuba)**: Por ser la primera vez que hago uso de la palabra, permítame felicitarlo sinceramente por su elección. Estamos seguros que bajo su sabia dirección, podremos debatir con amplitud y objetividad los temas esenciales para el funcionamiento de nuestra Organización.

Permítame expresar también nuestra satisfacción por encontrar de nuevo al Sr. Shah en la presentación de estos temas con la brillantez y claridad con que siempre lo ha hecho, constituyendo ya una valiosa tradición de nuestra Organización. En esta misma Sala lo hemos visto en múltiples oportunidades conducir y expresar las principales actividades de la Organización, con absoluta claridad. Felicitaciones.

Entrando en materia sobre el tema en debate, mi delegación considera que este documento sobre el Programa Ordinario está suficientemente actualizado, y recoge en esencia las propuestas que en esta misma Sala plantearon los Países Miembros en el pasado período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Por ello, reconocemos el esfuerzo de la Secretaría en este sentido y reconocemos su acción.

El Programa Ordinario 1991 concedió una atención muy importante a la asistencia a los Estados Miembros en materia de política y planificación del desarrollo agrícola y rural, teniendo como telón de fondo el concepto de desarrollo sostenible. Este tema por su importancia fue ampliamente debatido en la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada el pasado año, partiendo del hecho de que la mayoría de los programas de desarrollo agrícola y rural dirigidos a los sectores de la población más pobres, realmente ocurren en ecosistemas frágiles en los que siempre estará presente el riesgo de que continúe deteriorándose el medio ambiente, especialmente en lo que hace referencia a los recursos de suelo y agua.

El tema de la protección del medio ambiente también ha tenido una atención prioritaria por parte de la FAO, respondiendo con eficacia y con rapidez a las demandas planteadas por los países desarrollados y en vías de desarrollo, armonizando sus intereses para llevar adelante el Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical, como acción concreta en materia de proteger el medio ambiente en los países tropicales caracterizados por la extensión de los ecosistemas frágiles.

Otro asunto que merece nuestra atención es, sin duda, el relativo al establecimiento, desarrollo y fortalecimiento de las Redes de Cooperación Técnica que han sido un sistema eficaz y de bajo costo para aprovechar e intercambiar las experiencias positivas que hemos alcanzado los países en desarrollo movilizandolos recursos nacionales e internacionales en beneficio directo del desarrollo agrícola y rural.

Debemos señalar que dada la importancia concedida por todos a las Redes de Cooperación Técnica, inclusive dentro del Programa Ordinario, sería conveniente que hubiera una mayor disponibilidad de fondos extrapresupuestarios para aumentar la capacidad de acción de las Redes de Cooperación Técnica, y extender estas experiencias positivas.

Por último, nos referimos en términos encomiásticos al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el cual como se pone de relieve en el Examen del Programa Ordinario, ha demostrado ser un mecanismo eficaz y dinámico para actuar en casos de emergencia o como factor catalítico para movilizar recursos nacionales e internacionales en favor del desarrollo.

Mi delegación desearía volver de nuevo sobre algunos aspectos del Programa Ordinario en el debate de otros temas del Programa de la Organización, por la estrecha vinculación y complementariedad que existe entre ellos.

**David SHERWOOD (Canada):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, for this opportunity to provide a few brief supporting comments on the Review of the Regular Programme. Canada would also like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of this Commission and also to express our appreciation to the Secretariat in the presentation of its report C 91/8. We would also like to thank Mr Shah for your concise introduction.

Canada recognizes the importance of the Review of a Regular Programme as the principal means for reporting on work implemented and results achieved in the Organization. We recognize the improvements that have been made to the format and the structure of this Report and we encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this area. This is a particularly useful tool in assessing decisions taken regarding Programme changes as a result of budgetary adjustments.

We are pleased with the attention that has been given to priority areas as set out in the Programme of Work and Budget. The organizational changes along with the range of activities designed to place increased emphasis on environment and sustainable development is very much welcomed. As well, steps have been taken to strengthen FAO's work in the gathering and dissemination of information through WAICENT and the Geographic Information System (GIS).

We encourage continued progress in improving performance data. Canada recognizes that as a result of financial cuts, adjustments and reallocations have had to be made. The impact of these changes needs to be recorded and assessed. Consequently, it remains a shared objective to both monitor and evaluate the real impact of the Regular Programme on agricultural and rural development. We would like to join other delegations in commending FAO for the results its work has achieved in combatting the outbreak of the New World screwworm in North Africa. Regarding the future, despite progress that has been achieved, we are well aware of the

challenges FAO faces in the future, and this is nowhere more apparent than in the forestry sector, which will be the centre of international attention both in the context of the Tropical Forest Action Plan and in the broader context in discussions in UNICED.

We would also like to commend the FAO for its support of the WHO Codex Alimentarius and express the hope that this support will be increased.

There are other items which we would like to highlight, but in the interest of brevity we will bring them forward when the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget occurs.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide these supporting comments.

**B.K. KISILU (Kenya):** This is the first time my delegation has taken the floor and I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Commission II. I congratulate Mr Shah for his clear introductory remarks. My delegation compliments FAO for keeping the established format of the Regular Programme during the 1990-91 biennium while at the same time injecting in new features. Second for working out objectives to be achieved by each programme.

However, my delegation is concerned that FAO is constrained in its efforts to carry out the set objectives and even inject further new features into the Regular Programme because of the failure of Member States to honour their obligations. I call upon the Member States without exception to live up to their promises. Above all, the appeal should be taken seriously by the major contributors whose continued failure to make contributions to FAO may weaken not only the Regular Programme but the whole Organization. I wonder how FAO is supposed to establish an active system of review with strong links to further improvements in the Organization's work as suggested earlier if Member States are not contributing regularly.

FAO should be commended for the results it has achieved in the alleviation of hunger and poverty in the world and especially in North Africa through the elimination of the screwworm and the constant threat to agricultural production by locusts.

However, in its efforts to combat environmental degradation and conservation of environment for sustainable agriculture, FAO should always identify the important role played by women in development. I say this because women in general constitute the bulk of the population handling agriculture in the developing countries. Here FAO should be concerned with the technological developments that save women time in other chores in order to give them more time for agricultural production.

My delegation on the whole is satisfied with this presentation and feels it should be adopted by consensus in the Conference.

**Elías REYES BRAVO (México):** Gracias, señor Presidente, gracias a la Secretaria por este documento que establece las actividades sustantivas del Programa Ordinario en este bienio 1990-91, poniendo de relieve una

diversidad considerable de temas que en su mayor parte tienen una correspondencia directa con los tres Programas Técnicos principales de la Organización.

En particular, México realizó en el marco de la FAO múltiples actividades en este periodo, que alentaron el quehacer de las instituciones nacionales.

Mi país participó regularmente en los foros de la FAO en este periodo, desde el Consejo, sus Comités, así como otros muy especializados en materia agrícola, forestal y pecuaria, destacándose entre ellos la Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre Agricultura y Medio Ambiente, la cual constituye para nuestro país una experiencia valiosa al propósito de incorporar a los procesos productivos criterios de sostenibilidad ambiental.

En julio de este año se realizó en la ciudad de México, la Tercera Reunión del Comité de Frutas y Hortalizas Frescas de Origen Tropical, perteneciente a la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius cuya sede se encuentra en mi capital. Esperemos que sea un foro que permita avances en beneficio de la salud de los consumidores y de los flujos comerciales para este tipo de productos de que se ocupa dicho Comité

Mi país participó en varios eventos del Codex, lo cual es fundamental para que avancemos en materia de normalización, tema que junto al de la sanidad fitopecuaria, ha merecido una atención particular de mi Gobierno.

En el marco del Programa Ordinario que nos ocupa, México ha impulsado la celebración del Día mundial de la Alimentación, cuyos alcances a nivel central y estatal se han acrecentado con carácter institucional y social, buscando la participación de los sectores sociales y privados.

El lema de este año del Día Mundial de la Alimentación fue el de "El árbol fuente de vida" y en México se realizó con ese propósito un acto central, presidido por el Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos con la representación del Presidente de la República; en dicho acto se instaló el Comité Nacional para la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Se organizaron también una exposición gráfica y un coloquio con el lema "El árbol, desarrollo y cooperación internacional".

Reconocemos la labor que ha realizado la Secretaría de la FAO en el ámbito de los sistemas de información y en particular la labor ya emprendida para la constitución del WAICENT. Se trata de una labor que responde a las funciones originales de la FAO de interés permanente para nuestro país.

Asimismo, reconocemos el esfuerzo de la Secretaría en la integración de los estudios mundiales y regionales sobre la situación agrícola y alimentaria. Con ese propósito México, recientemente ha proporcionado información y datos a la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe.

En el ámbito de montes, México participó en el Décimo Congreso Forestal Mundial celebrado en París en septiembre pasado y cuya realización contó con el importante apoyo de la FAO.

El documento refleja el número considerable de Redes de Cooperación Técnica que operan con apoyo de la FAO y que constituyen un mecanismo útil de cooperación.



Durante este bienio que está por concluir, México ha participado de manera importante en el Sistema de Redes de Cooperación Técnica y ha constituido un mecanismo importante para alcanzar muchos objetivos del Programa Ordinario.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I would like to express my appreciation to the FAO for its excellent activities, especially in developing countries, and to thank the Secretariat for the excellent document C 91/8 and Mr Shah for his excellent explanation and guidance. TCP has a great role in developing countries, especially through the implementation of project training courses and workshops. TCDC is also something I would like to mention and ask for more collaboration by the FAO on this. Fisheries and agriculture play an important role in most developing countries but it has not been given enough attention in the 1992-93 Programme. National self-sufficiency is essential in order to obtain sustainable development, management of resources and optimum utilization has been emphasized in all sessions and most documents. We believe that the upgrading of national experts, especially researchers, is the most important action that can be taken through seminars, short-term training courses and workshops organized by FAO. The developing countries need more assistance in coastal fisheries management, especially at the moment.

Finally, I would like to express once again the highest appreciation of the excellent job done by FAO in the developing countries and a wish for better international collaboration and cooperation through UN networks.

**P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** As this is the first time my delegation has had the floor, allow me to begin my statement by congratulating you on your election to the Chair of this important Committee. My delegation has read carefully document C 91/8, and would like to congratulate the Secretariat for successfully preparing such a comprehensive document and Dr Shah on his clear and concise explanation of the salient points needing Council's attention and consideration. We welcome the Director-General's report telling us that programme implementation during the biennium shows in general an improvement over the last biennium, reflecting efforts to pursue full programme implementation despite continuing resource constraints. We greatly appreciate this goodwill. It is also a reflection of the kindness shown by the leadership by the FAO, who have made the utmost efforts to adjust the implementation of the Programme, in line with reality, i.e., the current financial situation of FAO. We note with satisfaction that within the Major Programme Agriculture, significant adjustments have been made within individual programmes in order to implement the decisions of the 1989 Conference to place greater emphasis on work for environmental and sustainable development and on FAO's policy advisory role. We look forward to the speedy implementation of the decisions of the very successful FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment.

We welcome the achievements under the Livestock Programme. We feel that the basic objectives and priorities of this programme are still valid for the future activities of our forthcoming PWB. As regards work in the field of animal genetics, we record our support for the views of the Committee on Agriculture in the last Council on this matter, which are clearly stated in paragraph 1.68 on page 19 of the document.

On the Rural Development Programme we note guidelines are being developed in various programme areas to assist with the inclusion of Women in Development concerns in project design and implementation. It is our hope that work in this field can be continued, including the current work on assisting the strengthening of WID units in mainline ministries. We follow with close attention the work of FAO in food and agriculture policy planning and the agricultural planning assistance which, among other work dealing with analyses of policy options as a basis for structural adjustment programmes, is of value to our country. We note that advisory activities are being completed in seven countries, including my own, and we hope this programme will continue to be of real help to developing countries in implementing their structural adjustment programmes.

We note the progress of work on the improvement of national capabilities to foster sustainable fisheries development. We welcome further information from the Secretariat on the complete action undertaken to strengthen national capabilities under the programme of fisheries exploitation and utilization.

With regard to work on forestry, we note the report on the work of FAO on the preparation of UNCED. However, my delegation have their own opinions on issues in this field, which we will explain under other Agenda items.

We note the report on the implementation of TCPs. We note the biggest areas of assistance are advisory services (48.2 percent) and training (27 percent), which is a better percentage as compared with 1989. Both the areas and the percentage figures clearly identify the merits of TCP, meaning that TCP is becoming more and more a beneficial investment for further developmental activities. We also note the regional distribution of the funds, as clearly shown in paragraph 5.7 on page 90 of the document. We express the hope for a more balanced distribution of TCP in the forthcoming PWB in view of the pressing need to help small and poor farmers, the majority of whom live in the Asian and Pacific Regions. Once again, my delegation expresses its appreciation for the work of FAO and is pleased to endorse this report on the Regular Programme for 1990-91. We will be back again to discuss related matters on the Regular Programme under other Agenda items.

**António MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord M. le Président, de vous féliciter de votre élection.

Le document C 91/LIM/12 que nous sommes en train d'analyser est constitué par des extraits de la centième session du Conseil qui a eu lieu du 5 au 8 novembre. Le Portugal, pays membre du Conseil, a donné Son approbation au Rapport, incluant les paragraphes reproduits ici et qui concernent l'Examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91.

La délégation portugaise confirme son appui aux propositions du Comité financier, lesquelles figurent aux paragraphes 3.24 et 3.25 du document C 91/LIM/12, notamment à la proposition du Directeur général.

La délégation portugaise pense que ce procédé vient faciliter la vision globale des activités de la FAO en tenant compte du fait que ces deux aspects son intimement liés. De la même façon, la délégation portugaise donne son appui aux modifications introduites dans les textes présentés au

Conseil qui sont citées au point 2.8 du LIM/12 et qui constituent des formes propices à une analyse plus profonde de la situation et de l'actuation de la FAO, en ce qui concerne ces deux domaines fondamentaux.

**Igor MARINCEK (Suisse):** J'aimerais remercier M. Shah de son excellente introduction dans ce premier point de l'ordre du jour de notre Commission. Nous avons devant nous un bon document, qui est plus analytique que par le passé et nous invitons le Secrétariat à progresser encore dans cette direction. Mon pays accorde une haute priorité aux travaux de la FAO sur l'utilisation rationnelle et durable des ressources naturelles en général et sur une agriculture durable en particulier. Nous encourageons notre Organisation à travailler en étroite coopération avec les autres organisations internationales compétentes en cette matière. Nous considérons les résultats de la Conférence FAO/Pays-Bas de Den Bosch comme un bon départ dans ce domaine. Rappelons qu'il doit être profitable pour les paysans de s'améliorer dans la direction d'une agriculture durable. Le problème n'est donc pas seulement de caractère technique mais aussi d'ordre politique, économique et agricole.

Face à l'immense défi de l'élimination du fléau de la faim et de la pauvreté rurale, la FAO dispose seulement de ressources limitées. Nous sommes d'avis que la FAO essaie de couvrir un trop vaste éventail d'activités et que nous courrons ainsi le risque de suggérer au monde et à nous-mêmes que tout ce qui est nécessaire est déjà entrepris.

Parlant d'avantages comparatifs, nous apprécions par exemple le rôle indispensable de catalyseur que la FAO joue dans les actions qui nécessitent une collaboration transfrontières.

J'aimerais notamment féliciter notre Organisation pour son travail dans la récente éradication de la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord, pour ne citer qu'une activité que seule la FAO pouvait organiser et mener à bien.

Nous regrettons que le Secrétariat ne nous fasse pas de proposition claire de réduction d'activités qui ne sont pas centrales pour le mandat de la FAO. Si de telles activités étaient reprises par d'autres organisations qui s'en occupent déjà activement, des ressources pourraient être libérées en faveur d'activités plus prioritaires de notre Organisation. Nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire de concentrer l'activité de la FAO en fonction des ressources disponibles et des avantages comparatifs.

Bien qu'il soit peut-être facile de tomber d'accord sur ce principe, des divergences surgissent quand il s'agit de déterminer dans quel domaine la FAO dispose d'un avantage comparatif. Rappelons que les avantages comparatifs sont liés à la compétence, cette dernière étant le fruit de l'expérience et de la compétition, qui permettent d'atteindre un haut degré de productivité. Il est dommage que nous ne disposions pas d'informations concrètes sur le développement de la productivité de la FAO dans tel ou tel domaine. Nous le regrettons car c'est en améliorant la productivité que l'on parviendra à une utilisation efficace de ressources limitées. Dans un numéro récent de la publication "Développement rural" de la FAO, nous trouvons un graphique fort intéressant sur l'évolution des coûts par participant dans un projet de participation populaire en Zambie, coûts qui, d'après le graphique, sont tombés de 120 dollars en 1985 à 28 dollars en 1989.

C'est un constat réjouissant qui prouve de manière éclatante que la productivité s'acquiert à coup de répétitions et grâce à la spécialisation. Il serait fort souhaitable que la Conférence puisse disposer dans le futur d'une information valable sur le développement de la productivité dans les diverses activités de la FAO. Ce genre d'informations faciliterait sans doute la discussion entre Etats Membres et la recherche d'un consensus dans la prise de décision sur les priorités du Programme de travail. Nous savons tous que les problèmes de développement sont très complexes, et qu'il est nécessaire de les aborder de manière horizontale, ce qui nécessite beaucoup d'efforts de coordination. Nous nous posons alors la question de savoir si les structures essentiellement verticales de notre organisation nous permettent encore d'aborder des problèmes horizontaux de manière efficace. Nous invitons la FAO à réfléchir sur cette question. Il nous semble que les Programmes d'action spéciaux seraient un bon instrument pour organiser les activités dans une approche thématique et assurer en même temps le lien nécessaire entre programme ordinaire et programme de terrain. Une structuration et organisation des programmes et activités dans des Programmes d'action spéciaux pourraient peut-être faciliter une approche intégrée des problèmes horizontaux. Et finalement, dans ce contexte nous pensons que le PCT (Programme de coopération technique) peut jouer un rôle utile justement comme lien entre le programme ordinaire et le programme de terrain, par exemple dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique.

**F. A. Shahim AHMED** (Bangladesh): At the outset I should like to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Commission. On behalf of my delegation, I assure you of our fullest cooperation as you guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

I should also like to compliment the FAO Secretariat for producing document C 91/8 entitled Review of the Regular Programme 1990-91, and express our admiration of Mr Vikram Shah for his lucid presentation of the subject. The document provides a biennial overview of FAO's programme of implementation and assesses the performance of selective activities with respect to the objectives, implementation efficiency and effectiveness in achieving results. All the subjects covered in the document are of profound importance to Bangladesh in its endeavours in agricultural development. We have perused with particular interest the chapter on Technical Cooperation network and we hope to continue to benefit from FAO's expertise in this field.

Mr Chairman, we shall return to this subject at a later stage.

**Mansur MABRUK SEGHAHER** (Libya) (Original language Arabic) : Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election to the Chair of this Commission. I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the work they have done in the preparation of document C 91/8. I should also like to congratulate and thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction to this document.

This is a document which contains a whole wealth of very useful information. It is a document which establishes the link between the various areas of work of the Organization. In going through it, my delegation is very pleased to see great advances that have been made in FAO's activities in these various areas, as well as the excellent results

that have been achieved in the implementation of the Organization's Programme. This is despite the financial problems which the Organization has been facing during this biennium.

The success of the implementation of the Programme is, I think, an excellent example of the Organization's performance. I think this is particularly true if we take a look at the specific example of FAO's programme to control the screwworm fly in North Africa. The same could be said of FAO's programme as regards desert locust.

We have studied this document in detail, not only here but also in the Finance and Programme Committees. The Council has given its support to this document after making some minor changes.

Therefore, my delegation would simply like to support this Programme and the review which is made of it.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, usted sabe cómo me complace personalmente verle como Presidente de esta importante Comisión. Nos une una vieja y gratísima amistad desde principios de los años sesenta, cuando yo fui su discípulo, como Vicepresidente del entonces Comité Intergubernamental del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que usted presidió con el brillo y la inteligencia de siempre.

A través de todos esos años he seguido con admiración y complacencia la manera ascendente y meritoria en que usted ha seguido contribuyendo a estas actividades, y a lo mejor usted piensa que yo pude resultar un alumno medianamente aprovechado. Estoy seguro de que con la inteligencia, las capacidades, la experiencia y los conocimientos que todos le reconocemos, está asegurado el buen éxito de los trabajos de esta Comisión.

El Sr. Shah nos tiene acostumbrados a sus magníficas presentaciones, que facilitan nuestra intervención.

Este Examen del Programa Ordinario 1990-91 es un ejercicio de evaluación sobre lo que la FAO ha hecho en el pasado, aunque nos interesa como desglose de experiencias, a fin de aprovechar los aspectos positivos para mejorar en el futuro las actividades de nuestra Organización.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que la observación principal sobre el bienio que está a punto de terminar está basada en el hecho de cómo la grave crisis financiera afectó a la ejecución del Programa adoptado para esos dos años, después de haber sido aprobado por la pasada Conferencia.

¿Podría la Secretaría cuantificar en porcentaje, qué incidencia total tuvo sobre la ejecución del Programa la falta de recursos y las reducciones que forzosamente debieron aplicarse?

¿A qué porcentaje equivale la expresión: "los efectos de una grave contracción financiera dieron lugar a cortes y reajustes sustanciales en el Programa de la FAO"?

A este respecto, nos llamó la atención que en el prólogo de este documento sólo se diga: "la posición financiera de la Organización ha continuado sometida a fuertes tensiones", aunque ya, más adelante, en el resumen se habla de: "persistentes limitaciones de recursos" hasta que, por fin, se

afirma claramente que: "los efectos de las dificultades financieras se dejan todavía sentir en muchos programas y dependencias en forma de puestos vacantes, trabajo retrasado y aplazamientos en el comienzo de nuevas actividades".

Todo lo cual representa graves perjuicios para los países beneficiarios, que en sus planes nacionales de desarrollo contaban con la asistencia de la FAO, frustrada así por la falta de recursos. Creo que en nuestro informe debemos apoyar la opinión del Comité del Programa, que aparece en el documento C 91/LIM/12, párrafo 2.13 según el cual "el Comité del Programa lamentó los graves efectos perjudiciales que las limitaciones financieras por las que atravesaba la Organización habían tenido en la ejecución de los programas.

Sobre los Programas Principales 3.1, 3.4. PCT: Cooperación técnica y Apoyo al desarrollo, a los representantes de Colombia nos complace que los proyectos del PCT aprobados en 1990, representen un diez por ciento de incremento con respecto a 1988 y que el monto de esos proyectos se haya incrementado, pues 42.4 millones de dólares divididos entre los 289 proyectos irroja un promedio aproximado de 150 000 dólares, aunque las cifras conocidas al mes de marzo de este año indiquen una nueva disminución de ese promedio, que bajaría a 125 000 dólares al dividir 9 millones por 71 proyectos aprobados en los tres primeros meses de 1991.

Consideramos que es importante, en la medida de lo posible, tratar de mantener niveles significativos para los PCT, a fin de que éstos representen reales beneficios para los países.

Reiteramos nuestro apoyo a los servicios de asesoramiento y capacitación, dentro de los PCT. Son los dos aspectos de mayor importancia para los países beneficiarios.

Particularmente, ante la incertidumbre de cual será la parte de la financiación del PNUD que se dedique a la FAO en el sector agrícola, en el bienio que estudiamos los Fondos Fiduciarios adquirieron mayor importancia y por eso los representantes de Colombia señalamos, con satisfacción, el buen ejemplo de un Estado como Países Bajos, que se convirtió en 1990-91, en el mayor contribuyente individual a los Fondos Fiduciarios. Destacamos también la actitud siempre positiva de los países nórdicos en esos Fondos Fiduciarios, e igualmente señalamos las importantes contribuciones de Italia y Arabia Saudita.

A los representantes de Colombia nos parece muy bien que la parte tercera de este documento se haya dedicado a las Redes de Cooperación Técnica.

Los datos que se nos ofrecen, confirman la forma en que durante el bienio 1990-91 las Redes de Cooperación Técnica, cumplieron importantes funciones que vienen permitiendo a muchos países aprovechar los recursos y las capacidades técnicas locales e ir disminuyendo la dependencia de la asistencia exterior.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que en el bienio 1990-91, el impulso que la FAO dió a las Redes ha sido uno de los aspectos más sobresalientes del Programa.

Esa importancia de las redes sobrepasa aún más, frente al hecho de que, como afirma este documento: "los efectos a largo plazo de la crisis han causado un grave retroceso en la capacidad técnica general de la Organización y se necesitarán esfuerzos intensivos y estabilidad financiera para recuperar y volver a ganar el tiempo perdido".

Es así como las redes pueden seguir contribuyendo a que los países intercambien sus informaciones, conocimientos y experiencias y mediante acuerdos flexibles, compartan los gastos y aseguren hasta donde sea posible el rendimiento y la eficiencia.

Este séptimo Examen del Programa Ordinario demuestra la permanente evolución que se cumple en las actividades de nuestra Organización. La "revisión constructiva de los resultados", de que se habla en el prólogo permitirá que las experiencias del pasado bienio se reflejen en sus aspectos positivos en los próximos Programas de Labores y también que aquellos aspectos negativos o deficientes sean rectificados, revisados para ir asegurando, cada vez más, la mejor ejecución del Programa Ordinario.

Vamos aquí a concluir nuestra intervención porque éste es el primero de los cuatro importantes documentos que van a ser considerados en esta Comisión, y será necesario que nuestras declaraciones las hagamos con cuidado para no incurrir en repeticiones.

**U. Tin HTUT OO (Myanmar)** : Mr Chairman, may I warmly congratulate you on behalf of my delegation on your election to this important Commission.

We have a very comprehensive and frank review before us. We highly commend the progress made by FAO in implementing its Regular Programmes effectively and efficiently despite the persistent financial constraints. We are also glad to note that FAO's Regular Programmes are now being planned and implemented under wider perspectives, giving more emphasis to environmental and natural resource aspects and sustainable development, and at the same time in close coordination with other related agencies and organizations.

We generally agree and endorse the areas of priority mentioned in the document, but would like to see more consolidated efforts in order to assert its comparative advantages and avoid duplications as FAO is carrying out a very wide range of activities in different fields.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before giving the floor to Mr Shah to answer, I give the floor to the Secretary about written statements.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** We have received written statements from Botswana, Pakistan and Turkey. These will be inserted in the verbatim records.

**A.A. MOKGARE (Botswana):** I recognize you in that Chair and hope you will guide us wisely in the deliberations this morning. Turning to the Review document, C 91/8, I would like to confine my remarks to the three Major Programme thrusts contained in the document namely, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Programmes, in that order.

I note with gratitude that the FAO programme implementation has improved somewhat compared with the previous biennium, 1989-90, and commend the Organization in that regard!

Regarding Agriculture - Major Programme 2.1, I note with gratitude that FAO continues to make strides in facilitating crop and livestock activities, research and development, as well as promoting rural development and improving information systems in Member countries.

Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries. Botswana supports the objectives and strategy under this programme and further welcomes FAO's initiative in assuming the aquaculture programme, previously sponsored by UNDP under its Regular Programme financing. Botswana has vested interest in aquaculture programme and in that regard, Botswana would like to be assisted in developing information systems associated with this activity - namely fish stock level assessments, investigations relating to suitability of local resources for manufacturing aquafeeds.

Mr Chairman, Botswana is interested in promoting aquaculture in order to provide nutrition to its citizenry. I am happy to learn of an increasing endeavour in fish production in order to alleviate undernutrition and that Southern Africa is the target area for these activities. Botswana recognizes the Director-General's judgement in that regard and will avail itself of any assistance towards that goal in concert with its domestic policy of food security at household level.

Major Programme 2.3: Forestry. Botswana recognizes the objectives and strategy with respect to this Major Programme as valid. We welcome FAO's role in TFAP and its recognition under UNCED as having a major role in the search for global consensus on the management, conservation and development of world forests.

The establishment and management of forests, trees and woodlots in agroforestry systems are priorities which Botswana shares. The potential of afforestation activities in reversing the threat of desertification in the arid parts of Botswana is recognized widely. activities in reversing the threat of desertification in the arid parts of Botswana is recognized widely.

Programme 2.3.2 Forest Industries and Trade. Botswana supports the basic objective, relating to environmentally sound and sustainable utilization of forest resources and such processes as would enhance benefits to local people. In that regard, we recognize the potential for forest-based industries to generate employment multipliers necessary to address unemployment problems in the country as well as the potential gains from trade in forest products. Although Botswana has benefited through bilateral assistance with NORAD and USAID in undertaking studies in this area, we specifically request FAO support in training activities associated with the programme. In particular we would want FAO to encourage an extension of Finnish trust-funded training programme to include Botswana.

TCP Programmes 3.1 - 3.4. An improvement of 10 percent TCP approved projects for the 1990-91 biennium over the previous biennium is indeed commendable. Mr Chairman, Botswana has recently benefited immensely through this programme. We therefore support increased provisions under this programme to enable the Director-General to respond timely to requests from Member Governments.



Natural Resources Programme: Assessment and Planning. Botswana welcomes an enhanced interest and promotion of this sector by FAO. We note for the record our appreciation of FAO assistance to Botswana in developing its natural resources information systems.<sup>1</sup>

**S. Najmus SAQIB (Pakistan):** Please allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. In deference to your instructions, I would not only be brief, but I am handing over a written statement as part of my effort to save time.

I would, Sir, take this opportunity to commend the FAO Secretariat for the preparation of such a comprehensive and informative review of document C 91/8. Mr Shah is also to be complimented for his clear presentation of the subject.

Our delegation has studied the document under review and it is our contention that an effort has been made to present a balanced picture of the Programme as well as activities carried out and as envisaged for the present biennium. These cover a vast range of subjects, the basic underlying idea is: as to how best Member Nations are to be served. Special emphasis has been and should continue to be to assist the developing nations when they undertake the developmental activities. Programme implementation during the biennium reflects an improvement over the last biennium in spite of the resource constraints. FAO deserves our support when it undertakes the activities outlined in the programme with renewed emphasis for the developmental activities of the developing countries, especially in biotechnology advances in crops, livestock, animal genetic resources, eradication of the screwworm from North Africa and integrated dairy development. We feel that these should remain priority areas. Programmes on remote sensing and agro-meteorology should also be further developed. We may add that the Forestry Sector has rightly been attached importance.

Lastly, we may add that a Programme reduction situation is perhaps directly linked with resource constraints and FAO should be assisted to correct the adverse financial situation to enable it to carry out its programmes as outlined in the said Review.<sup>2</sup>

**Mustafa DOYUK (Turkey):** First I would like to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election.

It is very much appreciated by the Turkish delegation that -FAO has been assisting the nations which are affected by the famine, civil wars and natural catastrophes within its mandate despite the limits of available resources.

Painful increase of the world population is accordingly unwelcome, but existing conditions are well known by all of us. FAO has got important duties to improve conditions.

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<sup>1</sup>. Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

<sup>2</sup>. Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

First of all FAO should continue to help countries to adopt and utilize improved agricultural technologies. Their promotion can help solve the problem of the inadequate nutrition of the increasing population.

We totally agree with the challenges stated by Mr Saouma at the introduction of the Medium-Term Plan. We consider that the most important challenge for mankind remains the alleviation of poverty.

But since this problem is heavily related to the protection of the environment, increasing productivity in agriculture and using the resources rationally must be considered as a package and solutions should be sought with it.

The aim is to provide food self-sufficiency for the world and to assure an adequate distribution of foodstuffs to all people. What will be the amount of the realization rates of the nations in this self-sufficiency? What are the major constraints for the low degree of success? All these have to be identified by individual countries.

As it is known more than half of the world's population lives in countries which are dependent on agricultural sectors. In order to support their activities trying to increase the quantity and quality for production, it is desired that technical and economical FAO programmes must be more effective.

Mr Chairman, the 6 percent decrease of world wheat production has been estimated in 1991 comparing to the last year.

The latest political and economic reforms and changes in some parts of the world and increasing oil prices owing to the Gulf crisis have resulted in raising cost of agricultural inputs and products. On the other hand the subsidies of developed countries to their agricultural sector have negatively affected the export of developing countries.

Another important challenge is the existing situation of the women in rural areas. In contrast to the important role of the female population in agriculture a woman has no social security and economic freedom. To change this undesirable situation additional works are needed.

Consequently we agree with all activities planned in the FAO Medium-Term Plan. However if the order of the priorities is given to the subjects mentioned to above, it will be more useful to the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to conclude my speech by wishing you success in your efforts.<sup>1</sup>

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, first may I express through you to the Commission the gratitude of the Secretariat for the consideration that you have given to the Review. The comments have been extremely thoughtful. They stimulate us in the Secretariat to reflect on them and to respond to them.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

As always, I shall try to group a number of questions in order to be able to answer as many questions as possible in the limited time available. There are four sets of comments which I would propose to take together because they all deal with the reactions of the Commission to ways in which this document could be improved in the future. Let me say at the outset that I am greatly encouraged by the whole tone of discussion that you have had this morning, because on the one hand a number of delegations have expressed their satisfaction with the improvements that we have been able to make, and on the other hand a number of representatives have indicated improvements which are still possible to make. Quite frankly - and I say this with my eyes open and looking you in the eyes - if they are intended as criticisms I take them as constructive criticisms. I think that is the spirit in which you would like me to take them.

The first comment in this category is that, when we indicate that there have been changes or cuts in programmes for financial reasons, of course, we must recognize that there are also changes in programmes for other reasons and that we should explain these more to you in the future. I believe that the first delegate to raise this point was the representative of the Netherlands, but it was then taken up by other speakers. Related to that also is the point raised by the Ambassador of Colombia, who wanted to know about the percentage of programmes which were affected by the financial problems. My answer to the first part is that certainly in future versions of the document I think we should develop the analysis further. I can give you one example. As you know, we report to the Council once a year on the meetings which were unscheduled but held and on the meetings which were supposed to be held but which were cancelled. Interested members will find that in that report, where we give the reasons for holding unscheduled meetings or reasons for cancelling meetings, there is a very interesting analysis where a meeting may have been justified in the Programme of Work and Budget but then for a number of reasons, either the action of another organization or the fact that extra-budgetary funds could not be mobilized, or because the same problem was addressed in another way there was no need for the meeting, or there was a need for a meeting which had not been envisaged. I give that as an illustration of the kind of analysis which I think should be possible and which we should try to do in the future.

Responding to the point of the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, I think it is worth drawing attention to the degree to which the approved programme has been effected and let me do that now even if I do so very quickly. The approved Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium is US\$568 million but out of this US\$273 million is for the Major Programmes of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I draw attention to this figure, Mr Chairman, because when there are financial problems, and programmes are affected, bear in mind that the other budgetary chapters are not affected or are affected only to a limited extent.

For example, Chapter I which deals with the Governing Bodies, Policy and Direction there is no margin to cut it or to cut it substantially. Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme, the Director-General preserves that. We do not allow the TCP to be affected by the financial problems. Chapters 5 and 6, support services, common services, we cannot cut those because those are basic overheads of the house. So the programmes which are really affected are the Technical and Economical Programmes. When you think about the magnitude of a financial problem in any one year let us not apply that to the overall budget but to the technical and economical programmes because that is where the bite is essentially.

What is the magnitude for this biennium? I will be able to give you definitive figures only when the biennium closes, of course, but I can give you reasonably good approximations. During this biennium we are being forced to reduce our programme delivery by some US\$26-27 million. It is US\$27 million over the budgetary revision of US\$273 million, roughly 10 percent. That bites hard. I will stop there, Mr Chairman, because surely this is an aspect which may come up also in the Programme of Work and Budget and I do not want to prejudge any discussion you may have.

The next point, about possible future improvements, is the request again of a number of distinguished delegates for expenditure figures in addition to the budgetary provision. I have taken careful note of this, Mr Chairman. May I point out that in Chapter 4 of this Review where we give the information related to performance for agriculture, forestry and fisheries we have given you this information on expenditure for 1990. Of course, we will have to wait for the present year to finish before we can give corresponding information in future documents. The comment was also made in relation to Part Two of the Review which deals with the Sub-programmes and their expenditure over the last three biennia. It was the distinguished representative of Denmark, I believe it was, who first raised this point and I have taken careful note of it in order to try and satisfy that request in the future.

The third aspect of possible future improvements was about milestones to measure targets and that was a point reiterated by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom. A similar point was also made by the distinguished representative of Switzerland about whether one can analyse the productivity of FAO. I have taken careful note of those requests. Mr Chairman, the milestones to measure targets I understood particularly well because the distinguished delegate was kind enough to give a specific example. I would offer the explanation that yes, we shall do our best to pursue better in the future but I hope that Member Nations will have noted that in the Programme of Work and Budget which has been presented, and which you will be discussing from tomorrow onwards, we have tried to be much more specific than in the past. We will discuss that, of course, tomorrow but I draw attention to that already. The Programme of Work and Budget proposals are much more specific so that in the future when we come to monitoring and assessing the results of that implementation I hope we can be much more specific also in our assessment.

I have a little trouble analysing the suggestion that we should give more information about the productivity of FAO. We can understand well the example given that where there are training courses in a particular field for a number of trainees, the average cost per trainee can be monitored better over a period of time in order to see whether there are gains in efficiency or gains in productivity, but I think we have to bear in mind the nature of our programmes, the nature of our services are such that we are not measuring, shall we say, the ticking of the minutes or the number of watches produced in an hour but a great variety of services which do not lend themselves to comparative statistics of productivity but I take note of the suggestion and have no wish to be negative about it.

The fourth aspect of possible future improvements, Mr Chairman, is the suggestion of the distinguished delegate of the United States of America that reports such as this, while appreciated, could be shorter in the future. It is a question of balance, Mr Chairman, but may I here point out when we think about future versions of the Review of the Regular Programme

the Conference will be considering under the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget some suggestions which the Director-General has made and which have been very strongly supported by the Programme and Finance Committees. Among those suggestions are the improvements in precisely the documentation such as this and the specific suggestion I now refer to is that in the future it is suggested you do not get just a Review of the Regular Programme and the Review of the Field Programme but you get a Programme Implementation Report and a Programme Evaluation Report, and both of these reports would deal simultaneously with the Regular and Field Programme. I only flag this now because the discussion of this suggestion you will have under the Programme of Work and Budget but I think I detect in the debate this morning receptiveness towards this suggestion. The number of delegations who recognize the linkages between the Regular and Field Programmes is precisely the kind of point which the Secretariat feels and the Director-General feels can be well addressed through the changes in documentation.

Then I deal with five questions which were specific. India, Angola, Switzerland and Libya, their distinguished representatives referred to the Screwworm Eradication Campaign and some asked for an update of the information. The programme began in early February this year and lasted for eight months. During that period 1.3 billion sterile flies were distributed in the infested zone in Libya. The Programme appears to have successfully achieved its objectives. There is no evidence of surviving screwworms which have been found since late April. A further so that in the future when we come to monitoring and assessing period of intensive surveillance will continue until June 1992 and at that point we expect the Government of Libya in that area, we hope, will be able to declare that the country is free of the screwworm.

On the financial aspect there has been a substantial expenditure by Libya of some US\$25 million and the Programme has involved US\$38 million in international funds. This is less than half of the cost originally envisaged.

The next point is a request from a number of distinguished delegates for information on training activities relating to women and relating to programmes of Women in Development and I am pleased to report, Mr Chairman, that under our work planning procedures my colleagues and I have asked all the technical departments and divisions to analyse their work programme in terms of every element of the work programme which affects women and women in the work programme so that in the future we will be able to report to you on specific activities throughout our Programme of Work which will have been undertaken for the benefit of women in the rural and developing world.

The next point is one raised by the distinguished representative of the United States of America about sustainable development and sustainable resource potentials. This precise question was dealing with the place or the role of the Sub-programme 2.1.1.6, Sustaining Resource Potentials. Let me clarify this is not the only core activity on sustainable agriculture and rural development. In fact all the Sub-programmes under Programme 2.1.1.6, Natural Resources, concentrate on environment, rehabilitation and sustainable use. The particular characteristics of the Sub-programme 2.1.1.6 are that it provides for formal inter-divisional cooperation with a budget contribution from the other agricultural divisions. It provides for demonstration programmes for sustainable farm practices at the farm and field level. It provides for the international

action programme for sustainable agricultural development and it deals with soil policies and climate change. In all cases inputs deal with the technical fields, the farming systems, the institutional changes and the policy guidance.

The next question was on the expenditure involving the financial and personnel management information systems FINSYS and PERSYS and I respond to the question raised by the distinguished representative of Belgium. The Conference will be aware that regular reports have been submitted to the Finance Committee on the implementation of FINSYS/PERSYS but the last such report was in April 1990. I think it is very useful I have this opportunity to provide this up-to-date information. It may be useful to separate the costs of FINSYS and PERSYS firstly into the development costs. The development costs of the system which were based on the use of outside consultants, outside specialist firms, amounted to US\$8.3 million. Those were the development costs.

The second aspect of the costs were the implementation costs. These amount to US\$2.2 million gross so a total of US\$10.5 million. Then the third aspect is the cost of the computer hardware and software and the total, I can only give you a brief estimate, since the hardware and software procured for the Organization are not only for use on fiscal purposes but also for other uses, but the total was US\$10 million of which US\$7.5 million I would ascribe to fiscal purposes.

The next point I would deal with is with regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme. I have taken careful note of all the comments made on that. I will not try to reply to each one of the comments made because the subject will come up for discussion in the discussion of the Working Budget. At this time I would only like to draw attention to the evaluation of the TCP projects which we provided in the Review of Field Programmes which we will be discussing later.

The tenth point I would address and the last is I had a question from the distinguished representative of the United States of America about the role of Regional Population Advisers. I have information but in the interests of time may I suggest to the delegation of the United States that we give this information directly to them. We have a text of an agreement between the UN Fund for Population Activities and the major specialized agencies including FAO on this subject, which I would be pleased to share with the delegation.

I hope in trying to be brief I have not overlooked anything, and I am once again very grateful to the Commission for the debate that we have had.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Shah. We have had 28 country statements including the written ones, and I think we have had a very good discussion with a good report as a basis. When the Chairman has to sum up he can do it in a number of ways. My way of doing it is to be very brief. Let me start out by saying that the first four points which Mr Shah raised I consider to be very valuable in the context of the report. What I would like to add is really to stress that in commenting on this Review the important thing is how to make it better in future and I think a number of good comments have been made on that, but basically we should not forget what was said on my right that the Review should, if anything, be short, not lengthy.

The other point I would make, which is a point we will get back to later on, not once but several times, is the need which has been stressed in the report of better cooperation inside the FAO Secretariat. You have gone a long way during the past few years and with other international organizations. Many of the subjects with which we are dealing, which are priority subjects, can only be solved if you cooperate with other organizations.

I think these are the main points. I could mention more but I think it should be brief.

**C.B HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Just on the last remark, Mr Shah said he was going to communicate bilaterally with the United States. I think the subject is quite interesting and possibly there are other delegates who would like to have this information.

**CHAIRMAN:** That can surely be managed. We meet again at 2.30 pm and start on the next item.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 13 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

**C 91/II/PV/2**Twenty-sixth-Session  
COMMISSION IIVingt-sixième.session  
COMMISSION II26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II**SECOND MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE  
SEGUNDA SESION**

(12 November 1991)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.45 hoursMr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II, presidingLa deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission IISe abre la segunda sesión a las 14.45 horasbajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de la Comisión II



II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Medium-Term Plan 1992-97

15. Plan à moyen terme 1992-97

15. Plan a plazo medio 1992-97

**CHAIRMAN:** The meeting is called to order. We start this afternoon on the Medium-Term Plan. We have two documents in front of us: the bulky one, C 91/23, and the comments of the Council, the Programme and Finance Committees, C 91/LIM/21. Mr Shah will introduce the item.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** On behalf of the Director-General, I have the honour and pleasure to introduce the proposed FAO Medium-Term Plan covering the period 1992-97.

This Medium-Term Plan responds to the directives of Conference Resolution 10/89. It is submitted to the Conference through the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council. The comments of the Council and Programme and Finance Committees are submitted to the Conference in document C 91/LIM/21.

The Medium-Term Plan is recognized as a key step stemming from the positive outcome of the Review of FAO. It is a policy synthesis document which is designed to facilitate a constructive and rich debate at the Conference.

By its very nature, the Plan seeks to make a comprehensive coverage of issues, including the main factors likely to affect FAO's action throughout the nineties, the proposed relative priorities of both cross-sectoral and sectoral nature, the regional dimensions and the extensive nature of cooperative links with other organizations and partners.

The Plan is fully complementary to the biennial Programme of Work and Budget. As recognized by the Council and the Programme and Finance Committees, the Plan provides a useful framework for priority setting in successive Programmes of Work and Budget. The major policy orientations submitted in the Plan have been supported by all the bodies which have reviewed it so far and the Director-General hopes that they may find consensus adoption at the Conference.

No plan, whatever its duration, can avoid the issues of priority setting and resources, and in submitting this Plan, the Director-General wishes me to stress the following remarks from his Introduction to the Plan:

"Member Governments expect the Medium-Term Plan to be a tool for priority setting. The Secretariat has done its best to indicate relative priorities within sectoral programmes or thematic areas. Always, the comparative advantages of FAO have been weighed. However, I must state very candidly that for an international organization of 157 Member Nations, there is no rational basis for indicating across-the-board or vertical priorities six years ahead. National governments find this difficult enough even for annual periods. There is no formula or indicator which could be valid in programme terms or for the exigencies of the membership as a whole for the

period covered by three biennial budgets, which could enable us to say, for instance, that work on animal health is of lower or greater priority than work on marketing from small farmers. As befits a strategic document, in the concluding section, a number of key policy choices are offered for the consideration of the Conference. Some of them are perhaps more controversial than others, but altogether they should provide a good basis on which to build FAO's future. The conclusions also address the resources aspect."

Member Nations hold differing views on the desirability of the Plan covering the resources aspect. The Programme and Finance Committees have stressed that they should not be considered to be of a binding character on Member Nations. Accordingly, the resources aspect should not detract from the search for unanimity on the substance of the Plan.

May I now draw your attention to the need for a Conference directive on future versions of the Plan. The Director-General submits two options. He will, of course, abide by any decision the Conference may take in this regard.

In concluding, may I return to the closing remarks of the Director-General in his Introduction to the Plan:

"Differences of perception and opinion among Member Nations of this Organization are to be expected. Nevertheless, the Medium-Term Plan provides an opportunity for Member Nations to unite on a platform for strengthening FAO action through the nineties."

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Shah for that brief introduction. We all take note of what you said at the end, a need for a Conference directive for future versions of the Report. We are dealing here with one of the main topics of this whole Conference. Therefore, two sessions have been put aside for discussing this Item on the Agenda, this afternoon and tomorrow morning. I do hope personally that you will have a good discussion on this item. This is where you will have a real chance of influencing the future direction of FAO. The item is open for discussion.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** A los representantes de Colombia nos complace que después de 20 años, haya reaparecido este Plan a plazo medio.

El Director General ha cumplido adecuadamente lo dispuesto en la Resolución 10/89 al presentar este documento que "intenta trazar el futuro de la FAO durante los próximos seis años, 1992-97".

Se nos dice que "un texto de profunda envergadura como éste deberla alejar nuestras discusiones de la controversia habitual que ha venido constituyendo la cuantía del presupuesto".

Pero ¿cómo ocultar nuestra inquietud al registrar el hecho lamentable de que el primero de los tres bienios que abarca este Plan se inicie bajo el peso de la inercia regresiva que significa la aplicación obstinada del funesto crecimiento cero?

Sin recursos, todo este magnífico ejercicio pleno de imaginación quedará convertido en letra muerta que permanecerá sobre el papel que resiste todo y seguirá siendo sonido de música celestial.

Como lo dijo el Sr. Shah en su presentación y como aparece al final del documento en las consideraciones sobre los recursos, bastó que el Director General en cumplimiento de sus obligaciones estatutarias, hiciera una tímida sugerencia de un porcentaje sobre los recursos para que en la reunión de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, los miembros que representan a los países bien conocidos de siempre, reaccionaran en la misma tónica de que no conviene sacrificar la calidad y el contenido de este documento para hacer referencia a cualquier recurso necesario.

Nos atrae tanto el contenido de este documento que trataremos de seguir las orientaciones de esos Comités aunque no las compartamos totalmente.

Estamos de acuerdo en que este plan debe ser "amplio por su alcance y selectivo en los detalles", pero no puede ser un plan estático sino por el contrario, un marco muy general dentro del cual las prioridades estarán continua y progresivamente sometidas a la revisión y actualización que demanden los cambios en las políticas y las propias prioridades de los países beneficiarios.

Además, la importancia creciente de la agricultura y de la alimentación, particularmente en las economías de los países en desarrollo, seguirán imponiendo a la FAO nuevos desafíos y tareas cada vez más significativas en favor de las aspiraciones, los derechos y las necesidades del Tercer Mundo.

Por ello, resultaría prácticamente imposible que un documento como éste pudiera abarcar todos los aspectos de los cuales deberá ocuparse nuestra Organización en los próximos seis años.

Es así como nos satisface que se exprese aquí en este documento, y cito "la FAO tiene capacidad de innovación y ha respondido a los cambiantes acontecimientos mundiales".

Los representantes de Colombia consideramos realista la afirmación de que "en una Organización internacional de 161 Estados Miembros, no hay ninguna base racional que permita indicar prioridades generales, con seis años de antelación".

Esto nos lleva a reiterar el principio invariable, sostenido por el Gobierno de Colombia, en el sentido de que si bien la reaparición de este plan es fruto del Examen a que se sometieron algunas actividades de nuestra Organización, sobre todo por insistencia de los Estados industrializados, ello no significará que la FAO deba ser encerrada en una torre de marfil, sometida a una camisa de fuerza por seis años, insensible a la evolución que imponen los cambios económicos y sociales, sino que aún dentro de este marco amplio, las políticas y los programas deben seguir siendo definidos, actualizados, revisados, en forma tal que reflejen siempre las prioridades, la voluntad de todos los Estados Miembros.

Al referirse al "proceso en evolución continua", este documento recuerda el dominio que los representantes de los países desarrollados tenían en forma absoluta y omnímoda sobre las políticas y los programas de la FAO, en sus primeros años de vida.

Usted también, señor Presidente, y el Profesor Thomsen de Dinamarca que ocupa el lugar de su país y otros colegas que se encuentran en esta Sala, hemos asistido como testigos directos y personales a la afortunada transformación, al curso que ha venido cumpliéndose hasta encontrarnos ahora en un plano realista, sano y honesto al nivel del cual se viene reconociendo la interdependencia de los intereses de todos los países, en forma tal que se ha establecido una permanente y positiva cooperación entre todos los grupos de países que integran la FAO, para definir y ejecutar programas y políticas que beneficien a todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente a los del Tercer Mundo.

Los representantes de Colombia, basados en ese sincero espíritu de mutua cooperación, confiamos en que este Plan a plazo medio representará un marco propicio, dentro del cual todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO van a emular por fortalecer la función esencial de nuestra Organización en medio de los graves problemas económicos, sociales y humanos que afronta el Tercer Mundo, conscientes de que los recursos, que tan generosamente venían ofreciendo los principales contribuyentes, hasta el próximo bienio cuando padeceremos los efectos del funesto crecimiento cero, que esos recursos, repetimos, deban ser reconocidos como base imprescindible de una acción eficaz, dinámica y actualizada de la FAO en consonancia con la creciente demanda de asistencia que todos conocemos.

Si quisiéramos referirnos siquiera someramente a tan sólo los principales aspectos que nos atraen de este interesante documento, nos haríamos interminables y no podríamos evitar repeticiones en relación con los otros documentos de que se ocupará esta Comisión. Trataremos de seleccionar rigurosamente.

Uno de los campos que los representantes de Colombia deseamos apoyar para la acción de la FAO en los próximos seis años, es el de la intensificación de la cooperación de nuestra Organización con las demás agencias de Naciones Unidas y también con otras instituciones fuera del sistema.

Las políticas y los programas de la FAO deben reconocer la necesaria e indispensable relación que existe entre todos los sectores de la economía mundial, sin pretender como sucedía hace algunos años, que en el seno de la FAO se imponía el criterio obtuso de que en el marco de esta Organización sólo debían tratarse los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación, sin tener en cuenta los otros acontecimientos que en el plano mundial o regional afectaban directamente esos campos.

Lo que sucede en la Asamblea General, en el ECOSOC, en las Cumbres de la Tierra, del cielo o de los mares, en las Conferencias internacionales, todo ello debe producir impacto en los programas de la FAO, pero nuestra Organización no deberá limitarse a participar en esos acontecimientos, a contribuir a la celebración de todas esas Conferencias, sino que la FAO debe, sobre todo, extraer lecciones y experiencias para incorporarlas a sus propias actividades.

Después de celebrada la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo y Medio Ambiente, la Cumbre de la Tierra, la FAO deberá prepararse para contribuir en los dominios que le corresponde y en la mayor medida posible, a asistir a los países en desarrollo para implementar las recomendaciones que surgirán de esa imponente Cumbre de la Tierra.

Al concluir, como lo esperamos con buen éxito, la Ronda Uruguay en el GATT, la FAO deberá hacer esfuerzos y asignar recursos para ofrecer su asistencia a los países en desarrollo y que al implementarse esa asistencia puedan obtenerse los resultados de esa Conferencia, puedan obtenerse los mayores beneficios en favor de un amplio, libre y justo comercio.

Es en esa forma dinámica, constructiva y eficaz como los representantes de Colombia concebimos la acción de la FAO en el plazo medio.

La Cooperación Económica y Técnica entre países en desarrollo, las redes de cooperación y toda otra actividad que estimule el intercambio de apoyos y experiencias entre los países del Tercer Mundo, todos estos son aspectos fundamentales que la FAO debe seguir atendiendo en su Plan a plazo medio.

Sobre la dirección de la FAO en el plan futuro de las actividades de campo, nos expresaremos en el examen de esas actividades que vamos a seguir más adelante. Por ello, nos vamos a limitar a referirnos al párrafo 104, en el cual se hace referencia a la posibilidad de que el asesoramiento y el apoyo a los proyectos puedan potenciarse "a nivel subregional", mediante agrupación de países en una Oficina de la FAO.

¿Querrá ésto decir que podríamos volver a las Oficinas Subregionales que existieron hasta 1969? En ese o en caso semejante, será necesario que esas Oficinas que apoyarán la acción de la FAO en grupos de países, estén debidamente dotadas de personal y de recursos, que posiblemente mediante cierta movilidad del personal profesional puedan cumplir una eficaz labor de asesoramiento y apoyo, con alcance más amplio que si los expertos debieran ser enviados en cada caso desde la Sede.

El marco dentro del cual se pretenda diseñar la función de los Programas Especiales de Acción debe ser realista y, como lo dice el documento sujeto a examen constante, que pueda determinar los cambios y modificaciones oportunos.

Los Programas Especiales de Acción no pueden ser monumentos erigidos a la moda de turno de cada actividad, sino que los Programas Especiales de Acción deben ser concebidos y puestos en ejecución sobre conocimientos directos de las necesidades de los países, a la luz de las prioridades que fijen los gobiernos, y sobre todo, cuando haya la seguridad de contar con recursos extrapresupuestarios para que, en realidad, esos Programas Especiales produzcan resultados efectivos.

Este Plan a plazo medio representa un marco más o menos adecuado para preparar a nuestra Organización a su mejor desempeño en los próximos seis años.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que la FAO, como lo dice este documento, no sólo debe ser el Vigilante Mundial de las situaciones de emergencia y el portavoz internacional "de las preocupaciones e inquietudes de la comunidad", sino que la FAO está llamada a continuar su función de gran actor insustituible en la aportación de sus experiencias, recursos y conocimientos, seguros de que nuestra Organización con el pleno apoyo de todos los gobiernos, trabajará cada vez mejor y con mayor eficiencia en favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente los del Tercer Mundo.

Finalmente, sobre las versiones futuras del Plan, nos manifestamos en favor de la Opción I.

**Dixon NILAWEERA (Sri Lanka):** Mr Shah has presented this document which, as you quite correctly mentioned, Mr Chairman, sets out the future directions of the FAO and which is a useful guidance for us to decide how the activities should be fashioned. Mr Shah should be congratulated for again presenting it not only succinctly but effectively, highlighting the ideas on which we should concentrate.

Let me touch on two points. One concerns the reference made to the Environment Sustainable Development Programmes. I think that all the emerging Member Nations would consider these areas to be extremely important. It is heartening to observe that FAO has grasped the subject for special treatment in the Medium-Term Plan.

The period when the environment had to be sacrificed in the alter of development is no longer in existence. All countries are now concerned with the preservation of the environment, conservation of resources and developing sustainable programmes. I would urge the FAO to pay increasing attention to this particular aspect and perhaps try to assist the member countries in the identification, formulation and preparation of programmes. I also observe that the FAO is now contemplating providing policy advice to major donors specifically with regard to structural adjustments. This is a very welcome proposal. FAO is an independent agency which is primarily concerned with the small farmers and fishermen. FAO could certainly influence the thinking of the donor agencies by analyzing the impact of certain stipulations dictated by them.

**Carl THOMSEN (Denmark) :** On this item of the Agenda I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries as a whole, and I would like to first pay tribute to Mr Shah for his introductory remarks and drawing our attention to the important points. The Nordic countries very much welcome the Medium-Term Plan as it is presented in document C 91/23. In fact we consider the preparation of this Plan to be one of the most important outcomes of the Review process.

As you know, the Nordic countries have for a long time been advocating medium-term planning as an important instrument to ensure a better priority setting in FAO's work and to facilitate fruitful dialogue among member countries. It is through discussion of the Medium-Term Plan that member countries have the best possibility of providing guidance for FAO's actions over the coming years, as you yourself have pointed out, Mr Chairman. We are satisfied that the plan as now presented contains many of the elements we have proposed but there is, of course, still room for improvement. We much appreciate the intellectual effort and the hard work which has gone into the preparation of this important and comprehensive document. The Secretariat should be commended for this accomplishment and for the coordination of the document on the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium.

At the same time it has become a somewhat bulky document and as it is the intention to focus the discussion on strategic issues we suggest some of the more descriptive parts of the document, particularly in Part Three, could well be shortened or even omitted. With regard to the excellent introduction by the Director-General we find ourselves in general agreement with the list of forthcoming challenges to the Organization.

As far as the guiding principles for the preparations of the Plan are concerned, we should like to emphasize the statement to the effect that the size of the professional staff of the Organization is very limited. As indicated also in the introduction it is, therefore, important for FAO to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation but it is equally important to concentrate the available resources in a limited number of fields if substantial results on efforts are to be obtained. In other words, the Organization should not attempt to cover every possible subject but try to sharpen its priorities for practical action as much as possible. Admittedly this is a most difficult task and we should like to compliment the Secretariat on its efforts to indicate relative priorities within sector programmes and thematic areas. Nevertheless we sometimes find ourselves getting lost in a multitude of priorities when going through Part Three of the document. There is a conspicuous lack of clear indications of lower priority areas, although there will have to be some in this category. We recommend that even more attention should be given to this aspect in future versions.

We fully agree that there is a beneficial relationship between the Regular and Field Programmes and that it is important to maintain those links between the two. In our view this should pose no problems, however, when, as a result of the revised UNDP system for support costs, the Field Programmes will be moving more offstream on the project side but it is of crucial importance for the reputation of the Organization that the size of the Field Programme is determined by the capacities of the Technical Programmes to provide proper backstopping and servicing. Any overstretching of the Regular Programme resources is bound to have negative effects.

With regard to the resource considerations in the conclusions of Part Four, the Director-General is to be commended for the efforts made to address the controversial issue of the resource dimensions in the context of the proposed Medium-Term Plan. There can be no question that even provisional indications of the relative - and I emphasize the word relative - allocation of resources will be of value for the understanding and the overview of the implications of the Plan. On the other hand, we are of the opinion that a discussion of the substance of the Plan will be a most important aspect of the exercise. In any case it seems clear from the table on page 214 of the document, the one on relative figures, that unless it is feasible to give relative indications below the macro-level that is within the Major Programmes, the informative value will be very limited.

With regard to the future versions of the Plan our main concern will be to ensure that there will be a regular and continuous consideration in each biennium of the Medium-Term Plan and we understand this has been underlined in the last Report of the Programme. I believe it is also in line with what the representative of Colombia was saying about the continuous need for adaptation. Even so we recommend Option I should be followed according to which short supplements to the Plan will be submitted to the Conference in November 1993 and 1995. A fully revised version of the Medium-Term Plan would then be submitted early in 1997. In our view such a procedure will provide a sufficient basis for the deliberations of the Governing Bodies.

In this connection we should like to emphasize once again that we attach the utmost importance to a continuous consideration of the Medium-Term Plan by the Governing Bodies of the Organization in each biennium. This procedure would, in our view, also cover the need for a follow-up to the

Review process. Finally, we should like to underline the principle that the actions of FAO should continue to form an integral part of the collaborative efforts of member countries as well as the efforts of other international organizations and agencies involved. This is imperative in order to obtain the optimum use of the resources available and at the end of the day it is results achieved that matter more than anything else, thank you.

**Hermann REDL (Austria) (Original language German):** Mr Chairman, permit me to start by congratulating you most warmly on your election. I am convinced with you in the Chair, thanks to your lengthy experience, we will do a good job of work in Commission II and do our best to work on time.

Austria was sorry to see that important Conference documents such as the one we are discussing today, C 91/23, was only submitted to us when we contacted Director-General Saouma even though it has been known for years that documents should be sent to Austria normally in English. These were only made available in mid-October in French. Accordingly, I would like to ask the Secretariat to act in the future, as they have in the past, and make available documents to my country in English.

Could I now address the document itself, Chairman? Austria was particularly interested in studying the document under discussion. We believe that in the future this paper will be seen as being closely related to the Programme of Work and Budget and we believe that it will be useful to update the Medium-Term document on a two-yearly basis. It should be as flexible as possible. As far as programme priorities are concerned and new activities of FAO, account will have to be taken of these. I think consideration might be given as to whether in the future the regional aspects on pages 185-189 might not perhaps be dealt with at greater length.

As far as the conclusions are concerned, these should serve as the basis for fashioning for future budgets. Certainly the medium-term planning must be linked as to considerations to financing activities. As you know, FAO designs its Budget and Work Programme on a biennial basis. In many states, such as my own, national budgeting is an annual matter. Longer-term commitments such as might flow from the medium-term plans must be entered into in a circumspect way. The medium-term plans should be couched in as flexible terms as possible. It should serve as a framework plan for determining future priorities. In the light of the Austrian statement to the Plenary on matters of basic principle we have pointed out that important changes have occurred in many parts of the world. I have mentioned the GATT negotiations, the European economic area, the new Europe and also the situation in developing countries.

Agriculture is more and more coming to be the key issue of international disputes. In the document before us today the passage on the regional dimension from page 185-189 fails to do full justice to these new developments.

Europe as a region only has a few pages devoted to it. We welcome what is stated in paragraph 395 and we believe that the FAO and the ECE can play an important role in those countries in transition in central and eastern Europe, and that it should play a role in helping them. This should apply particularly in the field of training and further training and vocational training and advice. One matter of particular importance here is the



position of women, and women and families in agricultural development. Useful policy tools have already been created in this field. I think we need to build on those results.

We were sorry to note that forestry is hardly mentioned at all. Reference should be made to the joint FAO/ECE Department in Geneva, though forestry should not be addressed in isolation apart from agriculture generally. We also think it is necessary that the problem of the decline of the forests should be addressed. When we talk about the environment we need also to address particularly matters such as avalanche protection and erosion, particularly in the European section. There is not a single word on the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. We welcome what is stated in paragraph 402 about the socio-economic programmes and in particular the activities planned by FAO.

In this connection might I mention that Austria has offered to host the next meeting on Women in Agricultural Development, and we were delighted that FAO accepted the invitation. We look forward with great interest to the deliberations on that in October 1992, scheduled for Innsbruck.

Agro-tourism is also a very important sector we believe. Austria again has offered assistance and invited FAO to hold a network meeting in Vienna.

In summary, the document before us sets out the right road for FAO's programme drafting, but as we have said we believe that medium-term planning is still susceptible to further improvement.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** This Medium-Term Plan is one of the positive outcomes of the Review of certain aspects of FAO's goals and operations. It is something we supported then and something we continue to support. We would like to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for the constructive approach they have adopted in the preparation of this plan. Obviously considerable effort has gone into producing what we can only describe as a very worthwhile document. While the Plan is a very useful information source on FAO's directions, a main attraction also is the usefulness of the process which leads to its development. That is the process provides the membership with a more effective role in shaping FAO's programmes, and future directions. To a large extent the process is as important as the outcome. The plan should prove to be a very useful point of reference for other organizations working in related fields.

The Plan is a large voluminous document of over 200 pages but I would like to take some time to note specific areas in which Australia has an interest and which it supports, and comment on others where we have some reservations.

In the opening Guide to the Plan it is recognized that FAO does not operate in isolation and that its work is meshed with the work programmes of other organizations which have a bearing on its mandate. Australia supports recognition by international organizations of the need to cooperate with other international bodies in order to avoid, wherever possible, duplication of effort.

Australia concurs with the five main themes of the document. Of particular interest to Australia and the ones for which we are staunch supporters are environment and sustainable development, women in development and policy advice.

We applaud the commitment in the Sustainable Development and Environment Chapter to this area and its priority in future programmes of work.

Australia supports FAO's view of what the essential objectives of SARD should be, as outlined in paragraph 17, and the prerequisites listed: namely the implementation of appropriate population policies, fair terms of exchange in agricultural trade at national and international levels, measures in favour of agriculture as a vital economic sector and adequate financing.

We also support all of the areas of emphasis requiring specific, high priority action as outlined in paragraph 34. Particularly FAO policy advisory work in the areas of trade liberalization and environmental policies on the long-term sustainability of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

However, we feel that the document should have given greater emphasis to the fact that achieving sustainable development is also in the farmers' own interest.

There are particular aspects of the Chapter on Policy Advice which we would wish to see emphasized. These are:

- that there is a continuing interest on the part of FAO in being associated with the many UN and non-UN international organizations involved in policy advice in the same area such as the World Bank and UNDP. An example also given in the Plan is the support to GATT and active participation in the Uruguay Round aimed at both providing technical assistance to developing countries and negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations;
- the recognition that cutting across FAO's policy advice activities is the need to consider environment and sustainable aspects together with women's critical roles and special needs.

We consider that it is important that an influential international organization like FAO provide policy advice to Member Governments that is gender sensitive and reinforces to them the importance of women in development. We strongly support the proposed provision of this advice especially as the areas outlined in paragraph 76 of the Chapter on Women are key ones, covering the very varied roles of rural women.

Naturally we, like all other members here, have an interest in what the Plan holds for our own geographical region in the medium-term. In our case the Asia and Pacific Region, where it is acknowledged many problems exist. The Plan refers to the continuing population and development pressures on the environment, the problem of deforestation in the region and the need to rethink intensive agricultural practices.

We have no problems with the Focus of Work for the region which the MTP considers of particular importance. These are the follow-up to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on

Nutrition, Multilateral Negotiations on Trade and the implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Programme. We support the nine areas it lists for concentrated effort in the region in the medium-term. These include: the strengthening of national capabilities as regards sustainable use of the land, the promotion of trade in live animals and animal products, and expanded animal disease free zones in the region, food and safety standards for local consumption and trade, improved capabilities in fish stock assessment and management, promoting tree growing by rural people and forestry education and research.

A main priority listed in the Plan's Chapter on Crops is the harmonization of plant quarantine principles, pest risk assessment and quarantine procedures. We are pleased with the reference in the Plan to the recognition in the GATT Uruguay Round of the importance of reducing trade barriers caused by irrational and unjustified use of quarantine procedures.

We note the planned establishment in the 1992-93 biennium of a Secretariat to the International Plant Protection Convention to carry out this work, in close cooperation with Regional Plant Protection Organizations. This was one of the recommendations of this year's Third Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations in which Australia participated. We therefore support this recommendation and would wish to see similar FAO support for the other recommendations of the Third Technical Consultations. These involve the status of the Secretariat, the establishment of an International Committee on Phytosanitary Measures, the creation of an international approval process and support for Regional Plant Protection Organizations within FAO. The report of the September meeting of the Finance Committee also welcomes the establishment of the Secretariat and attaches importance to the other recommendations of the Third Technical Consultations.

One area of the plan where we do have reservations is the Chapter on Resource Considerations. While it is not perfectly clear what is actually being proposed here it would appear that it involves an automatic, built-in, commitment to growth in the budget.

We are not alone in our reservations concerning this matter. The report of the joint September meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees stressed that the resource aspects of the Plan should not be considered to be of a binding character on Member Nations.

This is something to which Mr Shah referred during his eloquent introduction. We think it would be unwise for any Government to commit itself to increasing contributions years ahead. Australia would certainly not be prepared to do so. We think that future MTPs should be both practical and achievable within likely available resources. It should not be assumed, and they should not be prepared on the basis that there will be, increasing resources available.

The Medium-Term Plan ends by addressing future versions of the Plan. Of the two options given, Australia favours Option II. The sliding six years coverage would enable Member Nations to be able to continually look six years ahead while, at the same time, be aware of and able to assess the changes which had occurred in the previous two years. As a strong advocate of the reintroduction of the MTP Australia wants it to be effective,

achieve the purpose for which it was intended and provide a greater flow of information to members on the direction FAO will be taking, and the reasons. We consider that Option II would be better able to achieve this.

Once again we congratulate the Director-General for the preparation of this very useful and comprehensive document and would like to express our gratitude to you, Mr Chairman, for the opportunity provided for Australia to present its reactions to it.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** My delegation regards this document, the Medium-Term Plan, which is of course susceptible to improvement, as nonetheless one which to a considerable extent does justice to its claim to be medium-term thinking and planning ahead, I think because it fulfils one compelling conclusion of the FAO Review. In this fundamental document the role function and mandate of the Organization are updated as they need to be and geared to the challenges of the 90s. In that way it becomes possible to give continuity to the pursuit of priority horizontal and vertical tasks. Accordingly the German delegation welcomes the holistic approach which is expressed in this document.

We support the proposed procedure which involves rolling development of the plan, with the first one-third being incorporated as rationally and flexibly as possible in the two-year work programme amplified with the necessary technical and financial details. But what is very informative is the tabular comparison of the five horizontal priorities, that is to say environment and sustained development, policy advice, the promotion of women in agricultural development, the development of human resources and economic and technical cooperation between the developing countries. Tabular comparison of those areas on the one hand with the Sub-programmes on pages 47 to 49 is particularly important for us because by ordering the availability of funds the thematic priorities become particularly clear. By means of that table and other conspectuses the document has become more user-friendly.

As time is short I do not think that I need here address the individual priorities. Previous speakers have already gone into these in some detail. Moreover they have already been accepted over the floor and from the means to address problems in all their regrettably oppressive magnitude and complexity and to resolve them on a subject by subject basis by the concerted actions of all concerned. This leads my delegation back to one crucial pre-condition for the implementation of the Medium-Term Plan, that is the availability of sufficient financial resources.

For that reason this valuable and, we think, well-balanced document should also prompt all Member Nations to ponder their respective responsibility for that latter aspect.

As far as future work on the MTP is concerned, the German delegation throws its support behind the rational and cost-saving procedure of Option I, whereby on the occasion of the next two Conferences, in 1993 and 1995, brief amplifying supplements would be submitted, and certainly that would help to facilitate work on the Work Programme for 1994-95 and 1996-97. Accordingly, my delegation would like generally to support this interesting paper.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before going on to the next delegate, which is Lesotho, I would like to read out the list now: Lesotho, France, China, Kenya, Japan, Yugoslavia, India. I have received from the two groupings the proposal for the composition of the Drafting Committee. I will read out the members of the Drafting Committee as proposed. Chairman, Cameroon; the Members: Zambia, Cameroon, Philippines, Indonesia, Haiti, Mexico, Sudan, Iran, Belgium, Japan, United States of America, the Netherlands and Australia. The list will of course be given in the Journal of Conference. Members of the Drafting Committee should be prepared to work on Thursday evening. I will come back to that again.

**Gerard P. KHOJANE (Lesotho):** We first of all wish to commend the FAO Secretariat for a well-prepared document introducing a rolling six-year Medium-Term Plan which deals with the setting of priority areas across the spectrum of FAO programmes and activities. We also recognize an excellent introduction to this topic.

The medium-term challenges outlined by the Director-General of FAO Dr Edouard Saouma in the Introductory Chapter of document C 91/23 now under consideration are consistent with accumulated expressions of Member States in different meetings of the Governing and Advisory Bodies of FAO. We also accept and endorse the description of the environment in which FAO should base its Medium-Term Plan as seen by the Committee on Agriculture during its meeting in April this year, and as ably reflected in document C 91/23, Part III, paragraphs 8-67.

It is widely acknowledged that eradication of hunger, malnutrition and poverty are among the major challenges of the international community in modern times. FAO and other international organizations responsible for food and agriculture are especially well placed to confront these challenges, but they can effectively do so only if there is a concerted joint action by all concerned. FAO's plans in this regard should therefore be properly coordinated with those of other multilateral organizations while at the same time recognizing the contributions of regional organizations, national governments and non-governmental organizations. Consequently, incorporation of the coordination element into the Medium-Term Plan is fully justified. We are particularly happy with the contents of paragraphs 42-53 of document C 91/23, Part I. It is also understandable that in the process, unprogrammed and unbudgeted activities of the cooperating partners will emerge and biennial budget flexibility provisions should be envisaged when this Medium-Term Plan is adopted. Such a consideration should enable FAO to play its part as required and expected.

We are sure that both the developing and the developed countries should be comfortable with the maintenance of evolution in the prospects and changing roles of FAO, responsive to the perceived and changing needs of Member States. The TCP Programme, developed through various stages since the late fifties to exploit food and agricultural potential and to meet the needs for emergency and quick action in technical cooperation with governments, through small-scale interventions, should be continued on the basis of demand and FAO comparative advantage. FAO should also continue with the Trust Fund Programmes as long as both donors and recipients derive mutual benefits from this activity.

It is encouraging to see in the FAO Medium-Term Plan an increasing emphasis on the greater involvement of national personnel, institutions and procurements. It is our wish to see the present numbers of professional staff and national directors within the organization's field programmes double in five to six years' time. It is also hoped that the welcomed increased resort to sub-contracting methods in both cases where FAO is responsible for projects overall, or for components of projects under national execution, will as much as possible avoid an element of conditionality on the one hand and that of nepotism or corruption on the other. There should be insistence on the procedure for selection of private sector companies, non-governmental organizations and public institutions proposed by FAO in document C 91/23, Part I, paragraph 98.

On decentralization and the field structure, our supportive views were expressed during the discussion of the "Review of certain aspects of FAO goals and operations" during the Twenty-fifth Session of FAO Conference in November 1989. At that time we made the following statement in this regard: "We support the decentralization policy without reservation, provided that appropriate steps are taken within the limits imposed by FAO Rules. Improvement of decentralization policy should start with Regional Offices down to Country Representative Offices as required". The Medium-Term Plan now under discussion goes even further to suggest improved modalities in practical terms. The suggestion to have grouping of countries with one particularly strengthened FAO Office is important and should be pursued. We also endorse the idea that strengthening of Country Offices needs to be accompanied by greater delegation of authority in field programme matters to FAO Representatives.

The complexity of confining priorities of cross-sectoral actions within a specified timeframe and single institution is well illustrated in Part II of the document before us. It is reasonable therefore to accept the advice of the Secretariat to allow ourselves to be guided mainly by the specific recommendations and resolutions already made, or adopted related programmes of action by FAO Governing Bodies and other cooperating agencies of the United Nations system. It is in order that such recommendations and resolutions or programmes of action be implemented in an incremental fashion. We should also provide for some flexibility to allow necessary adjustments to refine priorities during the implementation period as new discoveries are made and/or some concepts and perceptions become clearer.

In particular, we want to endorse actions taken, actions in progress and actions planned in relation to the implementation of:

- (a) Tropical Forestry Action Plan of 1985, and Agriculture: Towards 2000 of 1987;
- (b) Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development adopted at the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference in 1989; and
- (c) Conference Resolution 3/89 on FAO activities related to environmental and sustainable development which culminated in the Den Bosch Declaration, which in turn gave particular prominence to food and income aspects.

We endorse the increased involvement of FAO in UNEP' s endeavours towards environment monitoring and control. We also see the need for FAO to fully cooperate with WHO on environment health and climate change, as well as with Unesco on basic environment research and education.

On human resources development, we consider the definition offered on paragraph 87 of Part II of the document as all -embracing. We agree that, within the FAO's broad development work, human resource development should mean enabling rural people to make sound decisions and to apply and benefit effectively from them. In that context, the new concept of people's participation in the design and implementation of policies concerning them as contained in the FAO's plan of action for people's participation approved by the Council and hopefully to be endorsed by this Conference should constitute an important element of the Medium-Term Plan under discussion.

With regard to ECDC and TCDC activities, we believe the approach shaped through the assistance of the Expert Meeting on ECDC in Food and Agriculture: Regional or Sub-Regional Integration and FAO's Role, held in December 1988, is the right one and should be pursued. We however share the frustration that lack of finance, particularly to cover external costs, is and will continue to be a major constraint to TCDC efforts, especially in Africa. We can only hope that donor countries will follow the example of Japan and generously come forth with extra-budgetary resources to support FAO in its plans for TCDC at least in the short- and medium-term.

Reflecting on the substance of the Medium-Term Plan programme-by-programme as contained in Part III of this document, we are particularly satisfied with the inclusion of the following among the main priorities:

1. Conservation of soil and water and reclamation of land using new methods which will ensure participation of farming communities and which will also ensure that the applied practices lead to increased production;
2. Integrated Crop Management (ICM) approach with special emphasis on vegetables, cereals, oilseeds, grain legumes, multi-purpose tree crops, roots and tubers, forage legumes and fodder shrubs ;
3. Strengthening developing countries' capacity of evaluation, adaptation and transfer of traditional and emerging technologies to farmers, taking into account gender aspects of these technologies;
4. Promotion of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), striga control and sound pesticide management; and finally
5. Promotion of appropriate quality assurance programmes at all levels of food chain, and harmonization of international standards and regulations for food and agriculture products.

Lesotho can immediately be considered as a candidate for assistance in these five major priorities of the FAO Medium-Term Plan. We therefore invite the donor countries to generously provide extra-budgetary resources to enable FAO to implement this Medium-Term Plan without financial constraints.

**Jean-Pierre POLY (France):** Pour ma délégation, comme pour les délégations qui se sont exprimées avant moi, ce Plan à moyen terme répond à un réel besoin de notre Organisation d'inscrire son action dans un cadre plus large que celui du Programme de travail et budget présenté tous les deux ans à la Conférence.

Tant dans sa forme que dans son contenu, le document que nous examinons aujourd'hui rejoint très largement la plupart des préoccupations exprimées par mon pays dans le cadre notamment de l'examen des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Ces préoccupations concernaient en particulier:

- la nécessité d'approches plus globales, dépassant le cadre strict des activités sectorielles de divisions et services de l'Organisation;
- l'adoption de priorités clairement définies et leur prise en compte effective dans les divers programmes de la FAO tout en assurant la cohérence et l'équilibre nécessaires dans la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes.

Le plan à moyen terme qui nous est proposé identifie deux grands défis majeurs: l'élimination de la pauvreté et la promotion d'une agriculture durable.

Ma délégation partage pleinement l'avis du Directeur général selon lequel l'élimination de la pauvreté constitue le plus grand défi pour la FAO, comme pour la plupart des institutions, multilatérales ou bilatérales, qui se consacrent au développement.

La promotion d'une agriculture durable, deuxième grand défi, n'est pas sans rapport avec le premier défi, tant il est vrai que la pauvreté est souvent à l'origine de la surexploitation du milieu naturel.

La lutte contre la pauvreté constitue donc bien la ligne directrice autour de laquelle doivent se concentrer les priorités de la FAO pour les années à venir.

Dans ce contexte, le Plan à moyen terme propose, dans sa première partie, un certain nombre d'approches qui, sans être toutes nouvelles, devraient, aux yeux de la délégation française, prendre une importance accrue dans les activités de l'Organisation.

C'est le cas de l'approche pluridisciplinaire, indispensable pour aborder de façon cohérente et efficace un nombre croissant d'activités qui impliquent une étroite collaboration entre plusieurs divisions. L'approche par programme en est le corollaire et les difficultés rencontrées dans le cas de certains grands programmes comme le PAFT doivent être surtout considérées comme le révélateur des obstacles à surmonter. L'expérience acquise par la FAO dans de tels programmes, le dialogue approfondi entre tous les partenaires concernés, constituent un pas important vers de nouvelles méthodes plus globales et plus participatives, susceptibles d'être appliquées à la plupart des grands domaines d'activité de notre Organisation.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, ma délégation appuie pleinement l'orientation proposée dans le Plan à moyen terme visant à renforcer la coordination entre les institutions des Nations Unies et la coopération avec des entités extérieures au système, comme les organisations non gouvernementales. Nous soutenons également le principe d'une décentralisation accrue se traduisant par un renforcement du rôle des autorités nationales dans les pays bénéficiaires et des représentants de la FAO dans ces pays. Il serait



souhaitable aussi que dans l'avenir, et si possible dès 1992, les conférences régionales de la FAO se voient confier des responsabilités accrues dans la formulation des priorités soumises aux organes directeurs.

J'en viens maintenant aux activités intersectorielles présentées dans la deuxième partie du Plan à moyen terme et plus particulièrement aux deux premières activités.

L'environnement et le développement durable, tout d'abord, constituent, je le disais il y a un instant, le second grand défi auquel, avec d'autres partenaires - tous ceux qui seront réunis à Rio en juin 1992 -, la FAO doit faire face d'une manière générale et permanente. Sur ce sujet, qui sera abordé plus en détail par la Commission I, ma délégation se limitera ici à un simple commentaire sur l'approche de l'Organisation. S'il est une préoccupation qui doit être intégrée - et non pas ajoutée - aux autres, c'est bien le développement durable. Aussi, la France ne peut que se féliciter du choix qui a été fait, dans le cadre d'approches pluridisciplinaires, de prendre en compte dans toutes ses activités et à tous les niveaux - conception, mise en oeuvre, évaluation - la priorité au développement durable.

Les avis en matière de politique, deuxième activité intersectorielle examinée par le Plan à moyen terme, constituent - la délégation française l'a d'ailleurs souvent dit ici - une priorité qui, dans les années à venir, devrait prendre une place de plus en plus importante dans les activités de l'Organisation. De nombreux pays en développement sont confrontés à de grandes difficultés, sur les plans social et économique notamment, dans la mise en oeuvre des plans d'ajustement structurel. Pour en rester au secteur agricole, fragile et menacé quand les conditions économiques et sociales sont défavorables, le risque est grand de le voir dépérir si les autorités responsables de la conception et de la mise en oeuvre des plans d'ajustement ne disposent pas des avis et des conseils leur permettant de prendre leurs décisions. Au sein du système des Nations Unies, la FAO occupe dans ce domaine une position unique. Elle ne peut se limiter à donner des avis et des conseils techniques. Ils sont nécessaires, indispensables même, mais dans le cadre de politiques agricoles solidement étudiées par des experts impartiaux et hautement compétents que la FAO a vocation à fournir.

En conclusion, ma délégation voudrait aborder brièvement deux questions évoquées dans la dernière partie du document; il s'agit des ressources et des versions futures du Plan.

En ce qui concerne les ressources, la France partage tout à fait l'avis du Secrétariat selon lequel il convient ici d'éviter tout débat inutile sur le volume et la répartition des moyens financiers à prévoir dans le cadre des budgets à venir pour les exercices biennaux 1994-95 et 1996-97.

Ma délégation a bien noté le caractère indicatif des données chiffrées par le Secrétariat et ne peut que se limiter à rappeler que les engagements financiers des Etats Membres relèvent exclusivement de la procédure d'adoption du Programme de travail et budget.

Enfin, s'agissant des versions futures du Plan à moyen terme, la France considère que le caractère "glissant" de ce plan - au demeurant non chiffré - ne devrait pas se traduire par un réexamen complet tous les deux ans mais par des réorientations ou des inflexions dans le budget biennal de l'Organisation.

Dans ces conditions, comme le propose la première option présentée par le Secrétariat, la Conférence se limiterait à examiner de brefs suppléments au Plan à moyen terme en 1993 et 1995. Une version entièrement nouvelle, portant sur la période 1998-2003, lui serait soumise en 1997, en vue d'un examen de même nature que celui auquel nous procédons aujourd'hui.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** I shall be very brief, Sir. First of all, I should like to thank the Secretariat for their preparation of this document, C 91/23. We should also like to thank Mr Shah for his presentation.

We believe that document C 91/23 and its presentation should be supported by us. It is a concise document and the priorities have been fully highlighted. It tells us not only what the world agricultural and food prospects of the 90s are and the challenges which will have to be faced, but we also found the priorities for FAO's work in the next three biennia. Therefore, it is a useful basis on which we can hold our discussions on the strategies for world agricultural and food development, and also for defining FAO's policies and guidelines. This applies not only to the next biennium, that is to say the sectoral and inter-sectoral priorities, but it also covers priorities according to region. We naturally support this. Of course, this is still an outline plan, but there is no doubt that it will have more specific manifestations in future Programmes of Work and Budget. This Programme will require constant resources in order to be firmly based and we must ensure that FAO is not required to remain at a state of zero growth for too long. The resources should be consistent with the challenges and needs which have to be met. We agree with what is stated in the Fourth Part, the conclusion of the document, which is the analysis of FAO's role in order to improve its work further, particularly concerning the continuation of decentralization policies, strengthening of management of field programmes, modernization of work systems and computers and so forth.

As to the methods for working on the future Medium-Term Plan, we are in favour of Option I, because medium-term plans should be drawn up taking in the long-term perspectives of the food and agricultural situation throughout the world. Two years is too short a period for great changes to come about. Therefore, we consider that Option I has the advantage of avoiding duplication and reducing costs.

After 21 years a review of the Medium-Term Plan is once again included on the Agenda for the Conference. This is the result of the application of Resolution 10/89. This document helps us to reach unanimous agreement in defining the priorities of the Programme of Work for the next biennium, and we hope that this approach - that is to say the drafting and discussion of a Medium-Term Plan - will be carried out in future, and that, whilst continually improving, this will continue to be done.

**B.K. KISILU (Kenya):** I shall be brief because my reaction will be in the form of seeking clarification on certain issues raised in the document. In this regard, my priorities are clearly indicated, but the analysis on how they are arrived at may be necessary as further improvements on the document. However, the Kenyan delegation notes and appreciates the fact that FAO has given due care to ensuring complementarity between the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget in order to address its activities in a coherent manner.

Further, one wonders what FAO's experience has been on similar efforts to establish complementarities within the Member States' national development plans, most of which, especially in the developing countries, cover a period of five years.

This is important because those countries are addressing seriously the development of agricultural and rural areas as a priority, which I see are also a priority for the FAO within the context of sustainable development and conservation of environment for the future generation.

My delegation is satisfied with FAO's thrust on Policy Advice, Women in Development, Human Resource Development, Sustainable Development and Environment, as well as Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

On environment and development my delegation was pleased about yesterday's awards to individuals who, through FAO, have come up with programmes to increase agricultural productivity for food security. However, it is important to have some indications of what is likely to be recognized at that level within the Medium-Term Plan, if it is possible.

We agree with the Secretary and the Council that there should be no difficulties in reaching unanimity on the substance of this plan, and hence recommending its adoption by the Conference through consensus.

**Kazuo HANAZUMI (Japan):** We have recognized that it is very important for FAO to draw up the Medium-Term Plan, because activities in the field of food and agriculture have been increasingly of a global and intersectoral nature. We also believe that it is indispensable that FAO make its activities effective and its priority areas clear through FAO's Governing and Advisory Bodies discussing the Medium-Term Plan. Therefore, we are pleased to welcome document C 91/23 submitted and explained in the Twenty-sixth Session of the Conference.

As regards the Medium-Term Plan, it is a very important guideline for FAO for the next three biennia. In conjunction with the UNDP support cost successor arrangement applied from 1992 onwards, FAO should clarify the point that FAO will show its presence by using its accumulated technical skill and know-how to maximize and increase the expertise.

Secondly, in Part IV of document C 91/21, Conclusions, we could examine the resource considerations concisely.

We recognize that some coherent policy will penetrate through the Medium-Term Plan and the percentage of the total budget for each chapter in successive biennia will not change, as we could show in paragraph 21 of Chapter IV. Therefore, it is unnecessary for resource consideration to be explained in the Medium-Term Plan.

In addition, the Japanese budgetary procedure does not allow any financial commitment beyond a single fiscal year, as the Director-General mentioned in paragraph 12 of Chapter IV.

Thirdly, concerning future versions of the plan, once the Governing and Advisory Bodies detect the FAO's possible future direction and policy, it should not be changed drastically for a few years. In light of the huge cost and complex processes of the issuance of a fully revamped version of the Medium-Term Plan, we will choose Option I.

**Ms Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia):** I wish to express my special pleasure that the proposal on the Medium-Term Plan of Work and Budget for the 1992-97 period has been placed on the Agenda of this Session. We believe that it constitutes a most important instrument which will enable the strict establishment of FAO priorities and generate useful discussions among the representatives of its member countries. It will constitute the basic material on the future activities of the Organization. We are confident that in its future activities FAO will increasingly focus its attention on those priority areas where it has comparative advantages in relation to other agencies.

We support the proposed medium-term approaches in relation to the five major cross-sectoral priorities covered in Part II: Sustainable Development and Environment; Policy Advice; Women in Development; Human Resources Development; and Economic Cooperation Among Developing Countries.

In the framework of this Agenda Item I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to the expectations from FAO, not only of Yugoslavia, but also of other East and Central European countries. Those countries are going through a complex process of reform in agriculture with a view to ensuring food security and strengthening the economic efficiency of agriculture through a market economy approach, privatization and entrepreneurship. Our main expectations from FAO are intellectual inputs in the reform process. We are in need of replies to some of the fundamental issues, and our objective is to establish a dynamic, efficient and stable agriculture able to integrate eventually into Europe and the internationally market-oriented agriculture. Thus, we propose a fundamental re-orientation of the activities of the Regional Office for Europe. We think that FAO has a unique historic opportunity to prove its role in the process of re-structuring agriculture in Central and East European countries.

Furthermore, although what I am about to say might seem a somewhat illogical follow-up to what I have just said following the suggestions of Mr Shah, I will not go into details about financial matters, but I should like to point out that the proposal for a five percent budgetary increase for the 1994-97 period against the present budget should be re-examined during this Session.

Irrespective of how much this increase would improve the quality of the Organization's work, I have to underline that there are no great prospects that, in the next few years, developing countries might be able to improve their economic position, and each additional financial obligation pushes them deeper into the crisis.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** Let me state at the outset that I am deeply impressed by the quality of document C 91/23, Medium-Term Plan, on the key challenges and prospects in the food and agriculture sector. While documents such as Agriculture Towards 2000 A.D. and Long-Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector continue to provide a consistent long-term framework to identify and assess issues, document C 91/23 has very competently outlined the policy and programme options before the FAO in the medium-term.

It is indeed painful to note that unless there are unprecedented shifts in income distribution, both from North to South and from rich to poor within the South, the 500 to 1 000 million people who are currently underfed largely because they are too poor to buy sufficient food will continue to go hungry. Besides, there will be over 1 billion more mouths to feed by the end of this decade in the world. Transcending the purely technical aspects of developing and managing natural resources for agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the document rightly focuses on human beings as the primary beneficiaries of development process.

It is true that a major imperative for eliminating poverty is agricultural, rural and human resources development through national and international policies. Emphasis to direct income and nutritional benefits on food-deprived people and households, both in urban and rural areas, and to overcome the underlying causes of poverty and malnutrition with sufficient rapidity therefore needs to be commended. In this context, the role of FAO as the multilateral technical and developmental agency in the food and agricultural sector in ensuring global food security, that is, adequacy of and stability in supply and access to food, has been very clearly spelt out in the Medium-Term Plan.

The prospects and challenges enumerated in the Director-General's introduction to the Medium-Term Plan document ably spell out the dimensions of the tasks confronting FAO. The guiding principles in formulating the medium-term response to these tasks in identifying substantive thrust areas and in determining the major thematic priorities, namely Environment and Sustainable Development, Policy Advice and Strengthening of the Information Base, Women in Development, Human Resource Development, and Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, provide a sound basis for strengthening FAO action for meeting global food security.

Paragraphs 8 to 35 in Part II of the document detail the context, role and medium-term approach of FAO in regard to the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) which aims at providing food security by ensuring a proper and sustainable balance between self-sufficiency and self-reliance, employment and income generation in rural areas particularly to eradicate poverty and natural resources conservation, and environmental protection by mounting priority action in areas of emphasis listed in (a) to (f) of paragraph 34. While endorsing this approach, I would like to emphasize that FAO action should be directed more towards the area-based approach in implementing specifically designed programmes taking into account resource specificities and agro-climatic conditions in different regions. The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) being implemented in India may perhaps provide a suitable model for sustainable development for similar ecologically and economically disadvantaged areas.

The decade of the 1990s has been declared as International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). Recurring droughts, floods and cyclones have had adverse effects on crops and seriously erode the incomes of the farmers and act also as obstacles to development in developing countries. FAO can play a vital role in implementing non-physical mitigation methods such as crop insurance, contingency crop planning, crop diversification techniques, etc. It is suggested that FAO may include natural disaster reduction programmes in medium-term priorities.

Full advantage of effective information systems such as Early Warning System also can be derived only if an appropriate institutional mechanism exists at national level. FAO's efforts in this regard should therefore be directed towards building up national capabilities like a Food Security System at the national/regional levels to ensure quick delivery of food commodities in periods of emergencies caused by natural disasters.

In regard to FAO's approach to policy advice and dissemination of information through WAICENT, I would like to mention that there is a need among developing countries for having market information on a real-time basis. The importance of timely, accurate and relevant market information with regard to agricultural commodities will be of considerable assistance to developing countries not only in formulating right pricing policies but would also help in promoting international trade in agricultural commodities.

The agricultural research in developing countries need to be made more area, time, and farmer specific. High yielding varieties of coarse cereals, pulses and oil seeds, dryland agriculture, recharging of ground-water resources, post-harvest technologies, agro-processing for farm level value addition are some principles of research to be supported by the international bodies like Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and national institutes. Greater attention also needs to be paid to the development and use of hybrid seeds while simultaneously ensuring that mankind's genetic heritage does not suffer. FAO needs to place greater emphasis on ensuring that benefits of new technologies like bio-technology, genetic engineering, tissue culture, bio-insecticides, embryo transplant, remote sensing and non-conventional sources of energy research reach the farming community in the developing countries.

We feel that Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) is a very practical concept and ideally suited for achieving agricultural development objectives. In this context the stress being given by FAO to TCDC to enhance creative capabilities and collective self-reliance is appreciated. In addition to acting as catalyst and supporting promotional activities FAO needs to earmark greater resources to support implementation of TCDC bilateral activities. We also agree that FAO needs to augment its activities in providing training of national staff in TCDC methodology and procedures for securing greater expansion of TCDC activities.

With regard to improving the agricultural extension services we agree that public extension systems need to be re-oriented to make them more cost-effective, more relevant to the requirements of dryland areas, small farmers and cooperating with NGOs and private sector efforts in this field. The technical base of extension messages also requires to be widened by covering not only cereal production but also related fields such as horticulture, livestock, fish-pond cultivation, socio-forestry, etc. It is also necessary to re-orient both research and extension to a farming

systems approach which would look at the small farmer's total production context. FAO should extend the systems for establishment of national and state level training institutes, farming training centres, training of national experts and trainers to upgrade their capabilities. The training needs of farm women also need to be addressed on a priority basis.

We share the Director-General's belief that the policy of zero growth being advocated by some Member Nations cannot be pursued indefinitely without seriously affecting the programmes of the Organization. The challenges of the 1990s, especially those relating to sustainable development and poverty alleviation would also require more concerted efforts from FAO over the last three biennia can effectively be resolved only if all the Member Nations pay their assessed contribution in time. The developed countries also need to make additional contributions to enable the Organization to meet increasing demands being made on it for Special Action Programmes, etc. While the concept of Budgeting may sound interesting the feasibility of getting voluntary contributions from Member Nations to meet the expenditure from this fund should finally determine the approach in this regard.

The concise and highly readable document C 91/23 Medium-Term Plan fully vindicates the expectations of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference. This new document stemming from the Review of FAO has provided an excellent opportunity to the Member Nations to generate a constructive debate on the strategic issues confronting the Organization and for strengthening FAO action in the medium-term. We support Option II with regard to the future versions of the Medium-Term Plan under which revised versions of the Medium-Term Plan would be submitted to the Conference each biennium with a sliding six-year coverage.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before giving the floor to the next delegate I would like to get an impression of the further proceeding on this item. We have reserved tomorrow morning for this item too and it would help a lot if we could get an indication now of how many more delegates are wanting to speak on this item; Pakistan, Switzerland, Poland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mexico, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Malawi, Zambia and Canada. We move on and the next delegate is the delegate of the United Kingdom.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** My delegation welcomes the document which is before the Conference today and we would like to thank Mr Shah for his very useful introduction. We consider the introduction of the medium-term planning process is indeed, as the Director-General states in his introduction, one of the key positive steps to issue from the Review of FAO. This is a valuable opportunity for the membership to comment on the broad policy and strategic issues which will shape the activities of FAO for the coming six years and, as Mr Shah pointed out in his introduction, to contribute to the definition of priorities which will in turn be embodied in the future Programmes of Work and Budget for the Organization.

We have a number of detailed comments on this document but before entering into these details I should just like to outline broadly the main issues which we see as the most important ones upon which this Conference should focus. Firstly, my delegation regards it as of the utmost importance that FAO use the medium-term planning process as a means to address the key

issues of FAO's comparative advantage and of the priority setting which follows from this. In this regard we should like to congratulate the Secretariat on the structure and the presentation of this document which clearly identifies the Plan as a priority-setting tool within the context of the medium-term challenges which are prominent in the development agenda for the 1990s and beyond.

However, we would stress that prioritization involves facing difficult decisions including a reduction in resources allocated to low-priority activities. This was also highlighted by the delegate of Denmark earlier this afternoon. The document under consideration only quantifies priorities at a level of Major Programmes and even at this level the budgetary shifts appear relatively small. In no case is a budgetary reduction in real terms proposed. We would have hoped to see an implicit statement of priorities within Major Programmes just as we would have hoped to see low-priority activities cut back further in order to allow growth in the high-priority ones.

We recognize the indicative nature of the figures in the Plan. It would, however, appear from paragraphs 18 and 19 that any significant moves towards prioritization appear dependent on a five percent growth rate in FAO's budget. Whilst accepting that it is difficult to manage change at a time of restrictive budgets we do not accept that prioritization should be dependent on budgetary increases. It would be more realistic, in our view, to the task of priority setting assuming continued budgetary restraint.

The second and related issue which the United Kingdom considers to be of vital importance is that of the relative roles of the Regular and Field Programmes. This issue is already being extensively discussed in the context of the Review process, and the complementarity of FAO's main roles fully accepted by the members of the Organization. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the nature of FAO's involvement in Field Programmes be carefully scrutinized in order to ensure that it is fully complementary with the priorities identified for the Regular Programme and for the Organization as a whole.

In our opinion FAO's comparative advantage encompasses collation and dissemination of information on a global basis, quality control and nominative functions, global or regional coordination, policy advice, but not project implementation at country level. We expect FAO's involvement in field projects to change in nature over the coming six year period as national execution is strengthened and the Organization becomes increasingly engaged in more upstream advisory and backstopping activities.

We would therefore urge that the medium-term planning process focus on the appropriate collection of field projects and the development and evaluation of supervisory systems which are needed in order to prepare and enhance the complementarity of the Field and Regular Programmes. This is indeed one of the key issues identified in the document in paragraphs 78 and 80 to 88 which speak of the sometimes difficult relationship between the demand-led nature of FAO's Technical Assistance Programme and the need for selectivity and the importance of the guiding principle of comparative advantage. In our view Member States would do well to focus their discussion on this extremely important issue which has widespread implications for the future of the Organization.



A third key issue for my delegation is that of decentralization of responsibility to FAO Country Offices. This is mentioned in paragraphs 100 to 106 of the document. The Medium-Term Plan places great emphasis on the growing importance of country policy work in FAO's activities, and the United Kingdom endorses this emphasis. Increasing involvement in country policy advice will require a stronger geographical focus in FAO's work, and it will fall to the country officers to add the bulk of the geographical input and expertise which will be called for if such policy advice is to be effective and appropriate.

Country Offices therefore need strengthening to a considerable extent and the document under discussion outlines some of the ways in which the accomplishment of this is envisaged. My delegation considers that it is unrealistic to assume that extra resources will be readily available for this purpose, given the current climate of financial restraint which affects not only FAO but also other UN agencies and indeed national budgets. The membership of FAO is unlikely to be in the position to accept an increased burden of contributions to the Organization in the six-year period which lies ahead. The strengthening of the Country Offices will therefore have to be achieved by the transfer of posts and responsibilities from Headquarters.

We endorse the prospects for food and agriculture in the remainder of this century; in particular, emphasis which is readily given to the critical inference which population growth will have on these prospects. However the discussion of population in the body of the medium-term planning document is relatively limited and in some respects we consider quite weak. There are strong two-way linkages between population and agricultural development. Population structures and growth will influence landholdings, tenure and the size of population dependent wholly or partly on agriculture for its livelihood.

These factors should be central themes in policy analysis and development, especially at the country level. Again agricultural development will itself influence fertility, through its efforts to improve the status of women and through change in agricultural labour practices. These dimensions, too, should be explicit in policy analysis and developments and we would like to see them brought out more clearly in the body of the Medium-Term Plan. In this respect we believe it is crucial that FAO staff have a broad awareness and understanding of key population issues and their relationship to development policy.

The Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom is currently conducting a programme of population awareness training for all members of its staff. If the Secretariat considers that our experience in this field may be useful to the Organization, as indeed that of any other Member Nation might be, we would be happy to share our ideas.

Paragraph 8 of the document discusses the means by which increased global food production will be achieved. We would like to stress that there are only limited opportunities for bringing new lands under cultivation. By and large future increases in production will stem from increased productivity per unit area of land. In the developed world environmental concerns are likely to reverse the trend towards further intensification and high input/high output agriculture. Hence much of the onus for increasing production is likely to fall on the developing world and middle income countries.

Paragraph 20 of the document lists those activities which are considered to be of high priority. We would welcome a more detailed breakdown of how the positive discrimination in favour of fisheries and forestry will influence individual activities. We question whether the relatively small increase in funding for forestry will be adequate to cover FAO's increased commitments if it continues to be an active participant in the TFAP.

As regards fisheries, we support the priorities and objectives outlined in the Medium-Term Plan but have one comment to offer regarding paragraph 303 on Fisheries Research. This states that FAO will give collective priority to strengthening national and regional research activities. We feel that this needs some clarification. There is an important role for FAO to play in activities of fisheries research which is centered upon the identification of research needs, field programme activities, and regional fisheries bodies. The storage and dissemination of information collected by research activities and the application of research results through its field programmes in fisheries policy development and planning. If these are the areas to be given relative priority then my delegation can lend its support to this objective.

The section of the document which deals with FAO and the concept of international relations identifies the linkage between environment and development as the central concern not only of FAO but of the international community as a whole. The need for multidisciplinary approaches and integrated responses to the challenges of sustainable development bring into relief the importance of cooperation both within and outside the UN system. We note with interest that the Medium-Term Plan in paragraphs 50 to 53 states that it is the Regional Offices which will have the greatest role to play in coordinating with both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Given that the Regional Offices are areas of reduced resources in current budgetary proposals, does the Secretariat consider that they will be able to cope with an expanding role such as the one suggested in these paragraphs?

Paragraph 56 of the document mentions the need for Member States of the UN family to harmonize their positions in the diverse bodies in which they participate. This is a very valid point and one which we would wholeheartedly support. We trust that efforts in this regard will be matched by FAO's own dedication to appropriate inter-agency coordination.

The section of this document which discusses communication with FAO constituents focuses on the critical importance of information-sharing and information technology in FAO's activities. FAO's strategies for computerization and telecommunications is outlined in paragraphs 136 to 146. The emphasis on an information infrastructure capable of linking information systems for providing office information facilities and for giving access to external information is, in our view, sensible and appropriate. FAO has a key role to play in disseminating information on computer software in its work. In addition to advising on hardware and adopting computer packages, technical divisions of the Organization must be well informed in order to share the benefits of suitable software as widely as possible in order to save duplication of effort in member countries.

Paragraphs 147 to 153 which deal with capital budgeting seek Member Nations' reactions to an outline proposal for the introduction of a equipment fund designed to meet the costs of major purchases. My Government

procedures do not allow us to pay money in advance or in excess of current requirements and we would therefore not be able to support such a proposal.

On the subject of future versions of the Plan, the Director-General has proposed two options. Much was made at the debate at the last Conference of the rolling nature of such plan. We should nonetheless take note of the need for economies of costs without losing the essential rolling nature of the Plan. We therefore support Option I of the Director-General's proposal.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** I have been asked to announce that the Papal audience will take place on Thursday, 14 November at 12 o'clock. All delegates are kindly requested to collect application forms regarding their attendance from the Documents Desk as soon as possible. Once completed, the forms should be submitted to Office of Protocol, Room A132 in this building.

**Kwang Wook AN (Republic of Korea):** My delegation carefully reviewed the proposed Medium-Term Plan and concluded that the project was appropriate in the light of the current financial situation. We all know that the Organization is experiencing financial difficulties. It is, hence, very desirable that the FAO Secretariat keeps expenditure on administration and management as low as possible. However, my delegation would like to emphasise that FAO itself and the medium-term plans should take the international agricultural reform discussed in the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations into consideration. Even now it is very difficult to compromise each country's needs for its own agricultural development. However, the proposed agricultural reform is trying to regulate the world agriculture through a standardized liberalization scheme. Therefore after the Uruguay Round negotiations, the necessity that international organizations, including FAO, should help the agricultural adjustment procedure of developing countries will be ever-increasing. In this context my delegation strongly believes that the harmonization of the activities of the Medium-Term Plan with each country's efforts to survive will be very important.

**Hanif QAZI (Pakistan):** A lot has been said but we would like to make a very brief statement. The course of action recommended by FAO in the Medium-Term Plan for finding solutions to a number of issues such as environmental degradation, Women in Development, Human Resource Development, etc., is most appropriate.

Also, the valuable suggestions made by the honourable delegates from member countries during this session we believe will further strengthen the Plan. Pakistan has in the past participated in FAO-sponsored projects and will also collaborate in the context of the Medium-Term Plan presented here in order to enhance productivity, protect the environment, and improve the lot of the rural poor, both men and women. Pakistan agrees with the first option.

**António MAGALHAES COELHO (Portugal):** Le document C 91/23 a été l'objet d'une analyse soigneuse au niveau du Conseil dans lequel mon pays a participé et a donné son accord au contenu du document C 91/LIM/21 qui est un extrait du rapport du Conseil.

Permettez M. le Président que la délégation portugaise intervienne dans le domaine des pêches, face à l'importance que cette activité représente pour le Portugal, détenteur d'une des plus larges aires économiques exclusives de l'Europe.

En analysant le document C 91/23, nous considérons très appropriée la référence aux paragraphes 25 à 26 sur la dégradation de l'environnement, une fois que les eaux côtières où se vérifient la déposition des oeufs et le développement des premières phases de la vie des organismes aquatiques, sont bien vulnérables aux diverses formes de pollution provoquées par l'homme. Et il est difficile d'évaluer, si en zones de pollution intense, les effets sur les ressources marines sont moins graves que les effets dûs à une pêche excessive.

Au paragraphe 259, au-delà des barèmes de qualité que les pays en voie de développement ont besoin d'améliorer, on évoque la valorisation des espèces qui ne sont pas courantes aux pays en voie de développement, lesquels se sont limités à pêcher seulement les espèces de haute valeur commerciale.

Le progrès de la pêche dans les pays en voie de développement dépendra aussi d'une meilleure participation des pêches dans la valeur ajoutée.

Nous sommes d'accord avec ce qui est affirmé au paragraphe 261, mais on doit prendre en compte que si la motorisation permet une meilleure efficacité, elle peut difficilement être appliquée à des communautés économiquement plus fragiles, ou plus éloignées des centres d'approvisionnement.

En ce qui concerne les paragraphes 263 à 266, on considère qu'un des aspects plus complexes de l'activité de la pêche dans les eaux internationales, est l'inexistence d'une organisation internationale avec des pouvoirs de gestion concernant les surfaces sous l'influence des organisations multilatérales dont les problèmes ne sont pas encore surmontés.

Au paragraphe 274, on devrait prendre en compte un autre objectif, celui d'étudier les moyens de garantir une gestion adéquate et une bonne exploitation des ressources, surtout quand l'activité de la pêche est pratiquée en dehors de la zone de juridiction d'un état côtier.

Au paragraphe 253 du document C 91/LIM/21, M. le Directeur général fait deux propositions concernant le délai qui doit être considéré entre la présentation de nouvelles versions du Plan en analyse (C 91/23).

La délégation portugaise, tenant compte: 1. Que la présentation de ces documents implique des frais importants; 2. Que les avantages de la présentation d'un document intérimaire résumé se rapportant aux progrès et difficultés enregistrés dans des aires plus importantes peuvent être très relatifs; considère que la présentation des plans tous les six ans sera suffisante.

**P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** Let me at the outset express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the Director-General and his staff for their efforts in preparing document C 91/23 as a response to the request of Conference contained in Resolution 10/89. As the Director-General said, this is a new document. We underline his views that discussion on this

document gives us an opportunity to engage in a fruitful discussion focusing on strategic issues, free of the more immediate concerns of budget level and cost increases. The merit of the Medium-Term Plan lies in its role in identifying the forthcoming prospects and challenges and seeing how policies and priorities can be shaped towards them.

On page 11 the document states that "FAO must remain useful to all its Member Nations". We feel it is an important message in the Medium-Term Plan that FAO should always be a useful and meaningful Organization for the small and poor farmers. It is in this light that we welcome the DG's policy message explaining that the alleviation of poverty posed the greatest challenge in the MTP. Poverty is at the roots of the World's problems, hindering the way to peace and prosperity for all. A massive programme of activities should be launched to address this problem. We are only wondering whether the scenario of 5 percent growth per biennium will be the appropriate answer to the aforementioned challenges.

Turning to other points, we agree that the MTP should be used as a guide for the selection and refinement of priorities in successive PWBs within realistic resource parameters. We welcome the thematic as well as the cross-sectoral priorities indicated in the MTP, which may be useful for reference purposes. It is general in nature, and therefore open to necessary adjustment at national level to bring it in mind with national policy and planning requirements. With regard to Programme priorities, we support the view that more attention should be paid to agro-industrial development. In Indonesia, Government and private sectors are currently working together in the preparation and implementation of this Major Programme. The launching of this programme, in which farmers' participation is fully guaranteed, will hopefully pave the way to a strengthening of their economic and social conditions.

In the field of fisheries we refer to the report of the last Council's meeting. In the coming six years the problems of responsible fishing operations, the issue of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and matters regarding high-sea fisheries will be critical issues for Member Nations needing more of FAO's attention and involvement.

We welcome the substantive thrusts of policy orientation as clearly stated in the conclusion of the MTP. My delegation places high priority on the Human Resources Developmental Programme and the promotion of Women's Participation in Development. We wholeheartedly support the ECDC/TCDC Programme. Indonesia actively participates in this programme and we are in close contact with other developing countries in the implementation of these activities. Mr Chairman, we follow with close attention the views of the Programme and Finance Committees with regard to resource considerations.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas.

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/3

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION IIVingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II26° período de sesiones  
COMISION IITHIRD MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE  
TERCERA SESION

(13 November 1991)

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.45 hoursMr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presidingLa troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Président de la  
Commission IISe abre la tercera sesión a las 9.45 horasbajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Presidente de  
la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

15. Medium Term Plan 1992-97 (continued)

15. Plan à moyen terme 1992-97 (suite)

15. Plan a plazo medio 1992-97 (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** The meeting is called to order. This morning we are continuing on Item 15, the Medium-Term Plan. We have a list of speakers, which I will read out: Switzerland, Poland, Democratic Republic of Korea, the United States, Netherlands, Mexico, Canada, Zambia, Malawi, Spain, Chile, Turkey, Congo, Belgium, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Are there any more wishing to speak on this item? If not, I am closing the list of speakers on this item. It is closed.

**François ROHNER (Suisse):** Je n'ai malheureusement pas pu suivre personnellement le débat sur cet important sujet à l'ordre du jour, hier après-midi. De nombreux commentaires ayant été faits, je me limiterai, à ce stade de la discussion, aux quelques réflexions suivantes. Nous aurons du reste l'occasion de revenir sur certains points lors de la discussion, notamment sur le Programme de travail et budget ainsi que le Programme de terrain.

J'aimerais d'emblée joindre ma voix à celles qui ont félicité le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour le travail accompli. Nous avons devant nous le résultat d'un gros effort auquel nous avons tous contribué, et que ma délégation considère comme un important pas vers un nouveau consensus sur le rôle futur de la FAO dans le concert de la coopération multilatérale.

Cet examen était absolument indispensable, comme nous l'ont montré un certain nombre d'analyses récentes sur le rôle du système des Nations Unies en matière d'activités opérationnelles, et je mentionnerai ici tout particulièrement le Projet nordique au sujet des Nations Unies, un ensemble d'études qui ne manquera pas de nous occuper pendant quelque temps encore.

Avec l'élaboration de ce premier Plan à moyen terme, la FAO se trouve à la fois à la fin d'un processus que nous jugeons, avec de nombreuses délégations, très positif tout autant qu'au début d'une nouvelle étape moins facile, à savoir la mise en oeuvre du Plan.

Le Plan à moyen terme, constitue donc un important pas dans la bonne direction. Il devrait permettre de mieux orienter l'Organisation dans les années à venir, de préciser son rôle au sein du système des Nations Unies, et de concentrer ses activités dans des domaines où elle possède de véritables avantages comparatifs. Ce concept doit cependant être mieux défini. Il reste certes beaucoup à faire en vue d'arriver à une priorisation encore plus explicite. La base de départ nous paraît cependant bonne.

Nous sommes particulièrement heureux de la place accordée dans ce Plan aux thèmes intersectoriels et transversaux. Nous estimons en effet que la FAO a, dans les cinq domaines évoqués, un rôle à jouer.

Nous attachons par ailleurs une très grande importance au renforcement des liens entre le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain par le biais de Programmes d'action spéciaux, programmes dans lesquels la FAO doit pouvoir jouer un rôle de leader et pleinement profiter de ses avantages comparatifs. Il s'agira donc maintenant de traduire ce Plan dans les faits, un processus que nous suivrons avec beaucoup d'attention.

Pour ce qui est de la remise à jour du Plan à moyen terme après deux ans, nous aurions préféré l'Option II, à savoir une réactualisation tous les deux ans, avec une nouvelle projection sur six ans, ce qui aurait donné une plus grande continuité au processus.

Nous ne nous opposerons pas au consensus sur ce point, bien entendu, mais nous espérons cependant que l'exercice dans deux ans ne sera pas une simple formalité, mais qu'il permettra d'examiner les progrès accomplis, de préciser encore certaines priorités et de donner des orientations encore plus claires pour les années 3 à 6 du Plan.

Nous attendons aussi à ce que, dans le prochain Programme de travail et budget, les priorités du Plan soient reflétées de façon plus concrète que ceci n'a pu être le cas dans le Programme que nous discuterons cet après-midi.

Sur un point plus spécifique enfin, nous proposons que la mise en oeuvre de ce Plan devienne un point constant à l'ordre du jour des Conférences régionales de la FAO.

**Tadeusz HUNEK (Poland):** The Medium-Term Plan, as pointed by Mr Shah in his clear and stimulating introduction, is the FAO's policy synthesis document. We think it is an excellent framework for FAO's new strategy for the 90s. I have great pleasure in congratulating the Director-General and the Secretariat on such an excellent blueprint to guide the FAO. Why do we think the first Medium-Term Plan is such an important document? The simple answer is that the Plan is the FAO's response to the challenges presented by the present world agriculture scene, which is determined both by shortage of food and malnutrition on the one hand and food surpluses and over-production on the other. There is no social or economical justification for this state of affairs. The Medium-Term Plan in Part II, Cross-Sectoral Actions, presents a promising new approach by FAO to this problem, and we strongly support this attitude. We recognize that the elimination of food surpluses would be a good way to eliminate or at least diminish food shortage, and consequently malnutrition. The Polish delegation agrees with the view expressed in the document that there is a need to perhaps revise one leading concept of agricultural policy, food self-sufficiency at national level. We strongly welcome the intention to shift towards the concept of food security on a regional or global scale.

On that approach we feel there is a specific and very good functional role of FAO.

The second aspect which I want to raise is that present-day world agriculture is dominated by two opposite tendencies; on the one hand, we notice the process of marginalization of agricultural activities in national economies, but, on the other hand, we notice a rapid increase in importance of agricultural space. This rapid growth of importance is



manifested by the increase in value of agricultural lands, by a broader recognition of the rural system of values, and by rural features of culture.

The Polish delegation would like to suggest that the aesthetic, socio-cultural aspect of modern agriculture should find a broader interest in FAO activity, specifically in the Medium-Term Plan.

Consequently, subjects such as rural development, nutrition, cultural aspects of nutrition, should be specially underlined in the programme priorities of the Medium-Term Plan.

The third imperative which I want to raise now is world agriculture. It seems to us that the picture of present world agriculture has a very important element. It is the process of transformation of economy, as well as the transformation of agriculture in post-Socialist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. It is, no doubt, a dramatic struggle for almost half a billion people, but it is not only that. Should the programme of reform succeed, the world will become very constructive, very dynamic in a positive sense. In case the programme of reform fails -and no one can exclude such a scenario - the world will be faced with a factor of destruction and some kind of a threat of undermining world order.

The Medium-Term Plan recognizes the complexity of this issue. However, according to the Polish delegation, the consideration of FAO is still below the real needs and expectations of the governments and the people of this region. FAO's role in providing advice and technical assistance should be further adjusted and more precisely elaborated in order to meet this kind of expectation from reforming countries, and in the interest, according to us, of the rest of the world. At present, the intellectual input from FAO will be a greatly-welcomed factor in the process of success of reforms in Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. It is a good opportunity for introducing a market-based economy, not on a trial and error method such as we are passing through now, but with good guidance by FAO.

The Polish delegation strongly supports the regional dimension of the Medium-Term Plan and recognizes that the world agricultural system at present is so complex that the regional approach seems to be the most effective way in which to solve the real and numerous problems of the world at present. We strongly support the focus of FAO work in Europe, and we appeal for a strengthening of the Regional Office in Europe. We expect a lot from the newly created setup by REUR - the standing European group of agricultural policy - which is, according to us, for avoiding a trial and error method.

In conclusion, as you know, I come from a country with long - more than 40 years experience - in the planning of our economy, in the planning of all aspects of life for Polish citizens. On the way we have been faced with a so-called syndrome of planning. It means that usually we allocate a lot of time, a lot of energy in planning and preparation in the process of planning so that usually, as a result, there was not enough energy for the fulfillment of the Plan. I hope that FAO will avoid such a syndrome.

**YUN HYONG CHONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea):** This is the first time on which I have taken the floor and I should like to express my congratulations on your election, Mr Chairman, as Chairman of this important Commission.

Allow me to express my thanks to the Director-General for the efforts he has made in order to present this Medium-Term Plan 1992-97. I should also like to thank Mr Shah and all those who have collaborated in the preparation of this excellent document C 91/23.

I wish to make some brief comments on the Medium-Term Plan under discussion.

I emphasize that the Plan is a fitting response to the request of the Conference as contained in Resolution 10/89.

In the formulation of the Plan, the Director-General considered the challenges and financial difficulties of our Organization in the 1990s and the Plan has reflected his correct attempts to find the way to overcome those challenges and difficulties. I appreciate particularly the coverage of the issues in the Medium-Term Plan, including the many factors likely to affect FAO's action throughout the 1990s: the proposals relevant to the priorities of both a cross-sectoral and sectoral nature; the regional dimensions of our action; and the indication of the cooperative links with other organizations and partners in our programmes.

I also point out the well-balanced complementarity between the Plan and the biennial Programme of Work and Budget document.

I feel that the Plan deals with the result of the FAO Review. The Plan provides a useful framework for the more refined priority setting in the successful Programmes of Work and Budget.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-97 and Option I presented by the Director-General.

**Max L. WITCHER (United States of America):** The United States supports the concept of the Medium-Term Plan. Such a planning tool is useful, in our view, in helping Member Nations to mark out priorities for the Organization in the future. This is especially important in the light of the recent and enormous changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as well as throughout the Third World, which raises major issues relating to FAO's future work.

In this regard the United States is pleased to note that the Plan attaches importance to an increasing role for the private sector in addressing the challenges of the future. The United States also appreciates the discussion on trade problems stemming from increased protectionism. In this connection, we would have liked to have seen a discussion on the implications of moving towards free trade through a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round.

In the section on international trade in paragraph 57 there is no mention of the broad role of the GATT. In this regard, we would ask the Secretariat why there is no specific mention of the Uruguay Round in paragraph 57.

We would also ask the Secretariat to spell out, or maybe to provide, some examples of what is implied by the statement lamenting the virtual disappearance of any regulatory activities in international commodity agreements. The United States believe that the Plan should serve as a useful vehicle for a periodic and thorough stock-taking of the Organization. The discussion of the Plan should provide an opportunity for Member Nations to ensure that FAO's future programmes are consistent with national priority.

The United States is pleased to note in the Plan that attention is given by the Secretariat to the importance of coordination with other UN Organizations. Also recognition of the role of NGOs is appreciated.

Regarding the six major cross-sectoral priorities listed in the conclusions, the United States is in general agreement with these thrusts. We believe the environment and sustainable development should be given an appropriate priority during the 1990s. This will no doubt become more evident after next year's UNCED Conference.

The United States has always placed a high priority on FAO's policy advice and information-based work, especially as it relates to the collaboration with GATT.

The United States also attaches great importance to FAO's work on Women in Development, Human Resource activities and Economic and Technical Development programmes.

Finally, I have some specific suggestions; we believe strongly that future versions of the Plan should be shortened significantly. Document C 91/23 is 220 pages long. In fact, it is almost a mini-Programme of Work and Budget. While some of the material may be useful to some of the members, we believe that several of the sections obscure rather than contribute to the complex process of deciding on future priorities for FAO. The same is true of the section on resources. In our view, the Plan should focus on the challenges that lie ahead and the setting of priorities to carry out necessary tasks. Once that difficult process has been completed, the resources needs can be addressed in the biennial budget process.

In conclusion, the United States favour Option II - that is the Plan at each Conference with a sliding six-year coverage.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** As had been said earlier, the Medium-Term Plan is one of the results of the review process, and one of the outcomes of those results is before us: a comprehensive - possibly a little thick -document on which we would like to congratulate the Secretariat. It is indeed a great effort to produce such a document, and making critical remarks is much easier than producing a Medium-Term Plan. Yet, in the spirit of what was said yesterday during the discussion on the Review of the Regular Programme, let us consider critical remarks under the heading of constructive remarks, all with the aim of improving future editions of the MTP.

Documents sometimes have a chapter "Summary and Conclusions". After having read this document we come to the conclusion that the introduction of the Director-General gives a very good overview of what the contents of the MTP should be. He defined the medium-term challenges that FAO is and will be confronted with in the coming years and he said that a priority setting was necessary, guided by principles which he explained. We agree with almost everything that is written in this part of the document.

We now turn from this introduction, that can be considered to a certain extent as a good summary, to the conclusions: more than 200 pages further in the document. We can identify ourselves with the conclusions.

It is difficult to find something to disagree with what is said under the headings: Role of FAO and its Comparative Advantages; Guiding Principles; Substantive Thrusts; and Strengthened Capacity.

So despite the fact that the Introduction is at the beginning and the Conclusion is at the end of the document, these 15 pages we would say are the heart of the MTP.

Now I come to the more detailed part of the MTP, the 205 remaining pages.

In Part II on cross-sectoral actions, an attempt is made towards integration particularly in the framework of sustainable development and environment. This integration is sometimes difficult to find in Part III which deals with the various programmes. The focus here is almost exclusively on the technical aspects of agricultural development.

In paragraph 7 of the Conclusions it is very rightly stated that: "Given that the crux of developmental action is at the national level, where policies and actions must be integrated across technical disciplinary lines and economic sectors, FAO activities, as applicable, will continue to be targeted on national capacity building for self-reliant development. The main vehicles for this will be further institutional strengthening and transfer of appropriate technological approaches at all levels. This process will go hand in hand with the emphasis on promoting inter-country cooperation of multiple forms and on investment for development impact on a larger scale". But in the main document - those 205 pages - it is difficult to find how FAO's activities are coping with this.

In this respect the Secretariat could have paid more attention to how the various activities at national, local and household levels should be dealt with, including adequate linking the various levels. It is also difficult to find how FAO is going to shape the needed multidisciplinary, intersectoral approach while planning its activities.

More than in previous years, technical activities need to be brought in line with socio-economic circumstances. This means more attention should be paid to farming systems, to the role and distribution of tasks of men and women, and to participation of beneficiaries by influence on form and contents of their development processes through their own organizations.

After having said all this, while it may appear that we are not happy with this MTP, we must assure you that we are fairly happy with it. Sometimes we are a little ambiguous ourselves. We say the MTP is perhaps a little too thick, but we ask for more attention for a whole range of subjects.

However, with so much detailed information - as the United States has just said - the lines along which one should come to the conclusions are sometimes difficult to recognize.

As we have said already, we very much welcome the conclusions.

Finally, on the future Plan we see merit in both options. Option II may be the ideal one but, as always, ideal situations, if attainable at all, are more expensive, and in trying to be cost effective we could live with Option I very well.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Agradecemos a la Secretaria por este documento que nos parece muy importante.

Mi delegación aprecia que este Plan a plazo medio para 1992-97 es pues un producto importante de la Resolución 10/89 aprobada en la 25ª Conferencia de esta Organización. Este documento refleja para nosotros y proyecta en buena medida las actividades que realiza la Organización de manera prioritaria a partir del proceso de Examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO. Nos permite visualizar interconexiones de los tres programas principales: Agricultura, Pesca y Montes.

Sobre el Programa de Agricultura, mi delegación considera que debiera impulsarse lo relativo al desarrollo agroindustrial, a la asesoría a los países en materia de comercio internacional y mercadeo de sus productos.

En el Programa de Montes, consideramos necesario reforzar el liderazgo de la FAO, a través del Plan de Acción Forestal Tropical y de una activa participación en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo.

Por lo que respecta al Programa de Pesca, las actividades futuras han de encaminarse a cumplir con el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros.

Las prioridades contempladas en este Plan de mediano plazo, son coherentes con los principios y objetivos de esta Organización ya que la misma, es decir la FAO, es la única que vincula el desarrollo económico con el de la conservación de los recursos naturales y con la promoción de tecnologías y capacidades humanas e institucionales.

El Plan enfatiza la prioridad del medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible, sin embargo, no distingue entre los cuatro aspectos básicos vinculados con este problema y el tipo de respuesta que se espera de la FAO a cada uno, es decir:

El efecto invernadero y los cambios impredecibles en el clima y por tanto, en la producción agrícola y alimentaria.

La extensión del agujero de ozono y su efecto dañino sobre plantas y animales.

Los problemas derivados de la degradación y contaminación de agua, suelos y aire.

La pérdida de diversidad biológica.

En relación a las versiones futuras del Plan, mi delegación considera que el mismo podría reformularse una vez que la disponibilidad futura de recursos fuese más clara.

También mi delegación aprecia que los próximos dos años darán la oportunidad de observar el contenido de este Plan de mediano plazo a la luz de las experiencias en cada país y en cada región.

**David SHERWOOD (Canada):** Canada would like to express its appreciation to Mr Shah for his succinct introduction yesterday, and to extend to the Secretariat our special thanks for the high quality of the document presented for the consideration of delegates.

Canada recognizes the importance of the Medium-Term Plan as a valuable mechanism for priority setting in a world where the scale of medium-term challenges clearly exceeds resources available to resolve them. It is precisely this point - that of creating fruitful discussion and debate over the key priorities - that will ensure full consideration and continuing review of where the efforts of FAO should be directed.

Canada supports the principal directions and priorities of the Plan. In joining this debate there are a number of key areas in the Medium-Term Plan which Canada would particularly wish to endorse: initiatives designed to promote food security; the work of FAO and support for the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission; the work of FAO in support of the Plant Genetic Resources Commission; work in support of a Tropical Forestry Action Plan and continuing support required; work on sustainable development and advancing the strategy for sustainable agriculture and rural development; and support for women in development. This is by no means an exhaustive list but it is indicative the priority areas that should receive careful attention during the 1992-97 period.

Canada appreciates and strongly supports the positive direction of the Medium-Term Plan and the constructive framework it provides. It offers considerable potential for directing and shaping the work of the FAO.

Regarding the two options for updating the Medium-Term Plan to which we were requested to respond, Canada is inclined to support Option II, and I should like to share our thinking with you. It may not be necessary to produce a document that will be as comprehensive as the one before us in this Conference. Indeed, we would see merit in having a somewhat shorter document with more forward attention on the major challenges and priority areas. Policy and programme synthesis documents should by definition be short. If the past is any indicator, major changes can be expected to take place in the next two-year period between now and the next Conference. Also, events such as the UN Conference on the Environment and Development, implications of GATT negotiation resolutions, along with the International Conference on Nutrition, may very well affect the Medium-Term Plan in such a way as to make it more feasible to prepare revised versions rather than produce short supplements.

Thank you for the opportunity to make those comments and suggestions.

**Francis MBEWE (Zambia):** My delegation welcomes the introduction of the Medium-Term Plan, which in itself is a response to Conference Resolution 10/89. We believe that the Plan will serve as a good guide in FAO's future work, especially in providing the basis for setting priorities.

My delegation would like to comment on the three aspects of the Plan. The first is the future version of the Plan; the second is the resource considerations; and the third is the content of the Plan.

On the future version of the Plan, my delegation has made a careful study of the two options provided by the Director-General. It would appear that six years is a long period and many changes are likely to take place, including the possibility of having all Member Nations meeting their financial obligations to the Organization. Therefore there will be a need to look at the Plan and its activities in relation to the unforeseen circumstances which we cannot predict at present. It would therefore be logical that Option II should be used.

On the question of resource considerations, this is an issue which needs to be related to priorities and options set out in the Plan, which could and should be considered on the basis of budgetary provisions on a biennial basis. Of course, the figures in the Plan should serve as indicative requirements of resources. However, they should not be binding because priorities are likely to change.

We are particularly pleased with the inclusion of Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries in the Plan.

We strongly believe that developing countries can lend and benefit from each other, especially in adapting appropriate technologies in agriculture and rural development. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Jaime GARCIA Y BADIAS (España):** Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Sr. Presidente, el Plan a medio plazo expuesto por el Sr. Shah, tal como lo aportó la FAO, creemos que refleja las prioridades de la Organización y podemos definirlo como equilibrado y bien planteado, por ello nos incorporamos a las felicitaciones expresadas a la Secretaria.

España cree que las prioridades expuestas en este importante documento son las más adecuadas para guiar el trabajo de la Organización en los próximos años.

Para nuestra delegación el equilibrio en el medio ambiente basado en un desarrollo sostenido es básico, así como las indicaciones expuestas en el documento a fin de equilibrar y obtener beneficios en su realización que permita una igualdad de oportunidades a los países en vías de desarrollo.

El papel de la mujer en el desarrollo, no puede obviarse en un documento de estas características, ya que de ella depende en numerosas ocasiones, la posibilidad del cambio en la familia y en el acceso al crédito, la educación y la propiedad de la tierra, en una palabra, el desarrollo de toda la familia. Para España, la posibilidad de potenciar y mejorar la formación de las poblaciones implicadas, debe pasar por un proceso que incluya programas de formación tanto para jóvenes como para adultos, con un desarrollo continuado, basado en un proceso de divulgación continuado y permanente.

Este útil documento, que refleja un Plan a medio plazo, permite estimar las posibles orientaciones, los recursos necesarios y las previsiones de futuro a una Organización como la FAO en función de las disponibilidades existentes y de aquellas disponibilidades que pueda disponer y acceder en el futuro. Respecto a las dos opciones presentadas, en la Cuarta Parte, Sección C de este documento, para la realización de futuras versiones del mismo, creemos que la primera tiene obvias ventajas, dado su coste inferior y que a su vez, sigue permitiendo la actualización y el debate del Plan en las próximas Conferencias de la Organización en función de las orientaciones y necesidades futuras.

**Antonio BAYAS F. (Chile):** Como es la primera vez que hacemos uso de la palabra en esta Comisión quisiera expresar la complacencia de la delegación de Chile por su designación para dirigir nuestros trabajos y le auguramos pleno éxito.

Deseo en primer lugar agradecer a la FAO el interesante esfuerzo al elaborar el documento C 91/23 Plan a plazo medio. Sin duda es un documento útil y orientador de las acciones que podría realizar la FAO durante los próximos seis años, en un momento de significativos cambios en la coyuntura política, económica y social del mundo.

El documento nos presenta las perspectivas de la agricultura, la alimentación, la pesca y la silvicultura hasta fines de siglo, pone de relieve el reto con que se enfrentan los responsables de la formulación de políticas alimentarias en un mundo en el cual, a pesar de los abundantes suministros de alimentos, prevalece la miseria y la malnutrición; en el que existen asimismo condiciones desfavorables para la mujer en la agricultura, la superexplotación de los recursos naturales, dificultades de mejorar las relaciones comerciales agrícolas y falta de participación de las poblaciones rurales en las decisiones.

La delegación de Chile comparte, en general, los planteamientos presentados por el documento de FAO. Sin embargo, quisiera referirme a los objetivos específicos del Programa de Desarrollo Rural, punto 165 de dicho documento, al cual sugerimos incorporar los siguientes objetivos específicos: primero, desarrollar mecanismos de apoyo a la incorporación del valor agregado a la producción agropecuaria primaria de los pequeños productores; segundo, apoyar la creación de los mecanismos financieros para la constitución de un fondo de garantía para los préstamos a pequeños productores; tercero, fortalecer las organizaciones campesinas en su gestión empresarial. Finalmente, compartimos lo manifestado anteriormente por otras delegaciones, en el sentido que el Plan a plazo medio debe tener una indispensable flexibilidad para adaptarse a las cambiantes condiciones, ya sea de política agrícola, económica o financiera.

**Mustafa DOYUK (Turkey):** First of all, Mr Chairman, I would like to congratulate you and your Vice-Chairmen on your election and wish you every success.

I would also congratulate the Secretariats in the preparation of the document and their excellent work. The document was a very comprehensive one and was prepared in accordance with Conference decision. It is indeed comprehensive and analytical and meets the request of the competent bodies of the Organization. We give our overall support to the priorities



contained in the Medium-Term Plan. Since it is envisaged that it will be a six-year rolling plan we deem it necessary that revisions and updating is made every biennium in order to give a dynamic nature to the Plan itself and to respond to the changing environment.

In view of the cost-effectiveness of this process, we would like the Plan to be prepared in a compact and precise way in the coming two biennia.

It is very much appreciated by the Turkish Delegation that FAO has been assisting the nations who have been affected by famine, civil wars and natural catastrophes within its mandate despite the limits of available resources.

A painful increase of the world population is accordingly unwelcome but existing conditions are well known by all of us. FAO has the important duty of improving conditions. First of all, FAO should continue to help countries to adapt and utilize improved agricultural technology.

Their promotion can help solve the problem of the inadequate nutrition of the increasing population.

We totally agree with the challenges stated by Mr Saouma in the introduction to the Medium-Term Plan. We consider that the most important challenge to mankind remains the alleviation of poverty. Since this problem is heavily related to the protection of the environment, increased productivity in agriculture and using resources rationally, these must be considered as a package and solutions should be sought within it.

The aim is to provide food-sufficiency for the world and to ensure an adequate distribution of foodstuffs to all people. What will be the amount of the realization rates to the nations in this self-sufficiency? What are the major constraints of the low degree of success? All these have to be identified by individual countries.

As is well known, more than half of the world population live in countries which are dependent on agricultural sectors. In order to support their activities in trying to increase the quantity and quality of their production it is desired that technical and economical FAO programmes be more effective. A 6 percent decrease of world wheat production has been estimated in 1991, compared to the last year.

The latest political and economic reforms and changes in some parts of the world and increasing oil prices due to the Gulf crisis have resulted in raising the cost of agricultural inputs and products. On the other hand, the subsidies by developed countries to their agricultural sector have negatively affected the export of developing countries.

Another important challenge is the existing situation of women in rural areas. In contrast to the important role of the female population in agriculture, women have no social security and economic freedom. To change this undesirable situation, additional work is needed. Consequently, we agree with all the activities outlined in the FAO Medium-Term Plan. However, if the order of priorities is given to the subject mentioned above, it will be more useful to the developing countries.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to conclude my speech by wishing you success in your efforts.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** M. le Président, je voudrais d'abord dire que je regrette de n'avoir pas pu bénéficier de l'exposé introductif de M. Shah ni des commentaires sûrement intéressants des autres orateurs qui sont intervenus avant moi, simplement pour la raison que vous pouvez facilement imaginer, à savoir que beaucoup de commissions fonctionnent en ce moment et que, pour des délégations aussi maigres que la nôtre, il a fallu courir un peu partout pour essayer de combler les différents vides.

Ceci étant dit, M. le Président, en présence d'un document aussi important que ce document C 91/23 consacré au Plan à moyen terme 1992-97 de la FAO, nous ne pouvons que remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir bien voulu donner suite à la Résolution 10/89 de la Conférence et dire notre satisfaction. Outre le document C 91/23, un autre document nous a aussi aidé à l'examen de ce Plan qui nous est soumis: il s'agit du document C 91/LIM/21. Nous estimons que ce Plan est conforme au résultat de l'examen de la FAO dont les recommandations ont été entérinées par la vingt-cinquième session de notre Conférence en novembre 1989. Nous pensons que la preuve de l'utilité de ce Plan à moyen terme ne pourra nous être donnée que lorsque les Etats Membres auront témoigné de son utilisation efficace en même temps que le Secrétariat. En attendant, et sans préjuger de cette utilité, nous pensons que ce Plan peut servir de cadre de référence utile aux Etats Membres.

Au plan conceptuel, nous sommes d'avis que ce Plan doit donner de grandes orientations aux trois Programmes de travail et budget de la période couverte. Nous estimons que les trois Programmes de travail et budget biennaux successifs doivent être complémentaires et s'insérer dans le droit fil du plan qui, lui, devrait être souple pour être un Plan glissant. Nous appuyons les priorités retenues pour ce Plan à moyen terme 1992-97.

Concernant la question des projections provisoires des besoins en ressources pour la mise en oeuvre du Plan, nous sommes de l'avis de ceux qui estiment que, sans avoir un caractère contraignant pour les Etats, ces projections provisoires ont un intérêt à titre d'indications estimatives et sont à nos yeux un des volets indispensable et logique de tout exercice de programmation.

Quant aux propositions du Secrétariat pour la préparation des versions futures du Plan, nous estimons que sur le chemin de la transparence que nous avons toujours suivi, il serait sans doute souhaitable d'envisager une solution intermédiaire qui pourrait comporter des évaluations après chaque exercice biennal à titre d'évaluation intérimaire du Plan en cours, une évaluation finale au terme des six ans du Plan en cours avant d'envisager le Plan distinct suivant les six ans. Ce n'est là qu'une autre proposition que je formule en réfléchissant à haute voix. Je n'ai pas encore mesuré les différentes incidences qu'elle représente en termes de temps, d'énergie, de travail et bien sûr d'argent. Je voudrais simplement que l'on examine aussi cette proposition.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** En cette fin de XXème siècle qui s'achève un peu comme il avait commencé, c'est-à-dire par l'omniprésence des idées libérales, il peut apparaître paradoxal voire scabreux, de parler de planification même indicative. L'expression a incontestablement pris un "coup de vieux". Pour tenter de contourner ce nouveau tabou, nous avons recours à toutes sortes de qualificatifs révélateurs, pittoresques et parfois insolites. Pour ma part j'en ai recensé au moins trois: "Plan chenille", "Plan glissant", "Plan furtif non coercitif".

Si la planification, puisqu'il faut l'appeler par son nom, possède encore quelque vertu pour une organisation comme la nôtre c'est parce qu'ici ce mot a une signification différente.

A notre avis, l'intérêt principal d'un Plan à moyen terme consiste à réduire autant que faire se peut le laps de temps qui s'écoule entre l'apparition de nouvelles réalités dans le développement agricole et la réponse qu'y apporte la FAO.

La délégation du Royaume de Belgique encourage toutes les mesures qui contribuent, de près ou de loin, à réduire ce temps de latence.

L'inertie, même temporaire pourrait, si l'on n'y prenait garde, se traduire par la mise hors jeu de l'Organisation. Le Plan à moyen terme constitue donc une technique salubre qui permettra à la FAO d'améliorer ses réflexes à un moment où elle doit affronter une période instable qui lui impose de nouveaux défis, comme l'a souligné d'ailleurs le délégué de la Turquie.

Puisque c'est la première fois que cette Organisation se livre à cet exercice, une réflexion d'ensemble s'imposait, et le document C 91/3, fort exhaustif et surtout très prospectif nous la fournit.

Ce qui nous a particulièrement plu dans ce document, et qui devrait rassurer tous ceux que la planification rebute, c'est d'abord le caractère essentiellement qualitatif des objectifs. Nous avons également été séduits par l'approche intersectorielle des priorités, désormais bien établies, et la dimension régionale des activités de la FAO.

Certaines des recommandations du Plan connaissent déjà un début de réalisation. Un outil de ce genre n'a de sens que s'il se traduit par des réalisations concrètes sur le terrain. A cet égard je rejoins la délégation de la Suisse sur la difficulté de la mise en oeuvre du Plan. Pour éviter de tomber dans le piège de l'exercice de style coûteux et vain, la délégation du Royaume de Belgique désire faire trois suggestions.

Premièrement, ramasser les indications que contient ce document en une série limitée de recommandations bien définies.

Deuxièmement, éviter tout sectarisme et notamment qui consisterait à faire régulièrement table rase des principes directeurs de l'action de la FAO au gré des dernières théories du développement agricole à la mode.

Troisièmement, adopter un mécanisme réaliste de révision du Plan. A cet égard, ma délégation privilégie l'idée d'un Plan stable pendant six ans, mais ajustable tous les deux ans.

**Mohd. Zaki GHAZALLI (Malaysia):** As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor in this Commission, my delegation would like to warmly welcome you on your appointment as Chairman and would also like to thank Mr Shah for his lucid introduction of the subject yesterday.

After listening to all the deliberations made by my fellow delegates, Malaysia is of the opinion that FAO will have difficulty in meeting all the requests for technical and other assistance, particularly those at Programme level based on the proposed level of budget in the Medium-Term

Plan 1992-97. Nevertheless Malaysia congratulates the Director-General of FAO for his excellent document which is very comprehensive, covering all aspects of food and agriculture including Plans of Action and women in development and attention on the environment.

The Malaysian delegation finds this document very useful and thinks it would be an invaluable input for our national agriculture development plan. The appropriate authorities in Malaysia will further examine this document and wherever relevant will use it as an input for the preparation of our mid-term review of the Sixth Malaysia Plan which we will start at the end of next year.

At present Malaysia is putting emphasis on creating intersectorial linkages in developing agriculture and rural areas through a Rural Industrialization Programme which is resource-based in nature and which promotes non-agriculture employment.

As a great deal has been said on tropical forests in many fora, Malaysia suggests that the percentage of allocation to forestry be doubled in order to reflect the attention that it gets in a global perspective, particularly conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Finally, on the future version of the Plan, Malaysia favours Option I for its economy in the cost of preparation and its flexibility in accommodating adjustments.

**F.A. Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh):** First of all thanks to the Secretariat for producing the important document and to Mr Shah for introducing the subject.

I have taken the floor at a time when the subject has been examined extensively by the distinguished delegates who have already spoken. I therefore shall try to be brief.

My delegation supports the concept of the Medium-Term Plan and believes the Plan will enable FAO to operate with great effectiveness in the years ahead. We are also in agreement with the observations made by some delegations that the Regional approach should be enhanced and strengthened to facilitate implementation of the Plan. We are therefore of the view that FAO Regional Offices need to be further strengthened, subject of course to availability of resources.

As regards the options, our preference is for Option I.

**A.O. PHILLIPS (Nigeria):** May I congratulate you for your appointment as Chairman of this Commission II. May I also congratulate the Director-General and his Secretariat staff for the production of a very useful document proposing an FAO Medium-Term Plan covering the period 1992-97.

The scope covered in the document is sufficient to guide FAO action over the next six years.

Nigeria identifies with the prioritization of the challenges covered in the document. These are listed as: poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture, trying to strike a balance between self-sufficiency and self-

reliance, a bottom-up approach to project implementation, increased private sector participation in agricultural development, striking the right balance between rainfed and irrigated agriculture, and recognition of the valuable job of women in agriculture and rural development. My country is particularly playing a leading role which has been organized by the international community regarding this aspect of the role of women.

Nigeria also recognizes the prospects enunciated in the document for food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry up to the end of the century and endorses the need for countries with the same ecological conditions to share information on suitable technologies that they may find in their national programmes.

Nigeria also endorses the daunting challenges presented in pages 185-187 and endorses the focus of FAO's work on pages 187-189 for the African region.

Nigeria considered the two options presented for the Plan and would like to endorse Option I but this presupposes that Option I is a rolling plan, so for the rolling plan budget that you have for 1993-94, 1993 will roll to 1994 and then 1994 will roll to 1995. This is in consonance with what operates in my country at the moment. I would like to suggest Option I.

**Mrs M. Béatrice RUSSO (Italy):** The Italian delegation thanks the FAO Secretariat for the quality of the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97. We appreciate such a Plan mainly because it indicates the priorities for the Organization's work for the next six years, providing FAO with a map for its development. Among its priorities we are especially interested in sustainable agriculture and poverty alleviation. Another reason for appreciating the Medium-Term Plan is, in our view, its multi-disciplinary approach. Moreover, the Italian delegation supports the more integrated relationship of FAO with the other United Nations Organizations mentioned on page 63 as well as the non-UN organizations. We also read with particular interest the part of the Plan describing the need for strengthening the role of the FAO Representation at country level. Last but not least, the Italian delegation favours the adoption of options concerning the future version of the Plan in so far as it reflects more properly the new philosophy embodied in the concept of the Medium-Term Plan.

**Marcus I. NIETO LARA (Cuba):** Quisiéramos saludar al Sr. Shah por la presentación que nos hizo en la tarde de ayer. Mi delegación desea felicitar a la Secretaria por la preparación del documento C 91/23 que responde plenamente a las expectativas de los Estados Miembros cuando adoptamos la Resolución 10/89.

Es evidente y así lo hemos confirmado, y puesto de manifiesto los oradores que nos han precedido, que el Plan a plazo medio es un instrumento muy útil para el examen de la puesta en práctica de los objetivos y prioridades de la Organización en un horizonte más amplio como es un periodo de seis años.

Este Plan a plazo medio es además un complemento indispensable del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y llena una laguna existente en materia de planificación para examinar los programas de la Organización, desde lo general a lo particular, y de la estrategia a la táctica.

La delegación cubana respalda las prioridades y el Programa propuesto y quisiera pedir que se ponga un mayor énfasis en los temas de desarrollo forestal en los trópicos, mediante el apoyo de todos los Estados Miembros al Plan o al Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical. De igual manera, insistiríamos en que se promuevan aún más las actividades de CTPD, es decir de Cooperación Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo, la agricultura sostenible, el medio ambiente y la participación de la mujer en el campo, que como han dicho otras delegaciones, deben tener un realce mayor y deben alcanzar la verdadera dimensión que en nuestra sociedad le corresponde. Debe ser favorecido este tema para propiciar un mayor desarrollo de las actividades de la mujer. Asimismo debería prestarse una mayor asistencia a los países, en materia de políticas y planificación y en particular sobre el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas y de agroindustria.

En cuanto a las opciones, respaldamos la Opción número uno; sin embargo, debemos alertar a que esta opción no nos conduzca a presentar resúmenes tan breves que luego no nos den la suficiente visión para tener claridad a la hora de decidir sobre las perspectivas y el trabajo futuro de la Organización. Creo que la Secretaría tiene la capacidad suficiente como para encontrar una alternativa intermedia entre la opción una y la dos que nos satisfaga a todos plenamente.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, I hope you will consider my request to give me a little more time to respond than I took to introduce because, to do justice to the debate that you have had, I should address the points that have been raised. I propose to give my responses in three broad areas. Firstly, a general response to the debate, and I can only start by expressing the gratitude of the Director-General, of my colleagues and of myself personally for the way in which you have received this Medium-Term Plan. Some of you, and you in particular, Sir, were here in the debates which took place in the 1970s and the 1980s on the former incarnations of the Medium-Term Plan and you may agree that there has been quite a change. You Member Nations have a different attitude to the Medium-Term Plan, and I feel that the Secretariat is generally responding in the manner you have desired. The reactions to the content of this Plan have also been very favorable and I will therefore not comment on the reactions to Part I and Part II and the overall endorsement of the Director-General's introduction and of the policy orientations which are contained in the concluding part of the Plan.

Let me come right away to key policy issue raised by a large number of delegations, and that is the relationship or possible relationship between the Medium-Term Plan and the resource aspect. In a way, the debate yesterday afternoon and this morning is a mirror of the debate that took place at the last Conference on this issue, and we should face that fact.

There is nobody here who represents a Government which is prepared to commit itself over a six-year period, whether a developing or developed country. Also there is some difference in perception and desire. There is a group of Member Nations who, because of their inability to commit themselves for the future, do not wish to deal with resource requirements over a six-year period, whereas there are others who say, "Even if we cannot commit ourselves, we want to see how the Organization would respond at different resource levels, and that is why the resource aspect should be covered in the Medium-Term Plan." Mr Chairman, I do not see any problem if

the Conference wishes the resource aspect to continue to be addressed while all of us recognize no commitment can be expected. In fact, let us be realistic; if we are going to consider the resource aspect in the future, surely this is not going to be done in any idealistic way. The Director-General has given one perception of a resource option of a 5 percent increase, but we know - the Secretariat as well as all of you - that this is not a realistic scenario for the present or for the foreseeable future.

However, I very much respect the point of view expressed by Member Nations who would like to see different resource projections in order to make choices because, when we come to the setting of priorities, it can be done on a resource constant basis or a resource variable basis, but for the purposes of your consideration I would submit that both are equally useful.

The second part of my response will be on specific questions that were raised, and the first point that I address is the remark made by a number of delegations asking for closer coordination with other partners and other organizations. We have clarified this in the document itself but in response to the debate I would point out that coordination and collaboration is a two-way process, and it is up to Member Nations not only to ask for more collaboration in the fora of FAO but also in other fora, where the comparative advantage of FAO sometimes has to be recalled because, just as you recall to us here that there are other organizations which in certain areas are perhaps more competent or have a greater capacity than FAO, by the same token, there are situations in other fora where the comparative advantage of FAO will need to be recalled by you as Member Nations of this Organization.

The second point was about indications of lower priority, and I listened very attentively to the interventions, among others, of the United Kingdom and Denmark, who asked that in the future we make a greater attempt to indicate the lower priorities rather than just the higher priorities. Again, that is accepted. I understand what has been asked but I would point out that it is perhaps useful to bear in mind two aspects of priorities: relative priorities and what one of the last speakers, Belgium, refers to as the "aspects qualitatifs de priorité". Both these points are important. In the Medium-Term Plan we are not listing the priorities. We are not saying only what is given here is of priority. We are trying to indicate relative priorities as we see them over a six-year period, and they will be less precise than we need to make them in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget.

The third specific question was on the Regular Programme and Field Programme relationship. There were two thoughts which came out very clearly. One was that we have to preserve, strengthen and enhance FAO's backstopping capacity for the Field Programme because that is the main reason why the Organization is engaged in technical cooperation: it has a need and a capacity to give technical support to this process.

The second thought was that FAO should be more selective in the choice of projects. Mr Chairman, you will recall that this issue was discussed at length throughout the FAO Review and at the last Conference, and I would only go by what the Conference itself has chosen as its direction, that is, it is Member Nations who decide what technical cooperation to seek and how much of this to seek from FAO. It is a question of responding to their needs. Having said that, the Secretariat is prepared and I certainly look forward to participating in the debate you will have on the cost

arrangements and other proposals which the Director-General has put before you. I think that debate will help us focus more than I would like to do at this stage on the Organization's role in the Field Programme.

I can link the fourth and fifth points. The fourth point was about the strengthening of some offices of FAO representatives, and the distinguished ambassadors of Colombia and Lesotho both asked whether this was a possible revival of the concept of Sub-regional Offices. I do not put it in quite such stark terms. What we submit and recognize is that a number of FAO Representative Offices at country level have the capacity and the need to assume greater responsibilities for Programme activities both regarding the Regular Programme and the Field Programme which go beyond the confines of one country. If that is a more cost-effective utilization of resources, by all means let us pursue it. We have done it in a number of cases. We have had cases, for example, where a Fisheries advisor is stationed in the office of an FAO Representative in one of the Caribbean countries but he supports other Caribbean countries. We have done this with Animal Health. We have done this with Plant Protection. The concept can also be applied to field projects, Tuna Management in the Indian Ocean. Those are examples we can follow.

Related to this, were some comments about the capacity of Regional Offices. I believe it was the Representative of the United States who asked, "Are we contradicting ourselves?" On the one hand, we are reducing the resources for Regional Offices in the next biennium. On the other hand, we are indicating in the Medium-Term Plan areas where Regional Offices should exercise greater responsibilities. I hope that we are not contradicting ourselves. I hope that, on the one hand, the reduction of resources is for the next biennium specifically. We are not saying that over six years the Regional Offices are going to continue to have increasingly lower resources. So it is only for the forthcoming biennium.

Despite these reduced resources, as always my colleagues, the Regional Representatives and we at Headquarters try to find ways of working more effectively, being more effective. When it comes to collaboration with other organizations, I would already draw your attention to a document which you will consider under Item 22.2 of your Agenda. This is scheduled for Wednesday of next week and it is on relations with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations. I think this year you will find that this document is particularly clear in pointing out the relationships not only between FAO at headquarters and these other organizations, but the relationship between FAO at Regional Offices level and these organizations correspondingly in the same region.

The sixth specific point which was raised was about capital budgeting. I am not at all embarrassed that we included it, but the Director-General agreed to include this in the Medium-Plan Term, and neither the Finance Committee nor the members who spoke to this issue have cared to welcome it. However, may I submit that we look at it this way?

The idea of the capital budgeting is that you have an organization here which has existed for 46 years. You approve its programmes and the budget for only two years at a time, but perhaps, whilst none of us is eternal, there is some reason to consider that this is an ongoing Organization. You are not about to close it down, I do not think. You perhaps want it to continue for a few more years. So, from that point of view, are there not certain issues which need to be considered by you in the medium-term? There



are issues and there are areas where it is a question of capital investment because the investment is of such a nature and is of such a magnitude that no Director-General, I think, would presume to present a capital investment project within the confines of a biennial budget; nor would you want to consider it within the confines of a biennial budget. However, it was an idea which was submitted for your reaction. I accept that the Conference is not ready for that idea but what I still venture to hope is that this idea may not be forgotten and, if not in our time, I hope it will be raised in the lifetime of our children and that the idea will come not from the Secretariat but from the Member Nations themselves.

The seventh specific point was a comment and the question raised by the representative of the United States in relation to work in international trade. The distinguished representative referred to the section on page 106 of the English version, paragraphs 57 and 58.

First of all, I take his point about possible implications of the phrase "virtual disappearance of any regulatory activities in international commodity agreement". The question was, "What do we mean by that?"

What we mean by that is that, during the past decade, there has been an increase in protectionism with which I am sure the distinguished representative of the United States would concur. At the same time, the International Commodity Agreements, several of which the United States is a member, have lost their bite. They lack economic clauses. This is the development - a fact - to which we are drawing attention in this sentence.

Secondly, the same representative regretted the lack of mention of GATT, and the desire for a more liberalized world trading system. This is not the intention of the Secretariat and, if we have not emphasized this point enough, I would ask you to correct that. We attach great importance to all the issues, as can be seen, for instance, by referring to the last sentence of the following paragraph, paragraph 58, where we note that the work of Codex, including cooperation with GATT, will be pursued vigorously. We have also made this point elsewhere in the document on page 63 where we indicate the close support of GATT, and again in our discussion on Programme 2.1.8 which is on page 154. I refer to paragraph 253, where we again draw attention to the Uruguay Round.

The eighth specific point to which I refer is that raised by the distinguished representative of Austria. I must say that I was shocked when I heard him. There is no excuse for his Government's not getting documents in time and in the right language. On behalf of the Secretariat, I apologize. I sensed his ire when he made these remarks. If I shared his ire, I would put the people against the wall and have them shot. However, we work in a peaceful Organization, so I will look into the matter, I will consult my colleagues and I will ask them to ensure that such things do not happen again.

This brings me to the last point of my response which is, firstly, where we are and where do you want us to go from here?

I would start by drawing attention to something which was said in the Programme Committee and which has been said by you, whether implicitly or explicitly, throughout your debate. The importance of this Medium-Term Plan, however much you like it, is not in the document, is not in the book, is not in the paper; the importance of it is in the process, the process by

which you, through Conference Resolution 10/89, made us think about it, the process by which you yourselves, Member Nations, are thinking about it, the process by which you want to use medium-term planning and the thoughts and the ideas for your discussions in the Regional Conferences, for your discussions in the Technical Committees of the Council, and for your discussions in the next version of the Medium-Term Plan. So, it is the process to which I think you attach importance and the use you will make of the success of the Medium-Term Plan.

If I have grasped well that wish and that idea which you have, then we are all on the right lines as far as the Secretariat is concerned. That is the way in which the Secretariat can see itself helping you and responding to you. I think all the comments that have been made about the future are comments which are constructive. If they are constructive we should use them in our future work and in our future deliberations on the Medium-Term Plan irrespective of their timed duration.

My very last point - thank you for your patience - is on the future versions of the Plan. The Director-General gave the two options without expressing a preference for either. He really left the matter in your hands, in the hands of Conference. I find that the debate has been very clear. If Conference would so agree, if you would so accept, Mr Chairman, I think it would be more useful to think of the consensus of the wishes rather than just doing a numerical addition of those who want Option I and those who want Option II. We can all do the numerical calculation very easily. It is clear that there are more countries who have spoken who prefer Option I to Option II, but I would submit that the choice need not be as harsh and need not be as clear cut.

Let me then distil what are the issues to which all of you attach importance; one is that you wish the next version of the Plan to be shorter. I think we should respond to that, no matter what the future version of the Plan is.

Secondly, when the Conference took the decision to have medium-term planning, and if you so repeat that now, you will want to consider the Medium-Term Plan at each session of the Conference.

It is not that you only want to consider it every six years, as is done in the UN General Assembly - there they have a Medium-Term Plan and they consider it every six years - but you have said you want to consider it every two years.

The third point is that irrespective of the option, when you consider the matter every two years you do not want to limit yourself to 1997 because that is the end of the first Medium-Term Plan. When you meet again in 1993 - when we meet again I hope in November 1993 - you will want to consider the period up to 1999, and so on. So this is the rolling part of the Plan.

That brings me to my fourth point of possible consensus, that is a short document considered every two years looking two years further ahead. But what is the difference between Option I and Option II? In Option I, certainly we would take into account the changes in the world, what are the major differences in the factors which influence FAO, which have an impact on FAO, and there will be all kinds of factors which I do not need to list, not just Conferences but other factors too. But you do not want a

supplement in the sense of a five or ten page document which you would have to add to the one which you have now. You will want a self-contained document. We can do that also. The only difference in all this and what was intended in Option II is that we will not do a major exercise of rethinking the Medium-Term Plan.

As most of you have accepted, that would be done every six years, but in the consensus which I am trying to distil I think the wishes of those who want Option I would be covered, as would the intent of those who have said that there are aspects of the second option which they prefer. So I will not elaborate further. I think I have made my point, and if that be the wish of the Conference we will try to reflect it all in the report which will be submitted to your Drafting Committee.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Shah. I think you have covered broadly the problems which have been raised. It is impossible to cover each and every point, but broadly speaking I think this has been done in the right way.

If I am to sum up, let me say first that it is not my idea that the Drafting Group should be tied down with a Chairman's summary; it is only indications. Again, I do not want to cover all aspects, but I want to bring out some points. Partly this will be a repetition of what Mr Shah has said. I think we have a report before us which almost everyone feels is a good report. Quite clearly, this is the first major attempt at making a Medium-Term Plan. What was done 20 years ago was not at the same level, frankly speaking. Clearly, this being a first attempt, it can be improved for the future. I noted one thing which the delegate of the United Kingdom said and which Mr Shah took up, that is, that the process of this is as important as the outcome. I could not agree more. This is really what we all want to see.

Obviously, a Medium-Term Plan should not be a strait-jacket. The delegate of Colombia mentioned that point, which is very important. Another point which was touched upon by a number of delegates concerns the resources and priorities. I want to stress - and it is, after all, the general attitude - that priorities can be made at whatever level the budget will be. It is not necessarily a question of new resources; it is a question of, in future versions, taking more into consideration what we can call low priorities. It is also a question in general terms for the Organization partly to define main priorities and partly to concentrate its work more on main priorities. I feel that that last point about concentration is a very important one in FAO's future work. One cannot help everyone with everything. That is impossible. I have been using those words in connection with WFP, and they are equally valid here.

In discussing this item, I think almost all delegates have supported the provisional indications of the main priorities.

Yet another point which has been mentioned by many is a double problem. It is a question of good inter-agency coordination in all main activities of work. These problems have come much more to the fore in the past two years, with a lot of difficulties involved. It is important when Mr Shah said that FAO cannot work alone in coordinating with others. There has to be some will on the other side, and there we, as governments, have a main responsibility.

The other part of coordination is coordination inside FAO. I think we should all bear in mind what is written in this document and in some of the other documents. A lot has gone on in the past two years in intensifying coordination inside the Organization. This is very important for all of us. You have not come to the end of the road because there will be new problems, but you have come a long way.

I can use Mr Shah's words for the last point in my summing up: Where to go? I think we agree - let us call it in simple terms Option I or Option II -that future versions of this report should be shorter. That is one point. I think there are too many details in the present document. A number of delegates mentioned that. The kind of amalgamation of Option I and II which was mentioned is a very good way of doing things. In practical terms that means that in two years' time you add another two years at the end but you do not go into the details.

This question of the Medium-Term Plan should be discussed fully at each session of the Conference. We owe that to the whole reform process, and I think it would be valuable equally for the Secretariat and for Member Governments. We would then have a fuller version of it after six years. That combination should be a good one. I leave the actual drafting of the words on this main point first to the Secretariat and then to the Drafting Group.

This is in no way a complete summing up, but I hope it is some direction for the Drafting Group. Are there any comments? There are no comments and the item is closed.

16. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93

16. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93

16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93

**CHAIRMAN:** Now we move on to the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. The main document is C 91/3, and there are Supplements.

If I may make a few comments before giving the floor to Mr Shah for the introduction, we have to realize that this is a much more complicated item than the former ones. It is complicated in two ways because, first, there are two important points which are not being dealt with in Commission II but in Commission III, that is the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund. In both cases there are Draft Resolutions to be considered in Commission III. Here we have the Programme of Work and Budget in general, the content of the Programme of Work and Budget document, and to that we added a Resolution.

We also have - and I think it would be better to hear Mr Shah's comments afterwards - the Programme Budget Process, with another Draft Resolution. To some extent that is a Secretariat affair, and before opening the discussion I think we should be quite clear as to the extent to which we can deal with problems in general terms and to what extent we have to separate part of this item for consideration later on.

We have this morning, this afternoon, tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock sharp, and a meeting tomorrow afternoon. After that, this item goes to the Drafting Group and we have a special procedure so as to put us on the Plenary for voting on the Budget.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** As you have said, Mr Chairman, there are a number of issues which the Conference is invited to address. My introduction to this item will therefore be in three parts. The first one is about the proposals of the Director-General for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 as presented to you in the document that you have.

As we have already finished discussing the Review of the Regular Programme and the Medium-Term Plan, the Conference may find it useful to situate the context of its discussion. You are now considering the Programme of Work and Budget proposals for the next biennium and, as you decided yourselves, this is not in isolation. There was the first part of the Review of the Regular Programme which you felt would need to be borne in mind and would need to be recalled as you consider the proposals, there is the context of the Medium-Term Plan in which these proposals are placed. In the coming days you will also consider the Review of Field Programmes which is as relevant.

For those Representatives who have been attending the meetings of the Council, what I am now about to say may be superfluous, but since not all Member Nations are represented in the Council I beg your leave to draw attention to a few points relating to this item.

The Director-General presented his proposals for the Outline Programme of Work and Budget to the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in January of this year. His initial proposal contained a proposed real programme increase of 2.25 million dollars, which represents 0.34 percent of the recosted budget base of this biennium. This little increase that the Director-General has proposed is far below what he would have wished to propose to take into account the demands made on the Organization. Nevertheless, the modesty of his proposal is a mark of his realism. Even this, as was apparent from the Committee's reaction, would not permit consensus or unanimity on the proposals, and the Director-General indicated his readiness consequently to refine his proposals on the basis of no real programme increase while respecting the programme priorities which the Programme and Finance Committees had endorsed. This basis of no programme increase was subsequently endorsed by the Council, both in relation to the summary Programme of Work and Budget which the Council examined last week.

There has been a striking cord of unity in all the inter-governmental Bodies which have so far examined these proposals with regard to the programme priorities.

They have been endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees, they have been endorsed by the Council and I will not list them all as they are in the document before you.

Of course, the areas to receive additional resources in the context of no overall increase means that there are areas which will have reduced resources and this is a matter of regret to Member Nations who have so

indicated. There will be reduced resources for the Regional Offices, for administrative and support areas and for a large number of Technical and Economic Programmes. To any distinguished delegate who says that we have no lower priorities, I would appeal to them and draw attention to all the programme areas which are going to get less programme resources.

One of the most important aspects of every biennial Programme, as you know, is the request as it relates to the provision for cost increases. At the time of the Outline and Summary of Programme of Work and Budget the provision for cost increases had been estimated at some US\$87.3 million. This estimate gave rise to some concern on the Council especially with regard to the impact on the overall budget level and on resulting assessed contribution from Member Nations. I am pleased to report, Mr Chairman, that in the light of these concerns and in the light of updated information we have trimmed the figure to US\$82.9 million. I emphasize that a great part of these costs, the cost increases, relate to decisions already taken or known. Our estimates of cost increases in previous Programmes of Work and Budget have tended to err on the conservative side and this has brought in its wake enforced programme cuts to the detriment of the approved Programme of Work, but once again the Director-General prefers to choose this path of being conservative and not requesting provision even on a number of items where we know with certainty that the costs, the higher costs, will occur and will have to be incurred. That completes the first part of my presentation, Mr Chairman.

The second part of my address concerns the Technical Cooperation Programme and there are two issues regarding this programme which are in the document before you. The first relates to the level of the TCP as a share of the approved budget and in the current biennium the TCP amounts to 11.9 percent of the approved budget. In the proposed Programme of Work and Budget the TCP, despite an increase of US\$4 million as a programme increase, and just under US\$6 million for cost increase, would still remain at 11.9 percent of the proposed budget.

Mr Chairman, we are perfectly aware and the Director-General regrets that at this time he is not in a position to respond to the directives given in Conference Resolution 9/89 of the last Conference. That Resolution invited the Director-General to make every effort in order to restore the resources available to the TCP to the former level of 14 percent of the total Regular Programme budget and, if possible, to raise it to 17 percent. Despite the increase that is being proposed by the Director-General, as I said, the share does not change because of the context of no overall increase. In a budgetary programme where there is no overall increase it is not possible for the Director-General to consider channelling further resources to the TCP. Nevertheless I should make it clear that the Conference directives always stand as far as we are concerned and the Director-General has every intention of trying to respond better, and more positively, to these directives in the following Programme of Work and Budget proposal for 1994-95.

The second aspect of the TCP proposals, Mr Chairman, is a proposal which the Director-General submits on his own initiative for indicative country allocations of TCP resources. After setting aside amounts for regional projects, for emergency projects, and an amount for contingencies, the formula for the distribution of the balance by country is based on the UNDP indicative planning figures, the IPFs. The Director-General took the initiative, as I said, to submit this proposal and he has made it only in

the general interest of greater transparency because he is aware that there are some Member Nations who wish to see this kind of information and who wish to have a greater say in advance of the distribution of TCP resources.

Despite submitting this proposal, Mr Chairman, the Director-General has also made it very clear in the document that he recognizes - he stresses -that by its very nature the Technical Cooperation Programme is unprogrammed. That was the very heart of the concept of the TCP when you supported it in 1976. Secondly, the member countries who received TCP assistance themselves have not expressed any wish to have any different system. They have not said that they want indicative country allocations and in the discussions which have so far been held in the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council it has become clear that the reception to these proposals is not exactly positive.

Mr Chairman, above all else the Director-General has asked me to stress that he would appeal to the Conference and he hopes not to have any controversy on this proposal; that there will be no misgivings, it will not lead to jealousies about Member Nations or any sense of false competition. That is not the intent of the proposal. In the document the Director-General has stated that he hoped the Conference would consider the proposal with all its aspects of flexibility and with whatever changes the Conference wanted to introduce. At this stage of the consideration, after the two Committees and the Council, I would say that if the countries most concerned, the countries receiving TCP assistance, are so much against this proposal as they have made us understand, then, of course, it is for you to say but I think it would be better for Conference to pronounce itself clearly and to say, "We do not want such a change" and give the reasons for it.

One distinguished representative in the Council had even suggested that the Director-General may wish to withdraw this proposal. He has not asked me to do that. The proposal is before you but I think the reactions of Member Nations are clear enough and the Director-General respects whatever position you take.

The third subject of my presentation, Mr Chairman, and this is again an issue on which the Conference is requested to pronounce itself, concerns the Programme Budget formulation process. This is the second Programme of Work and Budget which is the result of a process which began with the Outline Programme of Work and Budget. This procedure was introduced on an experimental basis in 1988-89 at the last session of the Conference when it was decided to continue the experiment during this biennium and the Conference will need to decide on the future practice in this regard. I will not deal at all with the opinions of Member Nations. They have their sovereign opinions but there are two issues which are now before you, Mr Chairman. The first is the possible continuation of the Outline step on a permanent basis. On this point the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council have recommended that the Outline step become an established feature of FAO's Programme Budget Process and that appropriate amendments be introduced in the Basic Texts of the Organization. At the stage of the Programme and Finance Committees this recommendation was unanimous.

Accordingly, the Director-General submitted to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (the CCLM) and to the Council last week proposals for amendments to the Basic Texts which are now before you in

document LIM/9 on this matter. Therefore, Mr Chairman, the Conference is invited to pronounce itself and to examine the amendments proposed to the Basic Texts.

The second aspect of the subject which has also been examined by the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council relates to other measures but this time these are measures suggested by the Director-General with a view to their implementation on an experimental basis in 1992-93, that is to say, in the coming biennium including the formulation of the 1994-95 Programme of Work and Budget which we will do in the next two years. These suggestions consist of four measures. Firstly, a shorter Summary Programme of Work and Budget which would avoid duplication with the full Programme of Work and Budget; secondly, a more uniform and meaningful involvement of the Technical Committees of the Council, that is to say, the Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, in considering the future Programme of Work and Budget; thirdly, a rescheduling in calendar of the consideration of the Medium-Term Plan by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the Council.

It is proposed that these Committees examine the Medium-Term Plan at their May Session, and the Council at its June Session, thereby addressing the longer-term prospects in a more logical fashion and reducing the pressures in these Bodies, in the two Committees and the Council at their autumn Session.

The fourth set of measures is an enhanced system of reporting, to which I already made a brief reference yesterday, and which would consist in a Programme Implementation Report dealing both with the Regular and Field Programmes and a Programme Evaluation Report, again dealing with the Regular and Field Programmes, each of which would be considered with an improved schedule; that is to say the Programme Evaluation Report should be considered by the Programme and Finance Committees in May and by the Council in June, when they would have the time to accord to this document, which would then come to the Conference, of course; and the Programme Implementation Report to be considered by the two Committees in September, the Council in November, and then by the Conference itself.

Now all these four sets of measures, Mr Chairman, are expected to have a clear impact in terms of reduced duplication in all discussions of the Governing Bodies, which are designed to lead to a more productive use of your time in the consideration of these documents, and a more realistic schedule of programming. None of these measures were conceived for the convenience or for the benefit of the Secretariat. They are not. They will not require less effort. If anything, in order to make them successful, if you approve them, they will require more effort, but the Director-General submits them in your interests and for your consideration, and these measures are described in greater detail in the document LIM/9 which gives the full proposal of the Director-General, the views of the Programme and Finance Committees and the views of the Council.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, the Director-General hopes that the Conference will find that his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium provide every basis, every opportunity for achieving consensus approval at the Conference. While providing for no overall programme growth, they present programme priorities which are endorsed by all. The provision for cost increases has been trimmed while providing for



effective implementation of the Programme of Work, which the Conference may approve. The Director-General very, very much hopes that the Conference will see its way to approving these proposals by consensus.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Shah, for your introduction. I think the matter has been very clearly presented.

I think it might be worthwhile trying to have this discussion in two parts; one covering the Programme of Work and Budget as a whole and TCP, and the second part covering the Programme Budgeting Process. I do not want to prevent delegates from talking about everything at the same time, but I think it might be easier if we divided it up this way.

Now the item is open for discussion. I have two speakers on my list, Pakistan and Madagascar. It would be useful to have a bit more. Poland, Congo, Thailand. We can make a start.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Since I personally am taking the floor for the first time. I would like to express my personal congratulations and my pleasure at seeing you in the Chair of this Commission. We worked together in the CFA. It is really a pleasure for me to be working once again with you. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to Mr Shah for his very elaborate explanation, and we would also like to abide by your proposal to divide our discussion into two parts. I will be going into greater detail in my second intervention.

My delegation had the opportunity in the Ninety-ninth and Hundredth Sessions of the Council to express its detailed views on the proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1992-93. Therefore it is not our wish to make another elaborate and extensive intervention over here, but just to touch upon a few major points. We welcome the spirit of consensus which has evolved over the budget level and the budget priorities, between Member Nations so far, and thank the Director-General for his efforts in this regard. In this spirit, Pakistan wishes to endorse the proposed budget level along with the linked financial Resolution, as the minimum level necessary, I repeat, the minimum level. We hope other delegates will not insist on further reductions in this level or propose further absorption of cost increases.

We also wish to reiterate the views we expressed in the Council opposing the principle of zero growth, or of negative growth, as two factors which are retrogressive and unrealistic, as the requirements of the developing nations still stand. We hope that a better international economic situation and understanding between Member States would permit an increased budget level next biennium, which would enable FAO to respond to the needs of developing countries on the basis of their actual requirements.

The delegation of Pakistan is also willing to support the proposed appropriations for the Technical Cooperation Programme in the same spirit. Nevertheless, we feel disappointed that it has not been possible to achieve the level for the TCP envisaged in Council Resolution 8/89. We agreed to

the present low level, being conscious of the difficulties of the Director-General in this regard, but strongly underline the need for closer adherence to the levels identified in the said Resolution of the Conference for the succeeding biennia.

While we speak on TCP, my delegation would like to note its conviction that the existing arrangements for TCP implementation, by virtue of their flexibility and responsiveness to the needs and requirements of Member Nations, particularly the developing Member Nations, have distinct advantages which need to be preserved and maintained. While we appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to submit new arrangements in deference to the wishes of some members for a more regimented system, Pakistan would stress that the status quo should be maintained.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in our honoured capacity as Chairmen of the Asia Group, we wish to reiterate the expressed request of the Asian members for an effort to address the needs of the Asian Region under the TCP on the basis of actual requirements of the Region.

We in Asia feel that the present average annual level of 23-24 percent of TCP dispensations in Asia is not commensurate with the actual needs of the Region, based on its population, poverty levels and needs. We certainly hope that the Director-General and his staff would be able to redress this during the next biennium.

The Asian Region also wishes to express its appreciation to Mr Shah for his statement on the regional study for Asia and the Pacific Region made in the Hundredth Session of the Council. The Asia Group feels strongly about the need for a separate comprehensive regional study for the Region on the pattern of studies carried out for four other Regions of FAO. However, being cognizant of FAO's financial difficulties and constraints as proposed by us in the Council, we would appreciate a modest start on this study in the coming biennium, and its completion over an extended time-frame.

After having heard Mr Shah respond to another delegate, if Mr Shah would keep his six-shooter in his pocket and allow me the temerity to ask him a question, we would appreciate if he could confirm, in pursuance of his comments in Council, whether this modest request of Asia could be accommodated in the proposals for the biennium 1992-93? i.e., the proposal to make a start in the 1992-93 biennium.

My delegation believes that we, the Member Nations, have been really harsh with FAO by constricting the availability of finances which are necessary for the Organization's smooth operations. We must be more realistic, since we all appreciate the services the FAO provides to us and wish it to continue to do so with the same quality and at the same level. My delegation therefore feels the proposals in respect of the increase of the Capital Fund and replenishment of the Special Reserve Account are more realistic. We note from your opening comments that the Resolutions will be discussed in Commission III and we will be giving our detailed views in there.

Meanwhile, we would confine ourselves to endorsing the proposals in regard to the enhancement of the level of the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account.

Ipsso facto we would also support the proposal to maintain the lapse factor at 3 percent.

Not intending to go into the procedural issues mentioned by Mr Shah, but merely to refer to the Resolution on amendments to the Rules to give permanence to the additional step in the budget process, once again we would give our views in Commission III on the Draft Resolution. We would, however, like to note that my delegation will be glad to support the proposal for adoption of this interim measure on a permanent basis, should we find at the end of the present debate a general consensus built up on the financial proposals for the next biennium.

Finally, my delegation also wishes to endorse the draft amendments relating to the modalities of the Trust Fund relating to WFP.

**Raphael RABE (Madagascar):** M. le Président, étant donné que c'est la première fois que ma délégation intervient au sein de cette Commission, je voudrais vous féliciter très chaleureusement pour votre élection. Nous vous assurons de notre collaboration bien entendu. M. le Président, permettez à ma délégation de manifester sa vive reconnaissance à l'endroit de M. Shah pour la présentation très claire et pragmatique de ce sujet pour le moins difficile et compliqué.

La délégation malgache a déjà eu l'occasion de faire part de ses commentaires lors de la présentation du Programme de travail budget 1992-93 au Conseil à sa centième session, et a pu donc communiquer à cet important organe de la Conférence la position de son Gouvernement à l'endroit du projet.

Nous voudrions réitérer nos félicitations au Directeur général pour les efforts qu'il a fournis pour faire en sorte que le projet de Programme de travail "Budget" puisse recueillir le consensus lors de son adoption par la présente Conférence. C'est dans ce noble esprit de concertation et de coopération que la délégation malgache accorde son appui au projet, malgré de fortes réticences amplement justifiées. Bien entendu, nous nous emploierons à donner les raisons à de telles réticences.

En fait, nous ne pouvons pas ne pas regretter profondément que des Programmes techniques, vitaux pour le redressement de nos économies, vitaux pour la relance de notre développement, aient été soit supprimés, soit réduits à leurs simples expressions. En effet, comment expliquer les réductions opérées, par exemple sur le Programme 2.1.1.3, sur le Programme sur les engrais et l'aménagement des sols, au moment où justement la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique a lancé le Programme international pour la conservation et la restauration des terres agricoles africaines?

Est-il logique de vouloir relancer l'utilisation des engrais dans la région, et en même temps réduire ces Sous-programmes? Et en matière de transfert des technologies et de l'assistance que le Secrétariat doit fournir aux pays en voie de développement, pour que ces derniers bénéficient des nouvelles technologies, comme l'a prescrit par ailleurs la Commission sur les ressources phylogénétiques et le Conseil, comment peut-on comprendre les réductions au Sous-programme 2.1.2.1 sur les ressources phylogénétiques, programme relatif à l'appui aux Etats Membres en matière

de formation et d'information? Encore plus inacceptable à notre sens est l'amputation opérée à tout programme visant à renforcer et valoriser les ressources humaines dans les pays en voie de développement.

Nous ne pouvons que déplorer les réductions consenties au Sous-programme 2.1.6.5, sur le Codex Alimentarius juste au moment où le Groupe de 77 a lancé et lance un appel insistant pour qu'aide et assistance soient accordées aux pays en voie de développement afin qu'ils puissent prendre une part plus active aux sessions du Codex.

D'autres nombreuses réductions douloureuses pour nos pays et notre Région pourraient encore être relevées, par exemple dans les domaines des forêts et des pêches. Mais je m'en tiendrai là pour ne pas prolonger outre mesure mon intervention. Et je voudrais, si vous le permettez, passer à d'autres éléments du projet de budget.

La délégation malgache, qui a appuyé à plusieurs occasions, et notamment à la Conférence précédente, la Résolution 9/89, se sent elle aussi un peu découragée de constater que les dispositions pertinentes de ladite Résolution n'ont pas reçu d'exécution positive.

Le taux ridiculement bas de 11.9 pour cent du budget réservé au PCT aura comme conséquence entre autre une accumulation des demandes insatisfaites, donc un recul dans l'assistance que la FAO est tenue d'apporter aux pays en voie de développement. Une fois de plus l'Organisation ne pourra pas jouer pleinement le rôle qui lui est dévolu, à savoir celui de leader en matière d'agriculture et d'alimentation pendant la quatrième décennie. C'est tout simplement déplorable M. le Président.

Un des éléments du projet qui a occasionné beaucoup d'interventions lors du Conseil est la question d'augmentation de coûts.

Sur ce sujet, ma délégation voudrait tout simplement faire sienne la position du Conseil formulée au paragraphe 7 du document C 91/LIM/10.

Bien entendu, comme toutes les délégations, nous apprécions les efforts faits par le Directeur général pour réduire les augmentations de coûts. Mais il est impératif de préserver l'efficacité de l'Organisation, et se garder de la mettre en péril au moment où tous les Etats Membres sans exception souhaitent la voir plus efficiente et plus à même de réaliser le mandat qui est le sien défini par les Textes de base. Il faut en outre, comme l'a reconnu le Conseil, protéger l'intégration des programmes retenus.

M. le Président, n'étant pas sûr de pouvoir intervenir à nouveau, je voudrais vous demander de m'excuser de ne pas suivre votre conseil quant aux points relatifs au processus du Projet Budget Programme. Permettez-moi de dire quelques mots s'il vous plaît, à ce sujet.

Comme auparavant, nous voudrions déclarer à nouveau que nous conditionnons notre appui à la poursuite du système, à l'obtention du consensus lors de l'approbation du Projet de Programme et Budget 1992-93 par la Conférence. Et, comme il est stipulé au paragraphe 2 du document C 91/LIM/9, nous aussi, nous estimons que toute décision sur cette question devrait être prise après que la Conférence ait adopté le budget.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** M. le Président, comme pour les autres points déjà examinés, c'est avec une attention toute particulière que nous avons examiné les différents documents destinés à servir de base à notre débat sur le Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 de la FAO, document qui nous est soumis.

Nous remercions M. Shah pour son exposé introductif, toujours et constamment brillant. M. le Président, ayant été étroitement associés à toutes les étapes de la nouvelle procédure de préparation de ce Programme de travail en notre qualité de membres du Conseil, et ayant donc eu déjà plus d'une occasion pour faire valoir nos principales vues en la matière, à ce stade de l'examen nous serons brefs pour éviter de nous répéter inutilement.

Nous nous félicitons des améliorations appréciables apportées par le Secrétariat à cette édition du document du Programme de travail et budget que nous trouvons assez clair et bien détaillé. Ce document répond aux recommandations des organes directeurs de l'Organisation et s'insère bien à notre avis dans le droit fil des grandes orientations contenues dans le Plan à moyen terme 1992-97 que nous avons examiné et recommandé à la Plénière précédemment.

Ce faisant et dans un esprit de compromis, il ne nous reste plus qu'à confirmer notre appui aux priorités de programmes retenues dans ce document et qui reflètent les avis et indications que nous avons donnés au Secrétariat tout au long de la procédure de préparation.

Dans ce même esprit de compromis, nous appuyons aussi l'approche adoptée par le Secrétariat dans la ventilation des besoins en ressources qui seront nécessaires pour l'exécution des différents programmes.

Bien que nous soyons ouverts à la recherche du consensus, nous ne pouvons pour autant pas cacher notre opposition ferme et résolue au principe de croissance zéro pour une Organisation telle que la FAO, dont la plupart des Etats Membres sont des pays en développement ayant d'énormes besoins d'assistance. Nous apprécions à leur juste valeur les efforts déployés par le secrétariat pour contenir encore plus les coûts des différents programmes, pourvu que ceux-ci n'aillent pas jusqu'à saper l'efficacité de l'Organisation.

Ceci étant, nous ne nous opposerons pas cependant à l'approbation par consensus du niveau général de ce budget par la Conférence.

Tout en nous félicitant de l'augmentation nette prévue pour le PCT, nous déplorons que son niveau ne soit pas conforme à l'esprit de la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence qui invitait le Directeur général à tout mettre en oeuvre pour établir ces disponibilités dans la fourchette de 14 à 17 pour cent.

Nous exhortons en conséquence le Secrétariat à garder l'oeil sur ce voyant pour l'améliorer dès que la situation financière de l'Organisation le permettra. Nous sommes en faveur du maintien de la souplesse actuelle du PCT, et ne pensons pas qu'il soit nécessaire de procéder à des affectations des ressources du PCT par pays ou par région. Quant à la nouvelle procédure du Budget Programme, tout en reconnaissant son utilité et en prenant note du désir du Comité du programme et du Comité financier de la rendre permanente et de l'améliorer suivant les propositions du Directeur général,

nous nous permettons de rappeler qu'elle avait tout de même une finalité bien précise, à savoir permettre l'approbation du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation par consensus. Nous souhaitons que cet objectif ne soit pas perdu de vue dans la décision que nous aurons à prendre pour le maintien ou non de cette procédure. Et à cet effet, la manière dont pourra être adopté le Programme de travail budget 1992-93 - soumis à cette session de la Conférence est sans nul doute en bon test.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions également nous associer entièrement avec les considérations faites par le représentant de Madagascar concernant les réductions des programmes jugées prioritaires pour l'Afrique, à savoir "les programmes engrais", le programme "le CODEX Alimentarius", "les forêts" et "les pêches". Comme lui, nous sommes tout à fait d'accord pour que les différentes Résolutions traitant du point en discussion soient introduites à la Commission III, Commission des Résolutions, où nous aurons l'occasion de nous exprimer plus en détail sur ces différentes Résolutions.

Je vous remercie.

**CHAIRMAN:** On the last point, of course, that will be done.

**Ms Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Poland):** I would like to start my remarks by congratulating the Director-General and his staff on the successful eradication of the New World screwworm from Libya, thereby saving the African continent and perhaps other areas from a very serious potential threat. When the problem was first described to us at COAG in 1989 and the measures that needed to be taken to stop it, I must admit that my own delegation as well as many others doubted if the Organization really could solve it. A plan was made to eradicate the screwworm over a two-year period at a cost of over US\$100 million. It is indeed gratifying to be informed now that FAO was able to complete this task in less than one year at only half that cost. This experience shows us that, as in the case of the locust emergency, FAO is a vital and efficient Organization, which is able to bypass bureaucratic webs and respond effectively to a problem. It confirms our trust in the Organization and the qualifications of its staff. We are also pleased to see in practice the close cooperation and support FAO had in this case from the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

We strongly feel that FAO should use this experience to take up the fight against other insect pests, using Integrated Pest Management, including the highly effective Sterile Insect Technique. We need to protect our livestock and crops from insects, but we do not want to have to rely on heavy doses of chemicals potentially harmful to our health and the environment. Could this method be used to eradicate our crop pests, for example the Colorado potato beetle and insects attacking fruits and vegetables.

The priorities in the ensuing biennium as outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget do reflect the views expressed at COAG and the Council, and have received the support of my Government.

However, over the time elapsed since the last FAO Conference, my country, as well as most other countries of Eastern Europe, have undergone profound political and, as a result, economic changes. These changes have, of course, not left our agriculture untouched. The political and economic

framework under which our agriculture operated has been drastically changed. Our farmers and our agricultural leaders are probing for ways to adjust to the new circumstances. We need to make our agricultural production more competitive and more profitable. We need to increase the income of our farmers.

Therefore, we urge FAO to put priority on policy advice. We need guidance from international experts on free marketing systems, food distribution systems, advertising and presenting our agricultural produce in a saleable manner.

Furthermore, my Government gives full support to the emphasis being placed on the quality of food and its effect on human health, and looks forward to the outcome of the International Conference on Nutrition.

Ministries of Agriculture have always looked to FAO as the central authority for the information on agricultural statistics, production levels, market prices, as well as predictions and forecasts. We are, therefore, particularly pleased to see the developments regarding WAICENT, and do feel that in the future this aspect of FAO's activities is likely to become one of its most appreciated contributions to increasing food supplies and enabling authorities to adjust their agricultural sector to global climatic as well as economic variations.

Turning again to the environment and sustainable agricultural development, we do not wish to add too much to the large and increasing chorus of voices being heard in anticipation of UNCED. Everyone looks to Rio as if this were a magic event to show us the solution to our ecological woes. We certainly hope Rio will mean a change in the tide, and result in the preservation of our planet, our only home. We do feel that FAO will have a strong voice on these matters before and during the Rio Conference. In the face of such a strong gathering of green activists and ecologists and environmentalists with various competence, we feel it is important that the voice of the farmer be clearly heard. He is the main user of our environment and his livelihood and well-being depend on how he will be permitted to harness his soil, water, crop and livestock resources. Most importantly, the farmer is the person on whom the fate of our soils depends.

Only with his cooperation and support for our environmental policies can we hope to secure our future with both enough food and a healthy soil, vigorous crops, sufficient water and thriving forests.

FAO must make the farmer's voice its own and be heard clearly at Rio and beyond.

With regard to the allocation of funds to the Fisheries Programme, the Polish delegation suggests that it should be at least at the level of the current biennium in order to meet the urgent needs for advice and assistance on fisheries management and policy issues, fishery economics in general for developing countries, including countries from Eastern Europe.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Thai delegation and myself, I should like to join with the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to the high office of this Commission. I also wish to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen.

Before I make my few comments on this important item I should like to thank Mr Shah for his lucid introduction.

As regards the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93, my delegation feels that we have to accept the budget level as proposed by the Director-General, although my delegation has never accepted the zero growth concept. We recognize that to formulate a realistic budget the Director-General has to take account of the reality of the Organization's financial situation and the difficulties of many Member Nations in meeting their obligations.

However, when we carefully consider the proposed budget, the programme priority and area of increased budget in detail, we realize that the proposed budget allocation for the Technical Cooperation Programme is too low in comparison with the high priority given to the TCP in the last Conference recommendation.

In this connection, we wish to recall that at the last Conference we adopted Conference Resolution 9/89 as proposed by Thailand and another 22 countries. This Resolution stated clearly that, starting from the budget year 1992-93, at least 14 percent and up to 17 percent of the total budget must be allocated to Technical Cooperation Programmes.

However, today we learn from the proposed budget that the share of the TCP in the total budget amounts to only 11.9 percent which is lower than the minimum level stipulated in the Resolution. On this occasion we should like to appeal to the Commission to re-examine the proposed budget for the Technical Cooperation Programme, otherwise all the Conference Resolutions would be meaningless to the Member Nations.

My delegation sincerely hopes that the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 will be adopted by the Conference by consensus. However, in reaching the consensus, we should also try to implement the Resolution which was adopted by the last session of the Conference, in particular, Conference Resolution 9/89.

Concerning the proposed use of the TCP resources for 1992-93, my delegation would like to emphasize that, by its very nature, it is unprogrammed. Therefore, my delegation is of the opinion that the present practice would be re-intensified.

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/II/PV/4**Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION IIVingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II26° período de sesiones  
COMISION IIFOURTH MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE  
CUARTA SESION

(13 November 1991)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hoursMr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presidingLa quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission IISe abre la cuarta sesión a las 14.45 horasbajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 (continued)

16. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 (suite)

16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** The meeting is called to order and before giving the floor to the next delegate I wish to announce here the following two people have been accepted as Vice-Chairmen of Commission II, Ambassador Daniel D.C. Don Nanjira of Kenya as the first Vice-Chairman and Mr Dixon Nilaweera of Sri Lanka as the second Vice-Chairman. I look forward to cooperating with these two people.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Los representantes de Colombia empezamos por manifestar que votaremos afirmativamente las propuestas que contiene este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio.

Lo haremos con gran reticencia y muchos escrúpulos, porque no deseamos sentir el peso de la complicidad de asociarnos desgraciada e inevitablemente al cumplimiento de la voluntad omnímoda e incontrastable de aquellos estados industrializados que, por fin, verán realizados, por primera vez, sus tenaces empeños de imponer el funesto crecimiento cero en el Programa de nuestra Organización.

Nos duele inmensamente que se haya llegado a este final melancólico y triste a través de un proceso pleno de promesas, condiciones y halagos, que nunca se han cumplido, y cuyo incumplimiento, por el contrario, ha creado enormes dificultades hasta colocar a la FAO en la más dramática e injusta situación jamás registrada en toda la existencia de nuestra Organización.

Desde comienzos del bienio, se iniciaron los condicionamientos no sólo retóricos sino prosaicos con grandes alcances de debilitamiento en la vida y el funcionamiento de la FAO.

Ahora nos encontramos contra la pared, indefensos, impotentes, sin otra alternativa, sometidos, humillados, pero no rendidos hasta cuando podamos disponer al menos del derecho a la palabra para reaccionar. A mediados del bienio, a finales de enero de 1991, se presentó el llamado Esbozo del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos a la Reunión Conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

El Director General, con su sabiduría, modestia, pero con gran competencia, había propuesto un aumento simbólico, 0.34 por ciento, equivalente a la cifra irrisoria de 2 250 000 dólares. Cifra simbólica frente a la gran magnitud creciente de los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación que afectan, naturalmente, a los países del Tercer Mundo. De los 20 miembros que integran los dos Comités, sólo tres reiteraron su apoyo a la política del funesto crecimiento cero. Los otros 17, consideraron que la aplicación del crecimiento cero en la FAO, era una regresión. Este es el término que aparece en el informe de esos dos Comités.

No obstante que la gran mayoría de los dos Comités estaban a favor de ese pequeño aumento, el Director General, en actitud de concordia y entendimiento, - cito - dijo "a fin de permitir llegar a un consenso el Director General indicó su disponibilidad a formular el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93, sobre la base de ningún aumento real en los programas". Con mucho regocijo, tan optimista como ilusorio, los dos Comités expresaron en su informe que - cito - "con el consenso se crearía una nueva atmósfera que conduciría al pago puntual de las cuotas", al pago puntual de las cuotas repito. Como en ningún bienio anterior en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que se sometió al Consejo en junio pasado, en ese texto campeaban jubilosos, reiterada e insistentemente los términos de "el compromiso" "el principio" "el consenso" y se insistía, frenéticamente, en ningún aumento real de los programas.

En ese resumen, se llegó al extremo del entusiasmo al colocar en letras mayúsculas, en azul color cielo, muy destacadas, Objetivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1992-93: el Consenso.

Estamos agradecidos a la Secretaría, particularmente al Sr. Shah, porque seguramente bajo la modesta influencia de nuestras críticas, esa palabra no ha vuelto a ocupar lugar tan preponderante en este texto definitivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Nos dolió profundamente, señor Presidente, y queridos colegas y amigos, que como único objetivo se declaraba el consenso, porque estábamos acostumbrados a que el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos es la Biblia, es la guía, es la orientación fundamental del trabajo de nuestra Organización en cada bienio.

Particularmente a partir de 1976, a partir de 1976, repito, cuando se inició en la Dirección General de la FAO un estilo nuevo, dinámico, pragmático y progresista, el objetivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto había venido siendo el fortalecimiento de los programas técnicos y económicos. La mayor y mejor asistencia de los países en desarrollo, la introducción de nuevas ideas eficaces y positivas, la orientación, el propósito fundamental cada vez más firme y decidido de colocar a la FAO en el sitio destacado que le corresponde en la comunidad internacional como agencia libre en los campos de la agricultura y de la alimentación.

Todo ese sagrado patrimonio del Tercer Mundo, ¿cómo pudo haber sido cambiado de la noche a la mañana por la sola palabra consenso, término vacío, incierto, y nebuloso? Consenso que seguramente ahora podremos alcanzar pero ¿a costo de qué? ¿Qué precio representa para los países en desarrollo ese consenso? ¿Cuáles serán sus repercusiones en el futuro, si éste será un precedente que aceptásemos sumisos, en silencio, sin rebelarnos? No podemos resignarnos, señor Presidente.

Desde junio pasado en el Consejo, los representantes de Colombia expresamos serias reservas sobre todo este proceso lamentable. En este momento ha transcurrido casi un año después de la desafortunada reunión especial de los dos Comités de enero de 1991. Veamos como se han burlado los dos buenos propósitos de esos Comités. Algo oportuno en las contribuciones y creación de una atmósfera mejor. Pero antes tenemos que reconocer una vez más los esfuerzos del Director General por preservar la acción de la FAO en favor de los países beneficiarios pero nos hallamos, lo dicen con palabras

textuales numerosos documentos, "ante la más grave crisis financiera que jamás haya padecido nuestra Organización en toda su historia". No ha existido alternativa distinta a la de recurrir a préstamos en cifras altas, al pago de cuyos intereses han debido forzosamente contribuir muchos países en desarrollo, que como en el caso de Colombia, hace grandes esfuerzos para pagar oportunamente sus contribuciones.

Sr. Presidente, es aberrante, es inaceptable, es cinico, es condenable el hecho de que se obligue a pagar los intereses de la deuda a los países que no sólo cumplen rigurosamente con sus compromisos, sino que son los únicos al mismo tiempo - ¡cuánta ironía!, ¡cuánto sarcasmo! - los mismos que ven afectada la existencia de la FAO porque la carencia de recursos ha obligado a nuestra Organización a reducir sus servicios a esos estados del Tercer Mundo.

¡La nueva atmósfera que los Comités querían crear en esta Organización! Hay más de 700 vacantes. Los mejores profesionales están dejando la FAO. Se está haciendo un gran mal, se está causando un perjuicio tremendo, incalculable, a una Organización como la nuestra, que sobresale en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas por su eficiencia, competencia y dinamismo.

Lo que más preocupa es el futuro. Será difícil recuperar el ritmo de trabajo perdido. El daño está siendo cada vez más profundo. Su prolongación indefinida, puede convertirlo en un mal irreparable.

Al pasar ahora a referirnos a aquellos sectores del Programa sobre los cuales se proponen aumentos y reducciones, lo hacemos sobresaltados por unas frases escogidas al azar, en medio de todo el volumen de este documento, en las palabras de introducción del propio Director General. Citamos, dice el Director General: "nunca podré insistir bastante en los perjuicios que ello ha causado a los Programas y al personal de la Organización". Y sigue diciendo el Director General en su introducción a ese documento: "la precaria existencia impuesta a esta Organización, seguirá teniendo todo tipo de repercusiones negativas en los servicios que presta a sus Estados Miembros". "Dentro de los límites impuestos por la exigencia propongo", dice el Director General, "recursos considerablemente más bajos para las oficinas regionales y una serie de programas técnicos y económicos". El incremento de los costos, calculado, se nos había dicho, se nos había asegurado que ese aumento de los costos había sido calculado con base en la metodología aprobado por todos los Organos Rectores, desde el Comité de Finanzas pasando por el Consejo hasta la propia Conferencia, el máximo Organismo Rector de esta Organización. ¡Claro que habíamos creído en esa afirmación!

Ahora, Sr. Presidente, ese aumento de costos se ha reducido de 87 a 83 millones. ¿Qué ha pasado Sr. Shah? ¿Falló esa metodología? ¿Se habían equivocado todos los Organos Rectores de esta Organización, o es que acaso esta reducción es fruto de otro compromiso, siempre en aras del consenso? Se podrán seguir regateando cuatro o más millones sobre aumento de costo que no dependen de la administración sino de factores externos hasta poner en peligro la total ejecución del Programa que se ha aprobado por la Conferencia, porque como lo dijeron los dos Comités en enero pasado -cito-"cualquier absorción que se imponga en los aumentos de costos representará una reducción del presupuesto, la cual conducirá a una parálisis progresiva de la acción de la FAO. Una interpretación adecuada de la opinión de esos

dos Comités quiere decir que al disminuir ahora el aumento de costos de 87 a 83 millones, de antemano estamos imponiendo una reducción de cuatro millones a la ejecución del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos.

Está bien que se aumente un millón y medio de dólares a las actividades sobre medio ambiente y desarrollo sostenible. Sobre todo, a la luz de las realizaciones en junio 1992 en el país fraterno Brasil, de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo. Sabemos que el Subdirector General, Sr. Mahler, Asesor Especial y sus colaboradores, vienen participando con singular competencia en las reuniones del Comité preparatorio del PNUMA, asegurando así no sólo la participación adecuada de la FAO en esa importante Conferencia, sino, lo que es esencial, la capacidad de nuestra Organización para participar en la ejecución de las medidas dimanantes en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Es tan precaria la base financiera de estas propuestas, que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el PCT, que recibe el mayor incremento neto, deberá permanecer en el mismo bajo nivel del 11.9 por ciento en contra de la resolución de la Conferencia que invitaba al Director General a volver al nivel anterior del 14 por ciento y elevarlo hasta el 17 por ciento. Entre el 11, el 14 y el 17, sueño irrealizable al paso que vamos, existe una gran diferencia y se conforma otra violación en flagrante de la voluntad de la máxima autoridad rectora de nuestra Organización integrada por 161 estados soberanos.

Sr. Presidente, permítame usted que me detenga un poco sobre el PCT porque es un asunto de gran importancia para el Gobierno de Colombia y para muchos otros estados.

Sobre el Capítulo IV de ese documento Utilización propuesta de los recursos del PCT para 1992-93, los representantes de Colombia nos oponemos enérgica y decididamente a semejante propuesta, que es incoherente, absurda, disolvente y peligrosamente nociva.

Desde su creación hace 15 años el PCT viene funcionando en forma abierta, dispuesto a atender las solicitudes de los gobiernos sin discriminación alguna, sujeto tan sólo a las características sobre las cuales se estableció el PCT: carácter no programado y urgente, rapidez en la aprobación, orientación práctica, función catalizadora y complemento de otras fuentes de asistencia.

Hasta ahora, Sr. Presidente y distinguidos colegas y amigos, ningún gobierno de ninguna región, ha objetado la forma como se han venido adjudicando los PCT. Y en el párrafo 737 de este documento aparece la distribución por regiones de los 4 578 proyectos que por valor de 382 millones de dólares, se han ejecutado desde 1976 hasta el año pasado.

Bajo la presión de los Estados industrializados, el PCT ha sido sometido constantemente a numerosas evaluaciones externas, años 1978, 1979, 1985. A esta Conferencia, en otro documento, del cual se ocupará más adelante esta Comisión, en el Examen de los programas de campo, se presentarán 58 evaluaciones de proyectos PCT. El resultado de todas estas evaluaciones consta así en los informes del Consejo y de la Conferencia y que ha sido plenamente satisfactorio para todos los Estados Miembros.

Si este ha sido el proceso cumplido hasta hoy por el PCT, una de las actividades que goza de más amplio apoyo ¿cómo es posible que en el párrafo 758 se conceda tanta importancia a que "algunos Estados Miembros desarrollados han expresado el deseo de conocer mejor la utilización propuesta de los recursos del PCT aprobados por ellos"? Recursos para el PCT ¿aprobados por ellos? ¿por algunos Estados desarrollados? Hasta donde sepamos los representantes de Colombia, los recursos del PCT son parte integrante del Presupuesto del Programa Ordinario. Presupuesto que no sólo aprobamos nosotros también, los países en desarrollo, sino al cual contribuimos puntualmente con grandes esfuerzos.

Ni siquiera podemos aceptar la propuesta, aparentemente menos trascendente, que se hace en los párrafos 762 y 763 sobre ciertas reservas para proyectos regionales, de urgencia, y otros, porque esto también coarta la libertad, con realizaciones positivas, con la cual se ha manejado hasta ahora el PCT ¿para qué someterlo a esas limitaciones?

Después de lo que hemos expresado estará claro que nuestra mayor y más intransigente oposición se refiere a la propuesta que aparece en el párrafo 764, en el cual se propone una distribución regional de los recursos del PCT. Con todo respeto por el Director General, pensamos que los conceptos del párrafo 760 no tienen fundamento. El nivel de las consignaciones propuestas para el PCT en 1992-93, está muy lejos, como ya dijimos, de corresponder a lo recomendado por la Resolución 9/89 de la pasada Conferencia y no es cierto que "exista interés general por una mayor transparencia", transparencia ampliamente comprobada. Ese interés no es general, ese interés es de unos pocos países desarrollados y ese interés no puede prevalecer sobre la opinión de la gran mayoría de los Estados Miembros de nuestra Organización.

Finalmente, las dudas del Director General, párrafo 759 sobre las ventajas y desventajas de esas propuestas van a producir evidentemente "las controversias, los celos y pesares entre los Estados Miembros" que ya se han previsto en este documento. ¿Para qué crear esa controversia y esa rivalidad entre los países si todo ha funcionado bien?

Con humildad y respeto, pedimos al Director General que retire esta propuesta.

Pasamos a otro de los aspectos del Programa: la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición. Ojalá que la FAO ofrezca la mayor atención práctica a la preparación de esta Conferencia Internacional, que no debe ser una reunión académica, teórica, que no debe ser preparada únicamente aquí en las oficinas de la Sede, que el millón de dólares de aumento propuesto para la CIN se dedique particularmente a financiar aquellas actividades en apoyo de los países en desarrollo. Sería inaceptable que los recursos que se obtengan para la CIN fueran a quedar sobre un marco de inciertas y difíciles posibilidades, a través de las cuales no se asegure debidamente la adecuada participación de los países beneficiarios.

Una Organización como la FAO, en la cual las actividades de campo son parte esencial de su programa, debería saber que una buena CIN sólo se podrá realizar si a esa Conferencia se aportan las realidades nacionales mediante participación directa de los países con preparación adecuada de sus informes nacionales, con el conocimiento directo de los problemas que

existen allá en nuestros países y que los preparativos para la CIN no pueden seguir encerrados en la oficina conjunta FAO/OMS en el marco de la dolce vita, que tradicionalmente ha deleitado a los romanos.

Queremos saber cómo se distribuirá el millón de dólares propuesto para la CIN, qué recursos extrapresupuestarios se han obtenido hasta ahora y cuál ha sido la asistencia que se ha prestado a aquellos países que carecen de infraestructura y recursos para elaborar sus informes nacionales y hacer llegar a esa Conferencia las estadísticas pertinentes.

Lamentamos que la exigencia impuesta ha conducido a reinvertir desafortunadamente importantes prioridades que como la descentralización, venían siendo pilares fundamentales con el PCT, de una nueva era política afirmativa y avanzada, iniciada en 1976. Se ha sostenido siempre con razón, que los representantes de los países y las Oficinas Regionales son dos caras de la misma moneda de la descentralización. Para los representantes de los países se propone un mínimo incremento que ni siquiera alcanza a la creación de una nueva oficina. En cambio, a la otra cara de la misma moneda, a las Oficinas Regionales, se aplica la más drástica e incoherente reducción. En el examen del Programa Ordinario confirmamos la función importante que las Oficinas Regionales desempeñan en las Redes de Cooperación. Por eso, lamentamos que se haga víctima de esa reducción a las Oficinas Regionales.

Quisiéramos saber a cuánto ascienden esas reducciones a las Oficinas Regionales y cómo se desglosa entre cada una de esas Oficinas la reducción propuesta. Somos conscientes de que hemos tomado demasiado tiempo. Vamos a tratar de reducir las notas finales de nuestra intervención. Lamentamos que se incurra, naturalmente bajo la presión de la carencia de recursos, en injusticias como la supresión total y absoluta de la formación profesional para el Programa de Desarrollo Agrícola, que permitía dar capacitación en materia de desarrollo agrícola en la sede de la FAO a un pequeño número de funcionarios de nuestros Gobiernos durante breves períodos. Los representantes de Colombia preguntamos: ¿cuál era el promedio del nivel por bienio de ese modesto programa de formación profesional, en el cual venían participando los funcionarios de los países en desarrollo?

Para confirmar la injusticia de la supresión de ese programa, bastará leer el párrafo 57 que hace referencia a otras actividades, que realmente deberían merecer menos consideración que ese modesto programa de formación profesional. Ese programa permitía a pocos funcionarios de los países en desarrollo tener la ocasión de venir a la sede de la FAO en Roma a familiarizarse con la Organización, a la cual durante mucho tiempo han prestado sus servicios en los países. Constituía la única oportunidad para humildes funcionarios de nuestros Gobiernos de venir a Roma. Tal vez en muchos casos, la única ocasión en su vida. Pero no sólo por venir a Roma, sino porque su capacitación en desarrollo agrícola les permitía regresar a nuestros países a servir mejor a los Gobiernos y a nuestra Organización.

Cumplido ese doloroso proceso al cual hemos tratado de hacer referencia en esta intervención, nos encontramos desalentados en esta Conferencia, porque antes de que se cumpliera la reiterada amenaza del funesto crecimiento cero, cada dos años, la batalla por lograr siquiera un mínimo aumento del presupuesto para fortalecer la tarea positiva que la FAO realiza bajo la acción eficaz del Director General y sus colaboradores, esa batalla la librábamos con entusiasmo y decisión, porque ello era el compendio de nuestras esperanzas, de nuestras justas aspiraciones, de nuestros sagrados

derechos. En cambio ahora, debemos asistir sólo en calidad de simples testigos al desvanecimiento de esos sueños, de esas ilusiones, de la convicción que la FAO merece mayores recursos por la magnífica labor que cumple en favor de los países en desarrollo. Nos preocupa el futuro. Ojalá que no se siga aplicando el funesto crecimiento cero como costumbre en los próximos bienios.

En el horizonte de la comunidad internacional asoman signos de esperanza. Los recursos que dejaran de invertirse en armamentos nucleares, podrán ser dedicados al desarrollo.

Concluimos con estas observaciones, para declarar que los representantes de Colombia hemos tratado de reflejar en estas palabras nuestra inquietud por el estado actual y el porvenir de la FAO. Pero esta declaración conlleva también, de manera sincera y convencida, la reiteración del más pleno apoyo del Gobierno colombiano al Director General, seguros de que la acción eficaz, dinámica y ponderada del Dr. Saouma asegurará el futuro sólido y próspero de esta Organización.

Los representantes de Colombia hemos cumplido con dejar esta constancia, que obedece a los sentimientos que nos animan en este momento, pero seguimos abiertos al diálogo, y aunque haya que hacer más concesiones, estamos siempre dispuestos a lograr el consenso.

**Marcus I. NIETO LARA (Cuba):** En primer lugar, agradecemos y reconocemos el esfuerzo del Sr. Shah por su clara presentación de un tema que se torna cada vez más complejo, en la medida en que progresivamente ha sido examinado en los períodos precedentes de esta Conferencia. Recordemos cómo en el 22º período de sesiones apareció por primera vez el estigma del denominado crecimiento cero. Este mal nos ha venido acompañando pegado a nosotros como la hiedra, a pesar de que todos reconocemos que las necesidades de la mayoría de los Estados Miembros se han multiplicado. ¿Hasta cuándo mantendremos una situación de este tipo?

Lo anterior, nos obliga aún más a reconocer los esfuerzos cada vez mayores que realiza el Director General para presentarnos un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto con un equilibrio que nos permita llegar a su aprobación por consenso, habida cuenta de la diversidad de prioridades, necesidades e intereses de los Estados Miembros.

Nuestra delegación reconoce que este ejercicio de presupuestación no ha resultado una tarea fácil, pues por una parte la crisis financiera de la Organización no ha sido resuelta, ni se vislumbra una solución inmediata, mientras que las demandas de los países más necesitados continúan en aumento y su crisis en el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación se hace cada día más aguda y grave.

Nuestra delegación considera que al crecimiento simbólico de 0.34 por ciento podríamos llamarle eufemísticamente y con mucho optimismo "crecimiento", pero en términos reales el presupuesto propuesto es inferior al de los bienios anteriores, sobre todo si tenemos en cuenta que el valor monetario de presupuestación cada día se deteriora más con respecto al precio de los bienes y servicios adquiridos en el mercado actual. Si alguien tuviera duda al respecto, habría que recordarle que hoy un café en la sede de la FAO está costando tres veces lo que hace tres períodos de sesiones.



La crisis financiera por la cual ha venido atravesando la Organización, no es ni más ni menos que todo un conjunto de fenómenos derivados de la falta de voluntad de los principales contribuyentes para acudir con los recursos financieros y en el momento y con la oportunidad requerida, y en la cuantía que establecen los compromisos. Esta situación, urla vez más, tenemos que deplorarla ante este Plenario y llamaríamos muy respetuosamente para que estas actitudes en lo inmediato sean rectificadas.

Reconocemos que el documento de presupuestación que examinamos ha sido un documento muy bien elaborado y muy bien equilibrado en cuanto a la atención de las prioridades que fueron solicitadas por los Estados Miembros en el pasado período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Así por ejemplo, saludamos que se haya producido un aumento significativo en los programas principales y que se atiendan otras prioridades como el medio ambiente, el desarrollo sostenible, la mujer en el desarrollo y la silvicultura. Sin embargo, tenemos que deplorar mucho que cuando la Conferencia pasada acordó y recomendó al Director General aumentar la participación hasta un 14 por ciento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, realmente hoy nos encontramos con que solamente ocupa el 11.9 por ciento; es decir, estamos experimentando una situación real de retroceso. Esto nos preocupa en términos cuantitativos, pero nuestra delegación desea expresar su preocupación en el orden cualitativo. Al examinar la propuesta de programación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, pensamos categóricamente que adoptar un procedimiento de esta naturaleza, atentaría directamente contra la esencia misma del Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

Recordemos todos los que hemos tenido la oportunidad de debatir el tema del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en otros períodos, cómo ha habido situaciones muy controvertidas y cómo ha sido un tema de la mayor atención por todos los Estados Miembros. En este sentido, me permito hacer algunas recomendaciones de orden técnico que nos parece no se ajustan y no contribuyen a favorecer la propuesta hecha de programación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica debe mantener su calidad y su flexibilidad tanto para los gobiernos como para la propia Organización para que tenga ese espíritu ágil de acudir ante las necesidades más inmediatas, que tienen los países más necesitados.

En el orden técnico, la Organización al flexibilizar un poco más, o al mantener mejor dicho la situación actual tendría la Organización la capacidad técnica para hacer evaluaciones cada vez más justas y precisas, y establecer un adecuado orden de prioridades.

Por otra parte, si tomamos como punto de referencia la metodología de planificación de la cifra indicativa del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, vemos que este desarrollo en un proceso, en un período de cinco años, cuando presupuestamos cada bienio el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, estimamos que los países no tendríamos la suficiente capacidad para establecer un análisis detallado, tal como se hace normalmente en el ciclo de programación en el caso de los proyectos del PNUD.

Por esta razón, creemos que si bien no ha sido posible aumentar los fondos para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, recomendamos que el Director General tome muy en cuenta esa necesidad para futuros bienios. Al mismo tiempo, creemos que la Organización debía tomar una actitud mucho más

activa en cuanto a la movilización de recursos extrapresupuestarios, de manera que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica junto con esos nuevos fondos extrapresupuestarios, permita aumentar e incrementar cada día más las actividades de campo que es donde se concreta, sobre el terreno y sobre el surco, junto a los campesinos, la verdadera acción de la FAO para resolver los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación.

**Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus):** My delegation deeply appreciates the great efforts, waged so far, for preparing the Programme of Work and Budget as presented in document C 91/3. In particular, we find it necessary to congratulate the members of the Programme and Finance Committees and the Director General who, under the constraints of no programme growth, have managed to reconcile the FAO's limited financial resources with the pressing demands for FAO activities for which increased cost is required. Beyond any doubt it was not an easy exercise to reach acceptable solutions for conflicting objectives, to meet the urgent priorities in FAO activities, under conditions of crucial financial constraints.

As we have stated in previous meetings in FAO, the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, being the end-product of laborious work and compromising arrangements, it could not be the ideal one. However, we do believe that, under the circumstances, it is a realistic and well-balanced Programme and, on the basis of this reasoning, we are strongly in favour of a consensus approval.

Following this brief introduction, we wish to add our comments on certain aspects, namely, the set priorities and the financial position of this Organization.

Referring to paragraphs 22-37 of document C 91/3, where the set priorities are stated, we believe that, notwithstanding the aforementioned constraints, these priorities are wisely placed and well justified. For this reason we are in full agreement with the allocation of increased resources for the Programmes on Research and Technology, on Food and Agricultural Information Analysis and the Programme on Nutrition, as indicated by the respective figures in the table shown on page 88 of the same document. Surely, the expansion of these programmes corresponds to the pressing need for assisting developing countries in facing crucial nutritional problems and in their efforts to achieve sustainable agricultural development. Additionally, the transfer and the successful application of new technologies in developing countries, together with the improvement of the agricultural information systems and training, will gradually strengthen the capabilities of these countries for the development and the efficient management of their productive resources.

Of course, we support the proposed Resolution to the Amendments to the Basic Texts concerning the Outline Programme of Work and Budget as per document C 91/LIM/9, pages 2 and 3.

As regards the arrangements for the Technical Cooperation Programme, we highly appreciate and support the efforts of the Director-General to meet the expectations defined in Conference Resolution 9/89. Surely, the proposed net increase of US\$4 million is another case of compromise, since the share of TCP to the total amount of the Budget remains at 11.9 percent, even after the necessary adjustments for cost increases. In the Conference Resolution 9/89 we requested that this share should be increased to

14 percent and, if possible, to 17 percent. It is important to note that in the 1986-87 Budget the TCP share was 14.1 percent and in the following biennium, 1988-89, 12.8 percent.

Needless to say that the TCP throughout its existence, being a programme of practical and quick assistance to member countries, where and when such assistance is urgently needed, has been recognized as a vital element in FAO field programmes. Therefore, any further reduction of the TCP percentage share of the total of the Budget would negatively affect the ability and readiness of FAO to respond in time to urgent requests for assistance, as was recently the case of screwworm in Northern Africa.

Regarding the proposal concerned with the process for the allocation of TCP resources, as mentioned in paragraphs 756-770 in the document under review, we consider the proposed approach and methodology not very practical, involving possible risks and controversies as well as delays. After all, the TCP resources have been allocated, so far, on the basis of established criteria and the TCP activities and accounts have been under the regular control of FAO Bodies and audited by the External Auditor. However, if the majority of member countries are in favour for applying the proposed approach and methodology, on an experimental basis for a short period, then we are ready to follow the majority's view.

Finally, we find it difficult to conclude this short intervention without commenting on the extremely serious financial position of this Organization. Two years ago the amount of delayed payments of contributions corresponded to around 30 percent of the respective Budget, and presently this amount is approaching 50 percent of the Budget under review. Evidently, the financial position of FAO is worsening and perhaps by the next Conference we may reach a new record of delayed payments. In that case the preparation of the next Budget would probably lead to a real deadlock, unless the member countries which delay the payments of their contributions decide to honour their financial obligations, especially those countries which are in the position to do so. For our part, we wish to state again that Cyprus, though small in size and highly dependent on foreign borrowing, does meet regularly its financial obligations to FAO and other UN agencies.

In concluding, we wish to appeal strongly to those member countries which delay their contribution payments to settle their financial obligations with FAO as soon as possible. We want to believe that the constructive spirit of understanding and cooperation, which has prevailed in preparing this Programme of Work and Budget, will guide us all in approving this Budget by consensus.

**Christophe KIEMTORE (Burkina Faso):** La délégation du Burkina Faso intervenant pour la première fois dans cette Commission, permettez-nous tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la Présidence de la Commission II.

Nous remercions également M. Shah pour son intervention brillante et claire grâce à laquelle nous arriverons, nous l'espérons, à un consensus sur les différents points importants du document C 91/3.

Tout en approuvant la substance des remarques qui ont été apportées par les délégations qui nous ont précédés, la délégation du Burkina Faso souhaite insister sur les points suivants:

Concernant le Programme du budget 1992-93, le Burkina Faso approuve le document du budget tel qu'il nous est présenté, ceci malgré la réduction générale des postes prioritaires qui intervient à un moment où les pays en développement ont plus que jamais besoin de ressources supplémentaires pour réussir les programmes d'ajustement agricole en cours dans de nombreux pays africains, et en particulier au Burkina Faso.

Concernant le Programme de coopération technique, le Burkina Faso voudrait insister sur l'utilité de ce programme dans le développement du secteur agro-pastoral des pays comme le mien, nous l'affirmons, en tant que pays bénéficiaire. A ce titre, nous ne pouvons que regretter que, malgré les grands efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour augmenter le volume du Programme de coopération technique, aucune solution n'ait été trouvée quant au respect de la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence. Cette situation aura des conséquences regrettables pour les pays en développement. Nous en sommes convaincus.

S'agissant de l'affectation des ressources du Programme de coopération technique aux différents pays bénéficiaires, nous ne percevons pas le bien-fondé d'une telle proposition. Aussi, nous sommes d'avis que le système actuel de gestion du Programme de coopération technique soit maintenu.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** Tout d'abord, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des délégués qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter M. Shah de son exposé très brillant de la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget 1992-93.

Comme il est bien dit dans l'introduction du Directeur général, cette version finale est issue des examens antérieurs qui ont été faits par différents organes intergouvernementaux de la FAO. Nous constatons que quelques observations faites ont été soigneusement prises en considération. Ce document concis et précis nous fournit des informations très détaillées sur le choix des priorités, les propositions du programme, les augmentations des coûts et l'utilisation proposée des ressources.

Nous ne pouvons passer sous silence les efforts déployés par le Directeur général afin de concilier les opinions des uns et des autres pour aboutir à l'élaboration finale de ce Programme de travail et budget 1992-93. Pour ce qui a trait à l'évolution d'une étape supplémentaire et le schéma adopté par le Directeur général pour la présentation du Programme de travail et budget, ma délégation constate que, malgré l'introduction de cette nouvelle procédure, elle ne nous a pas du tout garanti le règlement à temps des contributions des Etats Membres et tout particulièrement les contributions des principaux bailleurs.

A cet égard, ma délégation fait sien ce qui est stipulé au paragraphe du document C 91/LIM/9 - je cite - "que toute décision sur cette question devrait être prise après que la Conférence ait adopté le budget".

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

Du niveau du Plan de travail et budget 1992-93, le Directeur général nous a proposé une augmentation symbolique, de 2 250 000 dollars E.-U. soit 0.34 pour cent, sans une augmentation réelle de programme. Nous croyons que ces propositions faciliteront nos discussions pour que l'on parvienne à un consensus.

S'agissant du coefficient d'abattement pour délais de recrutement, nous pensons que ceci doit être maintenu à 3 pour cent.

En ce qui concerne l'accroissement des coûts, nous avons constaté qu'un effort sensible a été effectué, ceci a été comprimé de 87 millions de dollars E.-U. à 83 millions de dollars E.-U. Nous croyons que cette réduction n'engendrera pas d'autres obstacles mais permettra d'arriver à un consensus.

L'efficacité du programme de coopération technique est indiscutable et il est apprécié par tous les membres des pays en développement. Mais nous regrettons qu'il n'ait pas été possible d'atteindre l'objectif de 17 pour cent stipulé dans la Résolution 9/89 de la Conférence. A cet égard, ma délégation souhaite que le Directeur général, lors de l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget du prochain biennium, applique la résolution citée ci-dessus en attribuant une plus forte augmentation nette au Programme de coopération technique, donc de 17 pour cent.

La formule proposée par le Directeur général, qui permettrait d'indiquer approximativement les ressources allouées à chaque pays au titre du Programme de coopération technique, doit garder sa souplesse actuelle.

Ma délégation continue à manifester ses inquiétudes sur les diminutions des allocations financières allouées particulièrement aux Bureaux régionaux, qui pourraient affecter l'efficacité de ces derniers, et aux programmes techniques et économiques. Je ne voudrais pas m'étendre sur les raisons de notre inquiétude. Je m'associe à ce qui a été dit ce matin par le délégué de Madagascar.

Pour terminer nous estimons, une fois encore, que l'augmentation minime et symbolique proposée par le Directeur général ne répondra pas aux besoins ressentis par les Etats Membres des pays en développement, et ne comblera même pas les lacunes engendrées par les réductions de programme opérées au cours des exercices précédents.

Malgré cette faible croissance, qui n'est autre que la croissance zéro, formule à laquelle nous n'adhérerons jamais, nous appuyons le Programme de travail et budget pour 1992-93 et invitons tous les pays membres à approuver par consensus le Programme de travail et budget.

Nous lançons un vibrant appel à tous les pays membres pour qu'ils honorent leurs engagements financiers.

**Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden):** I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the five Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, my own country.

First of all, I should like to express our thanks for the preparation and introduction by Mr Shah of the document on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. We fully acknowledge and appreciate the extensive and delicate work that has been carried out by all parties involved in the process behind the proposals.

Let me first make some comments on the programme budget process and the budget level. During the past two biennia in which the procedure of submitting an outline Programme of Work and Budget at an early joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees has been followed, many members have expressed their positive appreciation of this procedure. In September the Committees unanimously recommended that Conference endorse the establishment of the outline as a permanent feature of the process. The Nordic countries support this recommendation because we are of the opinion that the outline procedure has strengthened the necessary dialogue between Member Governments and the Secretariat on the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Committees also recommended that the Conference approve the new proposals put forward by the Director-General for streamlining the Programme Budget Process for implementation on an experimental basis during the 1992-93 biennium and for the 1994-95 budgetary exercises. The November Council supported the Committees' recommendation, and the Nordic countries wish to endorse this recommendation as well. This process and the various discussions we have had on the format of the document itself have resulted in further improvement both in clarity and transparency, and we are most grateful for this.

The Programme of Work and Budget is a tool to concretize the blueprint for FAO's action provided in the Medium-Term Plan. In our view, the proposals for the next biennium are consistent with the proposed priorities presented in the Budget Outline and also in the Medium-Term Plan.

In times of severe budgetary constraints, many or perhaps all of us are facing this at national level. It is even more important to set priorities. It is well recognized that this is not an easy task. The Nordic countries note that the proposal is based on no real programme increase, or a very minimal one. This is a reality that many other specialized agencies are faced with and have been faced with for years in some cases. We are aware that this also reflects the outcome of the discussions in the Programme and Finance Committees and in the Council.

At the last Conference the Nordic delegations - I may say after considerable internal discussions - finally voted for the budget. However, some important Member Countries felt that they could not support it. We hope that the work in this Commission during this Conference can bring about a common position on the issues at hand, followed by the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget by consensus. There are still some issues that need further discussions, especially with regard to the calculation of cost increases.

The Nordic countries remain convinced that if the constructive spirit which we have noticed being developed between Member Nations and the Secretariat can prevail throughout this Conference, so also can the final decision on the Programme of Work and Budget be taken by consensus.

The Nordic countries will return to financial matters when they are dealt with in Commission III.

Now let me turn to our more detailed budget priority comments. First, we have some general remarks.

The Nordic countries have no objections to the basic preconditions for the Secretariat proposals. In general, the proposals are well in line with our thinking, and the areas proposed for reductions also meet with our approval. The directions of the reallocation of resources are in line with our preferences, even if we would have liked the changes to be of a more substantial magnitude in many respects.

We are fully aware that there is probably not a single activity or programme that is not supported by at least a few members, so the process of reallocation will have to be done gradually. However, it seems to us that measures have been taken to formulate a package of proposals taking into account all suggestions from Member Nations and various FAO-concerned Bodies. But, especially in the light of the very encouraging statement by the Director-General at the start of the work on the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget, we would have expected a more forceful reallocation based on the principles of comparative advantages.

Environment and sustainable agriculture including the UNCED process: The Nordic countries welcome the increased priorities to environment and sustainable agriculture. In the proposed Programme of Work and Budget we find a large number of items in many different programmes that make it clear that FAO will provide important inputs to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. For example, we appreciate the increases in the Sub-Programmes regarding land use, soil productivity and sustainable farming systems within the Programme Natural Resources. We certainly approve of the almost 90 percent increase in the Sub-Programme Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development within the Programme Research and Technology Development, which Sub-Programme also includes an element of energy technology development.

Policy Advice: In the reform discussions an increased activity by FAO in policy advice connected to agriculture is called for. The Nordic countries welcome the increased priority to these questions in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Let me underline the need for close cooperation with the countries involved and with other organizations. This is also an important part of the follow-up of the UNDP decisions on operational activities. This work includes policy formulation, planning and institution building. FAO's role should be to encourage, support and recommend activities rather than to implement them.

The Sub-Programme Agricultural Policy Analysis and Commodity Policies and Trade is important in this respect. We foresee a need for increased attention to the impact of environment problems on trade as well as to sustainability issues for selected commodities, but our main preoccupation in this regard is the follow-up to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We also see the need for an international follow-up mechanism in analysing the global long-run effects of the Uruguay Round, not least for the least developed countries. We must discuss a follow-up by FAO in this important field when the Uruguay Round is brought to an end.

We should also like to endorse the enlarged scope of the 1993 edition of Agriculture Toward 2000. We very much look forward to the new version since the present version has been an exceedingly useful vademecum when it comes to long-term policy matters, and, indeed, policy making.

**Agricultural Information:** It is absolutely necessary that FAO also in the future can be the centre of excellence in the field of agricultural information.

Therefore, the Nordic countries welcome the increased priority to the work in this field. The presentation of the WAICENT is a very encouraging sign to this effect.

**Plant and Animal Genetic Resources:** the Nordic countries prioritize the FAO's work with plant and animal genetic resources. We regret the reduction in conservation of management and plant genetic resources. The changes within this Sub-Programme are in the right direction but it seems to us that more resources could be devoted to this important area. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, for example, do excellent work and deserve a larger increase in the future. An even more forceful re-allocation in favour of plant and animal genetic activities would be warranted as a part of the follow-up in a future UNCED process.

**Nutrition:** on nutrition we endorse the large increase in resources for the International Conference on Nutrition and we do that in the hope that Conference indeed will follow the FAO Conference 19/89 Resolution and adequately cover the major nutritional problems. In this connection we would like to express our appreciation of the, by now, long series of food surveys. Again here we find the standard reference work on the subject of global hunger and malnutrition. We anticipate an increase in Codex Alimentarius resources due to the possible sanitary and future sanitary agreement within the GATT and we find this a most urgent matter.

**Women in Development:** the second process report from FAO's Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development will be discussed more in detail at this Conference in Commission I. The Nordic countries welcome the increased priority in the Programme of Work and Budget and in this respect we welcome specifically the work in the Forestry and Fisheries Sector.

**Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations:** the Nordic countries welcomed the increased cooperation with international and national NGOs proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget. This is in our view an important follow-up of the principle "people's participation". We also recognize that this is a difficult and in some respects also a sensitive part of FAO's work but we find that these questions are followed up in a very balanced way in the document.

**Forestry:** there are many ongoing activities as to forestry, both nationally and regionally. Forestry is now for the first time really identified as an issue of the first order on the global agenda. This provides a potential for strengthening FAO's forestry role. The Nordic delegations therefore welcome the increase of the important Major Programme on Forestry even if, in our opinion, more resources could be devoted to this important area. However, this increase can at least put FAO in a better position to organize and transfer existing international experience on national and long-term utilization of forests.



The threat to the forests of the world give cause for great concern. There is a need for decisive action to develop sustainable and environmentally sound forestry practices for all types of forests. The Nordic delegations therefore endorsed the budget increase in the Sub-Programme of Forest Resources and Environment.

The Nordic countries have on several occasions stressed that FAO should allocate a higher share of its regular budget for TFAP implementation.

We appreciate that overall priority is given to TFAP. The main question in the Forest Sector is, however, that FAO must give higher priority to being the global lead agency within forestry development. The situation facing the TFAP with protracted discussion on institutional matters is very unfortunate for FAO. We are now at a crucial stage for FAO's work in the field of forestry. The present situation calls for leadership and initiative by FAO if the Organization is to play a major role through TFAP. Let me stress that the Nordic countries would not like to see FAO losing ground in this area but it is, at the same time, absolutely necessary that FAO improves its collaboration with other organizations in this field.

Forestry: the Nordic delegations note with regret that a reduction of the budget allocation to the Fisheries Sector is proposed. We are fully aware of the financial constraints of the Organization and a higher share of FAO's regular resources allocated to the Fisheries Department is not likely to be possible. However, a re-orientation to the budget level of today would at least indicate FAO's sense of prioritization and might eventually serve the additional purpose of attracting increased support.

TCP: the Nordic countries recognize the importance of the TCP Programme especially for the developing countries. On the other hand, the increased priority of TCP on US\$4 million affects negatively the possibility to prioritize other major sectors. We therefore would prefer a lower increase in the TCP. There is a need for an improved evaluation of the TCP Programmes in the future. The Nordic countries are not in favour of country frames for TCP.

Regional Offices, Administration, etc.: a more strict priority setting measures implies lower priority in certain fields. The Nordic countries therefore support the proposal in the Programme of Work and Budget with decreased priority to the regional offices, administration and certain programmes.

FAO's Work in Europe: the political changes in Europe make it absolutely necessary to discuss FAO's work in Europe. The Nordic countries feel that FAO, in cooperation with other organizations, has an important role to play in Europe in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It is therefore necessary to have a broad discussion on all main priority questions on the Regional Conference in Prague next year. Finally, with that, Mr Chairman, I have come to an end and I would thank you.

**Mahmoud Ahmed Samir SAMI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic):** Thank you, Mr Chairman, and may I say it is a pleasure for me to see you in the Chair at this Commission. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for the excellent presentation he has made to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate the Director-General for the efforts made in order to try and keep the budget level as close as possible to the

previous budget, but at the same time maintaining the level of technical programmes of this Organization. We think, Mr Chairman, that this has been a rational approach which in fact also corresponds to reality.

We would also like to once again stress our concern on cost increases which were discussed by Council last June. We would like to thank the Director-General today for the efforts he has made in order to try and stop the cost increases and also for the reductions he has been able to implement although I must say that some of the reductions do affect us, especially those that are destined to Regional Offices. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the efforts it has made in order to increase funds for the TCP Programme which is very important to our country because it efficiently implements emergency programmes. Nonetheless funds allocated to the TCP are only 11.9 percent overall of the budget which is not even the level that our Conference had decided on at its last meeting. Once again we would ask the Secretariat to try and reach the previous level in the next few years.

As for the proposal about the allocation of TCP resources system by country such as the one adopted by the UNDP recently we think that this system would limit the advantages of the programme, its flexibility and its ease of reaction in emergency situations. Once again, Mr Chairman, we agree with the priorities fixed in the Programme and would like to approve the Programme of Work and Budget as has been proposed.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je voudrais d'abord féliciter M. Shah de la présentation concise et très claire de ce document.

J'ai représenté le Liban à la réunion du Comité financier et assisté aux deux dernières réunions du Conseil exécutif où le Programme de travail et budget a été longuement discuté. C'est pour cette raison que j'estime qu'il n'est plus nécessaire de discuter de ce sujet à nouveau, d'autant plus que notre position à cet égard est connue, à savoir que nous approuvons l'adoption du Programme de travail et budget proposé par le Directeur général bien que nous n'étions pas d'accord au départ sur le maintien de l'application de la croissance zéro du budget.

Cependant, notre attitude fait suite à la proposition du Directeur général qui va dans le sens du maintien de ce taux de croissance dans l'espoir d'obtenir un consensus le concernant.

Toutefois, je tiens à insister sur plusieurs points dont les plus importants: l'augmentation du Fonds de réserve et du Fonds de roulement ainsi que le maintien du niveau du facteur d'abattement pour mouvement de personnel comme proposé.

De même, je voudrais réitérer notre appui total au Programme de coopération technique, et la nécessité de le renforcer dans l'intérêt des pays en développement, et de maintenir la méthode appliquée actuellement dans l'exécution des projets proposés par différents Etats et qui ont besoin d'un financement par ce programme.

Je vous remercie.

**DONG QING-SONG (China) (Original language Chinese):** First of all I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 91/3 and I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his introduction to the Programme of Work and Budget.

Please allow me now to make the following general remarks; firstly, referring to the budget level we noticed that for the first time in the Summary of Programme of Work and Budget submitted by the Director-General to the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June zero growth is adopted. However, regrettably speaking, the Council has still not been able to achieve consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget in spite of zero growth measures.

The present budget level for discussion in Conference is a balanced plan by the Director-General based on the views expressed in the Council's June session in order to harmonize different opinions. Therefore it will help the Conference to reach a consensus.

We have made our views known at the Hundredth Session of the Council, we believe. This current budget level is acceptable and we hope it will be adopted in the Conference by consensus.

Secondly, on the Programme of Work and Priorities. Nine priorities, such as environment, sustained development and agriculture, etc., have been selected by the Director-General and all these can well fit in the strategic aims and goals of FAO. They are also very proper considering the current changes in the global situation of food and agriculture. We find ourselves in agreement with the measures proposed by the Director-General, that is on the basis of non-growth of budget and reduced administrative costs with a view to carrying on the Major Programmes. At the same time we are deeply concerned over the possible negative effects over cost reduction in some technical and economic programmes.

Thirdly, from the original distribution of the utilization of natural resources, Africa will still be the priority. We would like to support the measures adopted by FAO that priority for the Programme of Work should be laid on Africa, at the same time taking into account all the needs of other Regions, due to a series of problems on food and agriculture currently faced by Africa.

Fourthly, I would like here to mention particularly TCP, since TCP has played a special role in training and advising emergency assistance, promoting investments and formulating products, as well as economic and technical cooperation between developing countries. It is warmly welcomed by the vast number of developing countries.

I also welcome the proposal by the Director-General in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 that the net increase for TCP will be US\$4 million. However, we noted that the present rates of TCP in the Regular Budget will still remain at a level of 11.9 percent, and this is not in line with the actual difficulties and needs from developing countries. We hope that in accordance with the requirement of the Conference Resolution 9/89, in future the percentage in the budget will increase a little bit.

**Francis MBEWE (Zambia):** The document C 91/3 give us a clear and adequate basis for this august body to make a decision on the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget. I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Secretariat in its preparation, in particular the section on the budgetframe, which gives one a bird's eye view of the financial commitments and their possible sources. My delegation welcomes this synopsis of the year and recommends it should become a permanent feature in the presentation of the PWB. We wish therefore to endorse the format of the presentation.

Mr Chairman, the PWB before us has been arrived at through a lot of tradeoffs, resulting in a number of programmes being left out. The Director-General has had to make choices between which of the Resolutions from previous Conferences should be admitted in the PWB. Choices have been hard and a good number of us will complain that several Conference Resolutions are not being implemented. This is greatly due to restraints imposed by the zero growth and lapse factors.

On the question of zero growth, my delegation sees this as being at variance with the concept of passing Conference resolutions, some of which require resources to implement in addition to the normal Regular Programme of the Organization. We do not therefore support the concept of zero growth, particularly against the increasing needs to remove hunger and poverty among billions of underprivileged people of the Third World. How, Mr Chairman, may I ask, can FAO be expected to live up to its motto of Fiat Panis under these circumstances? How can we expect the Organization to operate effectively through borrowing? Imagine the morale this has on the staff of the Organization.

We think that the budget level is the best that can be made against large demands placed upon the Organization. Now that FAO has provided us with a Medium-Term Plan which this Commission has, in principle, endorsed, to move to the next stage, that is Conference Resolution, we seem to have a basis to judge the PWB. We note that the PWB is consistent with this Medium-Term Plan. It is hoped that the concept of zero growth will no longer apply as future PWBs will be based on approved MTPs that we have accepted will be rolling.

Given the restraints imposed on the evolution of the budget, my delegation endorses the main policy choices embodied in the PWB. However, notwithstanding the constraints, my delegation feels that attempts should have been made to initiate implementation of Conference Resolution 9/89 regarding the TCP. To some extent this has been done in absolute terms, but percentages being what they are, give us an impression that nothing has changed from the 1990-91 biennium. The value of TCP, at least among those who need it most, is highly appreciated, and we wish to urge the more fortunate and better-off members of this assembly to visualize the usefulness of TCP in the light of a person performing first-aid resuscitation of a patient who is on the edge of life and death. Would not that applier of first-aid feel internally satisfied on successful resuscitation of a heart which had almost stopped?

My delegation wishes to aid those with different perceptions on this issue which keep surfacing during budget discussions to see this in the light of an administrator of first-aid who saves a patient from dying.

My delegation wishes to propose that the 19/89 Resolution of TCP be reiterated during this Conference and that the 1994-95 budget should reflect this adequately.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a small comment on the formula on the distribution of TCP funds to would-be recipients. On the surface the formula may appear equitable in that a large number of funds will go to the most needy, but in reality it ties the hands of the Director-General to be able to respond effectively to large emergencies. That cannot adequately be accommodated by a 12 percent set-aside for these purposes. There may be need to examine it a little bit further.

Finally and in conclusion my delegation endorses the Programme proposed in this budget and we hope that it will pass through a consensus.

**Mohd. Zaki Haji GHAZALI (Malaysia):** Many of the points that I wanted to say have been mentioned by many speakers before me. However, I would like to make some comments and reiterate a few points.

We are aware that no real programme increase is being proposed by the Director-General in the light of the consensus reached during the last FAO Council. It should be noted that, as mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Thailand this morning, developing countries never agreed to the concept of zero growth, but in order to permit consensus on the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, we have accepted the Director-General's proposal. Notably, the no-growth constraint, and the continued financial constraint faced by the Organization have forced the Director-General to propose reduction in resources for Regional Offices, in administration, and a range of technical and economic programmes.

We are happy to note, however, the Programme priorities and areas of increased resources will comprise of the environment and sustainable development, agricultural data development, women in development, policy advice, Technical Cooperation Programme and International Conference on Nutrition, and forestry - especially TFAP.

We can appreciate the difficulty faced by the Director-General in trying to meet the Conference Resolution 9/89. The TCP share in the total Regular Programme budget has remained at the current level of 11.9 percent.

I would like to echo the sentiments of the distinguished delegate of Pakistan that the TCP allocation for the Asia and Pacific Region needs to give a better reflection of the population size and the prevailing poverty levels in this Region.

We would also like to support the request to initiate the regional study. Finally, I would like to appeal to Member Nations to fulfill their commitments to the Organization in order to alleviate its financial woes in view of the global political developments which will demand a great deal of attention from FAO.

**Mme. Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie):** M'exprimant pour la première fois dans cette instance, je saisis l'occasion qui m'est ainsi offerte de vous féliciter pour votre désignation à la tête de notre Commission. Il m'est également agréable d'associer le Vice-Présidents à cet hommage. Permettez-

moi enfin de remercier et féliciter M. Shah et son équipe pour l'excellent exposé qu'il a bien voulu nous présenter ce matin et pour la clarté et la grande qualité des documents qui nous sont soumis.

Le point de l'ordre du jour qui est soumis à notre attention est l'un des plus importants de notre agenda, de nos discussions. Des décisions qui seront prises ici dépendent en effet des orientations capitales pour notre Organisation. Aussi ma délégation tient-elle à réaffirmer ici même un certain nombre de positions, en ce qui concerne notamment le PCT, les priorités du Programme et le montant du budget.

Pour ce qui est du PCT, ma délégation partage la déception commune à de nombreux pays de voir les recettes de ce programme plafonner à 11.9% du budget total. Nous estimons en effet que ce Programme, qui répond à des besoins immédiats et urgents, est précieux pour nous en tant que pays en voie de développement, et devrait bénéficier de ressources accrues, tel qu'il avait été décidé à notre précédente Conférence.

En raison même de cette caractéristique principale que je viens de mentionner, et qui est en somme de répondre aux imprévus les plus graves, nous pensons qu'il vaudrait mieux éviter une répartition préalable des ressources du Programme, afin de lui permettre de conserver toute sa souplesse d'action et donc toute son efficacité face aux situations d'urgence.

Ma délégation approuve de manière générale les priorités retenues dans le projet de programme. Nous aimerions toutefois appuyer plus particulièrement les activités concernant l'agroforesterie, la lutte contre la désertification, l'aménagement intégré des zones côtières, les ressources hydriques et le Programme de coopération technique, pour en revenir à lui.

Enfin, je voudrais, pour terminer, indiquer que ma délégation est bien consciente des limites imposées par l'adoption du Budget de croissance zéro. Toutefois nous estimons de notre devoir d'adopter une attitude réaliste qui prenne en considération les difficultés rencontrées par la plupart de nos pays.

C'est sur cette base que notre pays participe au consensus dégagé en matière de budget, et ce malgré les efforts que cela peut représenter pour lui.

**Abdesselem ARIFI (Maroc):** Ayant à intervenir pour la première fois, ma délégation tient à vous adresser ses vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la tête de cette importante Commission.

Au vu des défis qui se posent à la communauté internationale en matière de sécurité alimentaire, et d'une manière générale de développement agricole dans une optique de préservation des ressources naturelles et de la sauvegarde de l'environnement, la délégation du Maroc apporte son appui aux objectifs proposés dans le cadre du Programme 1992-93.

Elle estime toutefois que le rôle des populations est en définitive le plus important dans l'oeuvre de mise en valeur agricole et que les contraintes socio-économiques sont souvent plus importantes.

De ce fait, ma délégation souhaite que la FAO renforce les programmes traitant de ces aspects.

Dans cette optique les programmes de terrain revêtent une importance particulière, et ma délégation propose que la FAO les renforce davantage, ce qui ne semble pas être le cas dans le cadre du budget qui nous est proposé.

Le second axe que ma délégation voudrait voir développer est celui de la circulation de l'information au bénéfice des pays membres, leur permettant ainsi de tirer profit des expériences réalisées à travers le monde. Cet axe revêt, à notre avis, une importance de tout premier ordre et contribuerait à rentabiliser les opérations à entreprendre.

Le troisième point qui mérite une attention particulière est relatif au PCT. En effet, le PCT constitue un cadre souple permettant de répondre aux besoins des pays en développement en matière d'étude, de conseil et de planification.

A cet effet, ma délégation estime nécessaire l'augmentation des ressources allouées à ce programme de manière à répondre aux demandes exprimées, et tient aussi à rejeter toute tendance visant à son allocation par pays.

S'agissant du budget en général, ma délégation, tout en exprimant sa déception quant à son niveau de façon générale, donne son accord dans un souci de préserver le consensus.

Après ces considérations d'ordre général, la délégation du Maroc souhaiterait aborder quelques réflexions de détail concernant le Programme 2.1.2 ainsi que celui sur les forêts.

S'agissant du programme 2.1.2 Culture, tel qu'il est structuré, il se présente comme un programme complet répondant aussi bien aux besoins d'une conception "filière de production" prise comme telle ainsi qu'aux besoins liés au développement des systèmes de culture dans leur ensemble.

On ne peut toutefois que regretter la faiblesse du budget prévu au titre de ce programme dans sa globalité et au titre de certains Sous-programmes dont le 2.1.2.2 et le 2.1.2.3, qui méritent une attention un peu plus particulière.

Par ailleurs, l'analyse des éléments proposés au sein des différents sous-programmes fait soulever de notre part un certain nombre d'observations que nous voudrions exposer:

Ainsi, et concernant le Sous-programme 2.1.1 Conservation et gestion des ressources phytogénétiques, nous ne pouvons que louer et soutenir les efforts accomplis dans ce domaine. Cependant, beaucoup reste à faire pour le développement d'un système mondial sur les ressources phytogénétiques assurant l'exploitation optimale des ressources mondiales où elles se trouvent, tout en sauvegardant les intérêts des pays, et des agriculteurs, et en les faisant profiter au maximum des avantages du système.

Des efforts importants restent à faire pour doter les pays intéressés des infrastructures de conservation et pour les aider à gérer leurs ressources phytogénétiques.

Concernant le Sous-programme 2.1.2 Conduite et Diversification des cultures, nous estimons opportun d'accorder un intérêt plus grand aux légumineuses alimentaires; cultures connaissant des handicaps importants sur les plans des performances génétiques, de la conduite technique de la transformation et de l'utilisation. La priorité qui semble être accordée au soja et à l'arachide pour la période 1992-93 ne devrait nullement, par ailleurs, reléguer au second ordre les cultures telles que la fève, le pois-chiche et la lentille qui constituent des composantes capitales des systèmes de culture de bon nombre de pays, dont le Maroc, et dont les poids sociaux et nutritionnels, et économiques ne sont plus à démontrer.

**Hermann REDL (Austria) (Original language German):** Austria welcomes the Programme of Work and Budget and the priorities for 1992-93. Approval of the FAO priorities for my country means that Austria, as in the past and as established in the Basic Texts of FAO, will continue to fulfil its financial obligations. The budget submitted by the Director-General foresees for the coming biennium zero growth. Bearing in mind the problems in the world, we cannot really be fully satisfied with zero growth. Austria nevertheless feels that this is a realistic criterion and we therefore very much hope that this proposal will receive the broadest support of the Conference. It is the view of the Austrian delegation that the future preparation of the budget should be in close collaboration with the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan, as I explained in greater detail yesterday.

Some weeks ago in Paris we saw the conclusion of the Tenth World Forestry Congress with the adoption of the Paris Declaration and we hope that the conclusions and results of the Forestry Congress will be included in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. When there is reference to forestry activities we should not forget that every second 5 000 square metres of forest disappear in the world. This means that in one year the area of forests that we lose is as large as that of Germany. Protection and guarantees for water, land and air are the most important questions for us. In the past the environment has been upset and now the environment is the major focal point for all future development.

We welcome the Programme of Work and Budget as submitted by the Director-General. We particularly welcome the importance given to the environment as regards water resources, land management and other resources. Training in forestry is an area which has to be given special priority. We follow with great interest the statistics activities of FAO to guarantee a return to the improvement of our forest coverage. We have to take into account the underlying features of forestry. We have to make sure that forest industries are close to nature. Forests need to be tackled in detail. They cannot always be seen just in terms of trade. All this has been seen and explained very eloquently by scientists. My country, as in the past, will continue to support specific FAO projects in agriculture and forestry. We think the highest priority should be given to forest protection and conservation. In the future forests should be managed in such a way that their positive effects are guaranteed so as to make sure that forest soils are also preserved. We need to apply appropriate cultivation methods, using the most natural forms of cultivation.

I would like to make another point. My delegation has on repeated occasions explained that we would welcome the inclusion in the Programme of Work and Budget of an outline of expenditure for the 1988-89 and 1991-92 biennia in



the form of tables, and we have an estimate for future biennia. We would like to see tables showing the development in inflationary effects in 1980-1990, 1990-91 estimates for 1991-92 and future estimates for 1992-93.

As a representative of a European country, I would also like to make a few remarks on FAO work in Europe. In the Programme of Work and Budget we support these activities in Europe. However, bearing in mind the changes which we have witnessed in recent times, we believe these changes need to be taken into account in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO. This would affect both agriculture and forestry. We welcome FAO's collaboration with the Directorate of Geneva. The EEC should continue in the future to take into account the conclusions of the European Conference on Agriculture and there should be collaboration with the European Economic Commission. My country would be glad to work constructively in this direction. We have every cause to support the activities in Europe. Our attention is drawn by FAO's activities in the Codex Alimentarius both in Europe and throughout the world.

I would like to refer to the work of the EEC on women in agriculture and rural development. We have to stress the fact that rural families should not be forgotten. In Austrian agrarian policy agriculture is based on family units. Centralized planning in agriculture and forestry has failed. Austria believes that the new system for planning the Budget is most successful. We therefore welcome the points made by Mr Shah.

In concluding, I should like to express the hope that the forecast indicated in the Programme of Work and Budget is adopted by Conference consensus.

**Abdesselem ARIFI (Maroc):** Notre pays vient de réaliser une étude très approfondie du secteur des légumineuses qui a nettement mis en relief le poids important des contraintes dont notamment celle de la pauvreté du matériel génétique. Elle a également fait ressentir le faible niveau de circulation de l'information entre pays relative aux différentes composantes du secteur, ainsi que le niveau très limité des échanges de matériel génétique.

Dans cet esprit, nous estimons nécessaire la multiplication des rencontres régionales et internationales traitant de ce secteur ainsi que l'encouragement des échanges de matériel génétique et de l'information entre pays.

S'agissant du grand programme forêt, tout en adhérant aux grandes lignes du programme forêt, la délégation du Maroc propose d'accorder une place plus importante à la forêt méditerranéenne, et demande à ce qu'une finalisation du programme d'action pour la forêt méditerranéenne soit faite, ce qui permettra aux pays de la région de bénéficier pleinement de ce programme.

**Mme. Maria DE LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert):** La délégation du Cap-Vert, intervenant pour la première fois, tient tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour votre élection à la tête de cette importante Commission.

Nos félicitations s'adressent également à M. Shah pour la présentation du document soumis à notre examen et approbation.

La situation de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde ne cesse de s'aggraver, et, par conséquent, les besoins des pays sont toujours grandissants. Nous sommes conscients que les pays en développement éprouvent des difficultés particulières pour s'acquitter de leurs obligations et régler leurs contributions.

Nous reconnaissons tous le rôle que la FAO aurait à jouer dans ces conditions, face aux demandes croissantes d'appui et de services de la part des Etats Membres et particulièrement des pays en développement.

Nous nous demandons: Comment la FAO serait-elle en mesure de jouer et poursuivre son rôle auprès des populations menacées, dans le cadre de son mandat, si les disponibilités financières dont elle dispose sont si limitées?

En ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget 1992-93, nous félicitons et remercions le Directeur général et son secrétariat pour les efforts déployés dans la sélection rigoureuse des priorités, et une programmation et gestion plus adéquates dont les propositions s'encadrent, pour la première fois, dans un Plan à moyen terme tel que l'a souhaité la Conférence.

Nous soutenons les propositions de réajustement et les nouvelles priorités présentées, mais regrettons que le principe de croissance zéro ait été adopté à l'heure actuelle, où le renforcement de la solidarité humaine est exigé et où l'effort financier des organisations internationales doit s'accroître davantage.

Toutefois, nous acceptons la solution de compromis présentée par le Directeur général dans l'esprit de l'adoption du PTB par consensus. En ce qui concerne le Grand Programme Pêches, nous appuyons les priorités établies, mais regrettons qu'en dépit de son importance il ait fait l'objet de diminution.

Le secteur des pêches est stratégique pour l'économie du Cap-Vert, puisque son développement permettra la création d'un bon nombre d'emplois, améliorera la diète alimentaire, contribuera à la viabilisation d'autres secteurs, tout en permettant l'insertion dynamique du pays dans le système économique mondial.

Pour ce qui est du Programme de coopération technique, nous regrettons que l'augmentation proposée ne réponde pas aux sollicitations et aux réels besoins des Etats Membres.

En effet, nous estimons que ce programme, vu son utilité et efficacité, doit être maintenu flexible et son niveau accru dans la mesure des possibilités.

Nous estimons que le PCT ne doit pas faire l'objet d'affectation par région. Quant à la procédure pour l'élaboration du PTB, nous appuyons les propositions du Directeur général tendant à la mise en oeuvre d'une procédure plus souple et à la fois efficace, selon un calendrier plus réaliste.

Avant de terminer, M. le Président, nous aimerions appuyer les déclarations de Madagascar et du Congo, entre autres, qui soulignent la priorité qui doit être accordée à l'Afrique, notamment dans les Programmes de pêches, forêts, semences et engrais.

**Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** In the name of God, Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor. I should like to welcome the new Members and the Associate Members who have joined the FAO family. I also congratulate you on your Chairmanship.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to congratulate the Director-General and FAO for all their efforts in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. It is our hope that the Conference pays attention to the issue of zero growth. If we have approximately 95 million people on this planet every year, we should at the same time think of more production as a result of the need for expanding FAO activities.

Having said that, my delegation hopes to see that the Programme of Work and Budget should be approved by consensus. The way to consensus is smooth. In January 1991 the Joint Session of the Programme of Work and Budget reached a consensus for the summary of work and projects which were proposed to them.

The Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June 1991 also approved the Programme of Work and Budget. In regard to the TCP, it is regrettable to see that the share of TCP which is very important to the developing countries has been decreased. We hope in the future work and budget they have first to set the percentage of TCP aside, which is approved by the Conference, and after that look for the other programmes. It means that we hope that the next time we do not say that because of the difficulty of this programme or that programme we could not assign what had been discussed for the TCP. I think it should be assigned, and after that they have to think of the rest.

With regard to the South-South and South-North cooperation, the Group of 77 made a proposal to all ministers of foreign affairs of the developing countries to assign a contact point in their country and to give us list of experts and scientists who are willing to participate in short-term consultancy on the basis of room, board and lodging in the recipient countries.

The Group of 77 also asked the OECD Group to inform their Member States to give us the contact point for those scientists and experts in agriculture who would like to help humanity, not for money but as volunteers who would like to assist and help developing countries on a short-term consultancy.

In this respect my delegation would like to ask FAO to arrange the computer facilities of FAO in order to have a list of experts and scientists who would be given to us in the developing countries and also the developed countries which would like to come voluntarily.

I think this would be one solution for TCP. We hope the Conference puts emphasis on the very low cost, but very important, aspects of cooperation.

With regard to the priorities, we believe that the Programme of Work and Budget has been very well done. It is to the benefit of developing countries. The priorities are agreed by my delegation.

With regard to sustainable agriculture and environment, the Islamic Republic of Iran fully supports this priority. Two years ago we assigned one of our provinces which is 2 250 000 hectares for integrated agricultural development and sustainable agriculture. We have had the cooperation of FAO in this programme and we are doing the same with all the other UN Agencies. We hope to make this one of the important cases studied for FAO and other UN Agencies.

I hope that during the Conference the Budget will be approved by consensus.

**Mrs Hannelore BENJAMIN (Dominica):** My delegation would like to congratulate Mr Shah on the excellent job done to prepare the papers before us. I suppose that we have to vote in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget, mainly for the zero growth, when we are in tremendous need of further financial assistance. Up until now the Programme of Work and Budget has been for us what we call a very special part in the field of agriculture. It helped us to increase our agriculture production; it helped the smallest of our farmers to dream of a better future. But with zero growth what will be the outcome? There will be fewer TCP projects which are vital for a small country such as ours. Never before have we faced a financial crisis such as that which we are facing now.

The Director-General is asking for a cost increase of 0.04 percent. For my delegation that is just a symbolic figure. It will not be of very substantial help when we discuss fundamental projects like the TCP. We are in need of those projects in countries as small as ours, Dominica, in our region.

Consensus is fine. We can agree upon that. But where do we go from there? Will it be backwards instead of forwards? To cut down on aid would mean cutting back on our economic development. We need substantial aid to enable us, the developing countries, to become economically independent. Is that not what development is all about? Without assistance we are asking our farmers to build a house but do not provide a roof over it. We do not want always to be looked upon as a continuous beggar, so please give us the necessary assistance to allow us to continue on our own. What are we going to tell our farmers who already work with bent backs so that they can meet the demands asked for? Is it to work harder to get more out of their soil and be paid less because they can never compete on the international market, nor on the trade market?

Mr Chairman, you will understand when I say that the available funds of FAO already cannot be of satisfaction for us nor can they meet the approved projects. There is so much that needs to be done in our developing countries. This calls for an increase of budget. We may be a small country, but we have always paid our financial requirement and paid our dues on time.

Last but not least, I should like to say that if we could combine that, as has been stated before by the Nordic Group, and give FAO the chance for better financial assets to bridge for us, the developing countries, the need we are in, many of our problems would disappear like a fata morgana.

**B.K. KISILU (Kenya):** Allow me first of all to join my colleagues in this Commission in thanking Mr Shah for the elaborate and clear manner with which he introduced this Agenda Item.

In spite of financial constraints, FAO has continued to do a commendable job in the various fields of its mandate. However, we feel that this record would be impossible to maintain unless resources are available to the Organization to enable it to meet the increasing demands from its Member States.

We know that Africa has suffered and continues to suffer from all sorts of problems, including hunger and malnutrition. Therefore we are concerned when we note in the current Programme of Work and Budget that more will not be available to these poor people. In this respect we would wish to refer to the reduced allocation of TCP in the overall budget. We feel that this could have been reviewed upwards because cuts in it mean more afflictions on the very people FAO has always committed itself to help, to emerge from those undesirable conditions.

We are of course aware of the voices whose concerns are that TCP allocations should be reduced in favour of other priorities. It is important for all gathered here to know that Africa and the developing countries have benefited considerably from their TCP resources. It should be understood that our farmers, unlike farmers in other regions of the world, are still dependent on agriculture for subsistence and income. It should therefore be the responsibility of FAO to raise the allocations of TCP to the level recommended by the last Conference in order to help these farmers with their food production, storage methods and modernization of their fisheries and forestry management techniques.

My delegation continues to support FAO's activities in Environment and Sustainable Development as well as on Biological Diversity. In this regard we recommend that this Programme of Work and Budget be approved by the Conference by consensus in order to allow FAO to live up to the expectations of its Member States.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** M. le Président, même si ma délégation l'a fait avant moi, permettez-moi de vous féliciter d'avoir été élu à ce poste de Président de la Deuxième Commission. Je me réjouis de voir siéger à cette tribune non seulement un homme d'une grande expérience, mais aussi le représentant d'un pays de la Communauté européenne, le représentant d'un pays agricole et commercial très proche de la France et enfin, je parle en mon nom personnel, le ressortissant d'un pays où j'ai passé moi-même de nombreuses et agréables années de mon existence.

M. le Président, notre délégation s'est déjà exprimée sur cet important sujet lors de la centième session du Conseil, notamment sur l'aspect financier du budget, et dans ses précédentes interventions devant cette Commission; elle avait déjà commenté les activités de l'Organisation lors de la période biennale 1992-93 et indiqué tout l'intérêt qu'elle accorde au Plan à moyen terme qui constitue à l'évidence le résultat le plus positif du récent examen de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais toutefois, puisque l'occasion m'en est donnée, revenir un peu plus en détail sur les perspectives de redéploiement des activités de notre Organisation, la nouvelle procédure budgétaire, et enfin la nécessaire complémentarité du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain; donc trois parties dans mon intervention.

Tout d'abord, le redéploiement des activités du Programme ordinaire. Dans le cadre de ce qu'il faut bien appeler la croissance zéro du budget, l'absence de toute augmentation réelle du programme rend plus nécessaire encore l'effort de sélectivité des projets et des programmes et le redéploiement des activités de l'Organisation déjà entrepris lors de la dernière Conférence.

La délégation française reconnaît le bien-fondé des priorités accordées par le projet de budget du Secrétariat pour les deux prochaines années (et je liste ici quatre sujets qui me paraissent véritablement prioritaires):

Tout d'abord, l'environnement et le développement durable, priorité reconnue par tous dans la perspective de la préparation de la Conférence des Nations Unies pour l'environnement et le développement, et qui est conforme à l'émergence d'une nouvelle sensibilité dans le domaine international. Ma délégation souhaiterait toutefois connaître les dispositions opérationnelles adoptées par l'Organisation au-delà des réformes de procédure et de structure que nous connaissons comme la désignation d'un Conseiller spécial de haut rang ou la création d'un Groupe de travail et d'un Comité interdépartemental. Nous voudrions savoir ce qui a été fait pour une réelle prise en compte des préoccupations environnementales dans l'ensemble des projets et des programmes de la FAO, tant il est vrai que ces préoccupations doivent constituer le ciment de l'ensemble des activités de l'Organisation. Qu'en est-il par exemple, je pose là une question précise, de l'étude d'impact des projets sur l'environnement dont les instances de l'Organisation ont déjà débattu?

Deuxième priorité qui me paraît essentielle: les avis en matière de politique agricole dont notre pays n'a cessé, depuis plusieurs années, de souligner l'importance. Une évolution dans ce sens des programmes de la FAO se traduisant par le renforcement des moyens consacrés au Conseil en politique agricole et alimentaire conditionne l'avenir de l'Organisation dans le contexte désormais consacré par les textes de la responsabilité nationale pour l'exécution des projets. En d'autres termes, et pour être plus clair M. le Président, à l'heure où la FAO va voir inexorablement diminuer une partie des ressources qui lui étaient attribuées sous la forme des coûts d'appui au programme par le CNUED, il faut qu'elle regagne sous la forme des avis en matière de politique agricole la part d'influence qu'elle exerce auprès des gouvernements nationaux en contribuant à l'heure actuelle au financement de projets techniques. Ce qu'elle perd quantitativement, peut-être peut-elle le regagner qualitativement en diffusant auprès de ces mêmes gouvernements des avis en matière de politique qui leur permettront de faire les bons choix en matière de politique agricole et alimentaire.

Troisième priorité: les fonctions de collecte, de traitement et de diffusion des données concernant l'agriculture. Ma délégation se félicite à cet égard du projet de création d'un centre mondial d'information agricole et des performances déjà constatées du Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide.

Enfin, quatrième et dernière priorité que je ne fais qu'évoquer: la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition sur laquelle ma délégation aura l'occasion de s'exprimer sous un autre point de l'ordre du jour.

Deuxième thème de mes réflexions: la nouvelle procédure budgétaire. Sur ce sujet, je serai plus bref, je me suis déjà exprimé au Conseil. Lors de l'examen du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget en juin dernier, cette nouvelle procédure avait déjà été assez généralement appréciée. En fait, c'est seulement maintenant, au stade de la Conférence, que nous sommes à même de porter un jugement sur les avantages de cette procédure qui n'est sans doute pas sans créer des coûts supplémentaires pour l'Organisation. Ma délégation considère que cette nouvelle procédure budgétaire, si elle contribue à favoriser le dialogue entre les Etats Membres et entre le Secrétariat et les Etats Membres, permet davantage de s'acheminer vers un cadrage concerné du budget de nature à faciliter son absorption par consensus. Mais elle permet davantage d'exercer ce cadrage que d'ajuster les orientations des programmes de l'Organisation aux recommandations émises par le Conseil.

Ainsi, et là je prends encore des exemples précis, je pose des questions: le Secrétariat a-t-il vraiment tenu compte des observations formulées par le Conseil en juin dernier sur le tassement préoccupant des ressources consacrées au Grand Programme Pêche ou bien sur l'évolution à la baisse des moyens réservés au développement de l'élevage? Le Secrétariat a-t-il tenu compte de ce que nous lui demandions de faire en préparant le projet qui nous est aujourd'hui soumis?

Concernant la préparation du Programme de travail et budget, je rappellerai seulement l'intérêt que nous portons au Plan à moyen terme et je signalerai à cet égard que le développement de cette procédure, le Plan à moyen terme, devrait peut-être nous permettre, après quelques tâtonnements, d'ici quelques années, de revenir à une procédure budgétaire allégée. Mais ce n'est là que l'esquisse d'une réflexion que nous pourrions peut-être poursuivre dans deux ans.

Troisième et dernier thème de mes réflexions: la complémentarité du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain. Malgré le lien toujours étroit existant entre le Programme de travail et le Programme ordinaire, ces deux programmes poursuivent en fait des objectifs différents. Le Programme de terrain répond pour l'essentiel à des besoins précis des Etats Membres tandis que le Programme ordinaire qui constitue la capacité de réflexion, de synthèse et d'orientation de la FAO vise des objectifs plus généraux dans une perspective à plus long terme. Et c'est précisément cette perspective que consolide le Plan à moyen terme. Peut-être conviendrait-il de renforcer le rôle du Comité du Programme très accaparé ces dernières années par la mise en oeuvre de l'examen et la mise en application de ses conclusions et recommandations. Il faudrait en effet permettre au Comité du Programme de devenir le tuteur des projets de développement agricole du Programme de terrain. Ce Programme de terrain me paraît aujourd'hui encore trop assujéti aux multiples requêtes des bénéficiaires, requêtes au demeurant très variées, parfois divergentes, ainsi qu'aux préoccupations également divergentes des donateurs. Ce qui fait qu'il est empêché de jouer véritablement son rôle de gardien de la cohérence et de la complémentarité qui sont les deux thèmes que je mettais en exergue en parlant de ces deux programmes.

Au-delà de ce commentaire général, je pourrais bien sûr, et j'en ai déjà fait mention au Conseil, regretter la stagnation du Programme de coopération technique dans le Programme ordinaire, même si le PCT connaît une augmentation en termes nominaux qui le situe à un niveau acceptable, 12 pour cent du budget. Je pourrais aussi m'inquiéter du tassement des ressources consacrées à la réalisation de certains programmes dont l'intérêt ne peut pourtant être contesté, et je cite: la promotion de systèmes intégrés de nutrition des plantes, facteur de développement d'une agriculture plus économe et plus autonome; le Programme d'action pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires dont l'ancienneté et l'ampleur des activités de terrain qui en dépendent justifient une évaluation en profondeur; le Sous-programme élevage où un meilleur équilibre pourrait être recherché entre les transferts de biotechnologies et les activités plus traditionnelles; enfin et surtout, le Plan d'action forestier tropical qui a été longuement examiné par notre conseil lors de sa dernière session et dont la promotion doit être au coeur des priorités budgétaires du Département des forêts; et quand je dis les priorités budgétaires, je veux dire s'inscrire dans le Programme régulier de l'Organisation.

Mais il est clair que l'Organisation dispose de moyens réduits, qu'elle a déjà subi depuis plusieurs années une longue cure d'amaigrissement, et que des choix sont à faire dans le cadre des redéploiements dont je viens de faire état.

M. le Président, en conclusion, et ces réserves étant faites, vous ne vous étonnerez pas que ma délégation approuve globalement et appuie le contenu du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation et qu'elle se prononce, comme l'a fait d'ailleurs mon Ministre hier devant la Conférence, en faveur du budget-programme 1992-93 dont nous souhaitons vivement qu'il soit adopté par consensus.

**Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger):** M. le Président, je voudrais commencer par vous présenter mes félicitations pour la présidence que vous assumez remarquablement de notre Commission.

Je voudrais également présenter mes remerciements et mes félicitations à M. Shah pour l'exposé clair qu'il a fait pour introduire cet important point de notre ordre du jour.

M. le Président, ma délégation approuve les priorités qui ressortent du Programme de travail et budget. Nous savons que la fixation des priorités est un exercice assez complexe, et nous savons la masse et la rigueur de travail avec lesquelles les services compétents de la FAO puis, à maintes reprises, les instances et les organes de notre Organisation, procèdent pour la détermination des projets qui sont présentés dans le document soumis à notre examen.

Nous considérons que ces propositions sont équilibrées même si, compte tenu du fait qu'un choix, quel qu'il soit, présente des degrés d'un pays à un autre, donc je disais que, même si nous considérons que des priorités pourraient être davantage accordées à des éléments de programme en matière de désertification, des éléments de programme concernant la protection des



cultures, et également des éléments de programme concernant les aspects de formation qui sous-tendent les différents programmes spécifiés dans le document, d'une façon générale, pour ce qui est des priorités, ma délégation témoigne une satisfaction par rapport à ce qui est proposé.

M. le Président, nous pensons que le PCT aurait mérité davantage d'intérêt et davantage de parts concernant les proportions dans le programme.

De même, nous reconnaissons, compte tenu de la situation globale qui avait prévalu pour l'établissement du volume du Programme de travail et budget, qu'un effort a été fait, même si nous sommes loin de l'esprit de la Résolution de 1989 concernant le PCT.

Nous souhaiterions que les exercices prochains du budget pour les bienniums 1994-95 puissent davantage tenir compte de cette Résolution de 1989 qui souhaiterait accorder une part plus substantielle au PCT.

Nous disons ceci parce que nul n'est besoin de souligner ici l'intérêt et les résultats très efficaces que tout le monde reconnaît au PCT en matière d'assistance technique qu'il apporte particulièrement aux pays en développement et aux pays les moins avancés, mais également la réponse qu'il permet de faire de façon très pratique pour répondre à leurs besoins d'urgence qui, vous le savez, compte tenu des difficultés de plus en plus importantes qui visent ces pays, sont malheureusement le lot quotidien, peut-être pas quotidien, mais disons le lot presque normal dans ces pays.

M. le Président, pour terminer, je voudrais faire quelques commentaires sur le niveau du budget qui est proposé dans le cadre du Programme de travail pour exprimer un regret de voir que ces propositions sont centrées sur une croissance zéro. Mais les raisons qui prévalent sont également très réalistes, et il faut donc ne pas occulter cet aspect de la question.

Donc, nous nous allions à cette proposition de croissance zéro, même si encore une fois nous avons quelques insatisfactions par rapport à cette adoption.

Mais la recherche du consensus, qui surtout a guidé les propositions du Secrétariat de la FAO et qui a dominé les travaux des différentes Commissions et organes de la FAO qui se sont penchés sur cette question, devrait prévaloir et permettre que la Conférence puisse approuver le projet de budget et de programme par consensus. Et nous souhaitons que toutes les délégations puissent être sensibles à cette ligne directrice qui a prévalu aux propositions contenues dans les documents pertinents.

Voilà, M. le Président, les quelques commentaires que nous souhaitons faire sur cette question, en disant, pour terminer, que nous apprécions les propositions faites par le Directeur général concernant les nouvelles procédures. Et nous pensons que ces propositions constituent ou constitueraient pour l'avenir un cadre important pour pouvoir non seulement profiter des acquis issus des exercices qui, jusqu'à présent, ont prévalu à l'établissement du Programme de travail et budget, mais permettraient de pouvoir engranger d'autres aspects positifs qui, manifestement, seraient apportés par ces propositions-là.

**Mohamed S. KARBOUJ (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** I should like to begin, if I may, by congratulating you on your election to the chair of this Commission. It is a very important Commission and I should also like to congratulate the Secretariat for their excellent preparation of this large document. I am also grateful to Mr Shah for his splendid introduction to this subject.

I shall be very brief, Mr Chairman, bearing in mind that the programmes and priorities approved by the Council will be implemented through the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. The Syrian delegation would like to insist on the following points:

We need to expand the promotion of Regional Offices, consolidate cooperation with international bodies, and confirm the increase proposed for the resources of the Technical Cooperation Programme. We should not introduce any changes in the working methods followed within the Technical Cooperation Programme. We need to confirm the maintaining of the present level of the lapse factor, especially as the aim is to make sure that the Programme adopted is properly implemented. We also want to see the Programme of Work and Budget as submitted by the Director-General adopted by consensus.

**Sra. Mayra IVANKOVICH ANZOLA (Panamá):** Con breves palabras, deseo manifestarle el placer de mi delegación ante su atinada elección como Presidente de esta Comisión, y a los Vicepresidentes que lo acompañan en su función. Deseo también felicitar al Sr. Shah por la magnífica exposición del tema y el aprecio por la calidad de los documentos que tenemos para el estudio. Vemos con agrado que introducen mejoras, los hacen más completos y más comprensibles.

La delegación de Panamá desea expresar sus puntos de vista en este tema, Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que sin duda representa la vida misma de la Organización, y la forma como llevará a cabo su programa de trabajo en el próximo bienio.

Todos conocemos el papel de esta Organización en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación. Papel guía en un mundo cambiante donde hablamos de paz, de progreso y democracia. En su discurso de inauguración, el Director General manifestó su disponibilidad en prestar ayuda y asesoramiento a países que en este momento la necesitan para fortalecer sus democracias. Todo esto quiere decir que la FAO tiene un papel mundial reconocido, pero necesita también medios financieros para llevar a cabo sus programas.

La delegación de Panamá apoya en general la forma equilibrada y atinada con que el Director General presenta dichas propuestas, proponiendo por un lado aumento de los recursos en determinados aspectos, y una reducción en otros. Sin embargo, la magnitud de las necesidades del mundo en desarrollo nos lleva a manifestar que en una Organización como ésta, no se puede aceptar el crecimiento cero como una regla futura. Un crecimiento cero retrasa sus Programas de labores y amenaza con paralizarla.

Mi delegación apoya las prioridades establecidas en el Programa de Labores. Resaltamos algunas: el medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible. En este aspecto, el Gobierno de Panamá da trascendental importancia a las acciones encaminadas a proteger el medio ambiente. La participación de la mujer en el desarrollo; mi delegación apoya los proyectos de desarrollo para la

mujer como una verdadera fuerza socioeconómica. En general, consideramos que todas las esferas que reciban mayores recursos son importantes. Consideramos que las Oficinas Regionales han venido desarrollando un valioso trabajo en proyectos regionales y subregionales. Este es el caso de la Oficina Regional de América Latina y el Caribe.

En este orden, nos preocupa que se han venido limitando los gastos en un renglón de importancia como son los consultores. Por lo que respecta al PCT y su reconocida función catalizadora, lamentamos que no haya alcanzado más que un 11.9 por ciento del presupuesto total. Ha sido el PCT el que nos ha permitido iniciar proyectos subregionales de gran importancia para nuestra Región, con limitados fondos pero que han representado una ayuda inestimable como en el caso del cólera.

Deseamos expresar que mi delegación considera de gran importancia continuar con la flexibilidad en los recursos y asignaciones del PCT, y que cualquier asignación previa por países, regiones o territorios anularía su eficiencia y validez de la espontaneidad de atender demandas urgentes.

Consideramos lamentable que no se hayan cumplido los términos de la Resolución 9/89 de la Conferencia pasada que instaba al Director General a restablecer el nivel del PCT al 14 por ciento por lo menos.

Para nuestra delegación, continúan teniendo validez los postulados de la Resolución 9/89. Deseamos apoyar al Director General en su empeño de continuar dando asistencia a todos los Estados Miembros, a pesar de las graves limitaciones financieras por las que atraviesa la Organización.

De igual manera, manifestamos nuestro apoyo a los preparativos para la celebración de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición. Y para finalizar en un espíritu de consenso, mi delegación apoya el nivel del Presupuesto para el próximo bienio.

**Tara Nath BHATTARAI (Nepal):** Mr Chairman, since Nepal is taking the floor for the first time, allow me to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of the Second Commission, and let me extend our sincere appreciation to Mr Shah for his clear and concise presentation of the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for the period 1992-93.

Nepal shares the views expressed by the distinguished delegates from Pakistan and Malaysia earlier about the regional allocation of budget, particularly in the case of the Southeast Asia Region. This Region, besides having the largest share of global population, many of them being below the absolute poverty level, has a need for increasing agricultural productivity without causing a detrimental effect to the environment, for sustainable development has been of paramount importance.

To be brief, Nepal feels that the Himalayan ecosystem of the South Asia Region, which is a unique ecosystem found in this Region alone, is facing severe pressure from the increasing human and animal population, which has threatened the continuation of the strong traditional linkages between the key elements of the hill farming systems. This situation, if allowed to continue further, may ultimately affect the environment of that Region. Therefore we urge FAO that such a unique system, of global concern also in other regions, be covered by specific programmes.

With this suggestion we would like to express our approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

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COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE  
QUINTA SESION

(14 November 1991)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.15 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission II

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 9.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 (continued)

16. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 (suite)

16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** The meeting is called to order. We go on with Item 16.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia is pleased to see you, Mr Chairman, in the Chair again at the start of another day. I am sure that, under your direction, the business of today will proceed as efficiently as it did yesterday.

Our statement on the item before us is a reiteration of what we have already said under this item in the Council. The views we hold and expressed there we continue to retain. Our position is support for a consensus budget based on maintaining the current level of the budget in real terms and containing cost increases to the maximum extent possible.

We are, therefore, pleased with the efforts that have been made in this direction in the proposed budget. Another element with which we agree is the emphasis placed on establishing priorities, including some which we strongly support, such as environment and sustainable development, Women in Development and policy advice.

While we are pleased with efforts made to date, there do remain some areas of reservation for us in the budget. They include the level of cost increases, the lapse factor and the TCP. We would have wished them to be otherwise.

From their statements it is fairly obvious that the vast majority of members present would wish to see the unanimous endorsement of a Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. We certainly do. We must encourage those with strong views in the matter to work together towards achieving this.

Non-payment of contributions by many members of the Organization has had a detrimental effect on the financial position of the Organization. We must have these funds if the Organization is to operate effectively, meet its potential and carry out the many areas of work to which, collectively and individually, member countries attribute priority. Rather than remonstrating with those who have not paid, we should be making every effort to encourage them to do so. It would be in all our interests and in the interests of the Organization.

Non-payment has been given as the reason for the Organization borrowing, which is something many countries, including Australia, do not favour. If all countries met their financial obligations to the Organization, there would also not be a need to increase the Working Capital Fund and to replenish the Special Reserve Account.

As a country which meets its financial obligations, Australia does not wish to pay again, whether it be by way of interest on borrowing or additional assessed contributions in order to contribute to offsetting the non-payment by others. I am sure there are many other countries in a similar situation.

Therefore, we appeal again for all members who have not paid their contributions and arrears to do so. We feel that any efforts which can be made by this Organization and its members to encourage and bring this about, even though it may involve compromise, would help to facilitate the attainment of the Consensus Budget we are hoping for.

As requested by you yesterday, Mr Chairman, we will comment on the Programme Budget process, including the Outline, on a separate occasion, and we wish to reserve the right to do so.

**Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** My delegation speaks in the name of the 13 Member States of the CARICOM. We also share the concerns of all small developing countries, in particular small island states. The matter under consideration in this Agenda Item is the very life-blood of the Organization, for it not only reflects what will be done over the next biennium in response to poverty, concerns about poverty alleviation, abatement of malnutrition, improving rural life, agricultural development, including the very process of development itself.

Moreover, it also reflects decisions about the means to do so. That is why our interests are so high. For small developing countries FAO represents a lifeline because it is an institution with which we have been accustomed to dealing, which is sensitive and responsive to our concerns and needs and ever willing to cooperate in mutual respect, to hammer away at loosening the constraints which attend the process of agricultural development.

That is not to say that we are not concerned or we do not care about the need for prudence and transparency in the way the resources of the Organization are managed.

Let it be clearly understood that developing countries are as vigilant as any others, and perhaps more so than many, in this respect, for we know about scarce resources. We understand what it means to make ends meet.

Therefore, nothing we have done or said so far in the debates on the Programme of Work and Budget should be construed to be an abrogation of our responsibilities in this regard. However we would assert that the process of preparation and formulation of the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget has been marked by an unprecedented degree of transparency, full participation and guidance of the membership since January of this year. It reflects an extraordinary accommodation made on the basis of significant investment of time, intellectual energy and no small measure of goodwill, on the part of the membership of the FAO community.

In the process many of us have had to compromise significantly on some long-held principles. In particular the many reluctantly gave way to the few who held fast to the concept of zero growth, in circumstances where the needs and requirements for development assistance have neither abated nor stabilized, but indeed have increased. But generally we are willing to

compromise in the expectation that we will not have a hung budget for the 1992-93 biennium, so that the 1992-93 biennium will not, like its forerunner 1990-91, become a lost biennium.

The fact is that a compromise has been struck: we have before us a budget posited within the context of a strategic framework, the 1992-97 Medium-Term Plan, which has been accepted as being useful, significant and responsive to the concerns of the independent review.

Therefore, let the rhetoric and the pious platitudes about concerns for development now give way to decisive action and let us, therefore, recommend unanimously to Conference that the 1992-93 Programme of Work and Budget be adopted by consensus.

I would now like to make a few brief observations in some specific areas of particular interest to small countries like ours. We agree with the Programme priorities as outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget and we are particularly pleased at the increases proposed in the area of environment and sustainable development, biological diversity, agricultural data development, Women in Development, policy advice, the Technical Cooperation Programme, nutrition and forestry.

We would wish to indicate, however, that in the Programme area of natural resources we in the small developing countries have particular concerns about the question of land resource inventories and evaluations and the application of land-use planning methods to the concerns of small island states. We would wish to see that reflected in the way in which the Budget is implemented.

We are also concerned with, and we note in particular, the points made in respect of research technology and development, and we support in particular paragraph 302 where reference is made to a proposed consultation with respect to research management in small and least-developed countries, a matter of particular concern in so far as institutional arrangements for research management, particularly sub-regional in scope.

We also support the views expressed in paragraph 304 with respect to the need for examining and validating the traditional technologies used by farmers in small developing countries.

The programme for rural development also is of interest to us. In particular, we would wish to advocate that the issue of agricultural education extension and training be linked to the issues related to research and technology transfer, particularly institutional arrangements which would be appropriate in the context of small island states and small states generally.

Risk management is another area where the small countries have a particular interest, for we are very conscious of the situation which requires us now to attract more investment to the area of agricultural development. Risk management has, in fact, had to be put in place in order that private sector investment be made more available.

Food and agriculture information and analysis: our interest here is to see the extent to which the whole process of data management, data exploitation, particularly the agricultural census arrangements, can be



more fully integrated in national food and agricultural information systems. We look forward to the efforts being made by the Organization to assist us in that regard.

Policy analysis: this is a matter of particular concern to us in the area of commodity policies and trade and agricultural planning assistance. The particular focus we would like to see here relates to issues related to trade liberalization within the context of structural adjustment programmes which many of us are continuing to follow now, and the role and future of agriculture within that context.

Of great concern, too, is the integration of environmental policy considerations in the whole matrix of agricultural policy formulation and planning, and how small countries can accommodate within the processes such environmental policies.

The area of fisheries is of particular interest to small island states as you would expect. In this regard, we are very grateful for the assistance already provided by the institution. We look forward to more focused and targeted assistance in the area of fish stock assessment and assistance in the development of management and surveillance systems over our marine resources.

Forestry is no less important. We are grateful for the fact that some small funds have been added to the Forestry Programme. We would have liked to see a greater resource flow in that direction but we understand that the budgetary arrangements could not accommodate them.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we support the attempt by the Director-General to accommodate the concerns of the developing countries. We note with satisfaction the extent to which that Programme has increased. We are disappointed, however, that the decisions of the last Conference have not been carried out fully. We would hope that this would, in fact, be reflected in what could be done in respect of the next biennium. We would merely wish to indicate on this particular item that we are not in favour of a rigid process of allocation of TCP resources such as has been indicated using the UNDP formula. That was a particular set of circumstances and a particular purpose which, in fact, are not reflective of the concerns for which the TCP has been established.

The essence of the TCP is its own programme; it is flexible and is extremely responsive, and it would be a very divisive process if we were to entrench a rigid mechanism by which TCP funds are to be allocated.

We sincerely hope, with the comments we have made on the Programme of Work and Budget, that the membership will see their way to accept the budget by consensus.

**David SHERWOOD (Canada):** I should like to take this opportunity to express a special vote of thanks to Mr Shah for his very clear introduction yesterday.

Canada, as a member of the Programme Committee, has had the opportunity to provide our views on a regular basis, and we have been highly involved in this process. We appreciate the efforts that have been made by the Director-General to present a Programme of Work and Budget that has been

drawn up on the basis of no real programme growth. Canada is prepared to support this principle and is pleased that a consensus achieved at this point has been maintained.

The overall growth in the budget as a result of cost increases will have a significant impact on the assessment levels of Member Nations, and we share the concerns that have been raised over the magnitude of the increase. Canada also shares the concerns of others that savings should be made where possible. We believe this can be done in a way which promotes good management. We believe this can be done in a way which promotes good management of the UN system organizations, and will be helpful, particularly, in an organization faced with financial difficulties. We would warmly support the move towards consensus and compromise in order to seek productive solutions.

With respect to the programme, we should like to make the following points. My delegation supports the global priorities as outlined in the programme framework. In particular, we attach high priority to the FAO's work in relation to the environment and sustainable development, including the contribution FAO is making to the preparation process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up to the FAO/Netherlands Conference on the Environment and Agriculture.

Similarly, we are pleased with the increased emphasis on information collection, analysis and dissemination reflected in agriculture data development, including in particular efforts to develop the World Agricultural Information Centre, WAICENT.

Canada continues to attach high priority to the role of women in development and to the need for FAO to continue to focus on implementation of the Plan of Action.

We recognize the importance that developing countries accord to the Technical Cooperation Programme. However, we do not share the view that substantial additional resources should be allocated to that particular programme. We remain concerned over the extent to which the Major Technical Programmes are being weakened as a result of the redirection of resources from the other programmes in FAO to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Forestry is another area that was identified as a priority. However, it is scheduled to receive an increase of only US\$110 000, although we are aware of the immense challenges that we are facing in that sector. This increase is marginal in relation to the challenges faced by this programme. We welcome the changes in the budget format to highlight the support that is being given, or proposed, to the Tropical Forest Action Programme. The Programme Committee report highlighted the need to provide a consolidated presentation of FAO's support to this programme in the future.

My delegation continues to attach importance to FAO's contributions to the UNCED process in relation to the forestry sector.

Under Major Programme Agriculture, we acknowledge the important work of FAO under Programme 2.1.1 in relation to Natural Resources and the linkage of these activities to the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. Similarly, under Programme 2.1.2, in close cooperation with other organizations, in particular the Plant Genetic Resources, FAO has an important role to play in the area of plant genetics, including follow-up

to the proposals stemming from the Commission on Plant Genetics. Canada attaches importance to these proposals to establish a Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention and hopes that this will be implemented early in the new biennium. Information exchanges on the prior informed consent clause of the Code of Conduct on the Use of Pesticides, along with such areas as crop protection, integrated pest management, the formulation and implementation of realistic plans for plant health, the preservation of plant and animal genetic resources, biotechnology and the setting of food standards in the context of global trends and the GATT, are of major importance. We should particularly like to stress the work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Under the Fisheries Programme we attach particular importance to FAO's role in the area of fisheries information, including the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, as well as its role in the promotion of sustainable development in the fisheries sector. In general, we believe that the proposals put forward in this Major Programme are appropriate. Canada reaffirms the importance which it attaches to the full and timely implementation of Resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 adopted by the United Nations on driftnet fishing.

Canada is opposed to external borrowing to implement the Programme of Work and Budget. We appreciate the difficult financial situation that FAO is placed in when Member States do not come forward with their regular assessed contributions, which would do much to reduce the array of measures that the FAO has felt it necessary to take to maintain its operations. We believe that this would facilitate the kind of budgetary consensus we all seek. On the Programme Budget Process, Canada supports the proposal put forward by the Director-General, including in particular the implementation of an Outline of the Programme of Work and Budget on a permanent basis.

In conclusion, Canada supports the Programme of Work and Budget priorities for the next biennium and very much appreciates the opportunity to have registered these observations.

**António MAGALHAES COELHO (Portugal):** Les documents que le Secrétariat nous a préparés pour discussion, appréciation et décision sont riches, profonds et contiennent sous une forme très condensée un ensemble très vaste d'informations qu'il ne nous est pas possible d'aborder dans le détail, comme leur contenu le mériterait, notre intervention dans cette session devant être limitée au temps disponible.

Cependant, nous n'en avons pas une grande préoccupation, car elles ont déjà été évoquées pendant les réunions du Conseil dont le Portugal fait partie.

La délégation portugaise pense qu'elle ne doit pas revenir à la discussion de la "croissance zéro". Toutes les délégations reconnaissent certainement qu'un tel niveau de budget résulte d'un consensus de difficiles négociations.

Ma délégation voudrait appeler votre attention sur les quatre points suivants :

Nous considérons que les moyens destinés à la représentation régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe sont pratiquement symboliques. Il est très difficile de dynamiser quelques activités intéressant plusieurs pays européens; quelques-uns continuent à avoir besoin de l'appui de la FAO.

Nous apportons un grand intérêt aux activités de la FAO, au niveau de la formation et de la promotion de la femme rurale et des études sur les énergies alternatives pour le milieu rural.

La délégation portugaise se félicite de la préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur la nutrition et de la Conférence mondiale sur l'environnement qu'elle estime très importantes car elles permettront de faire une rétrospection, une analyse et des recommandations vers le futur sur des aspects importants pour la survivance de l'humanité. Cependant, nous souhaitons que les frais concernant la réalisation de ces importantes activités soient supportés selon un pourcentage plus élevé par les fonds extrabudgétaires, permettant ainsi de renforcer les moyens destinés à d'autres programmes.

Nous nous félicitons de l'intérêt croissant que la FAO porte à la protection des ressources et au développement, ainsi qu'à l'application du concept de l'agriculture durable.

Tout le monde reconnaît que les pays en développement devront se préoccuper de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, mais nous ne pouvons pas oublier la conservation des ressources.

Le Programme accorde une grande importance à la conservation et à la mise en valeur de la forêt tropicale. Nous pensons qu'une telle procédure est correcte, nécessaire et urgente, mais nous ne devons pas négliger d'autres types de forêts, notamment les forêts des zones tempérées gravement affectées par les incendies et par les pluies acides. De plus, il convient d'apporter beaucoup d'attention aux grandes régions de savane et de forêt ouverte où se réalise la plupart de l'activité agricole de subsistance, et aussi les zones arides et subarides où les phénomènes de désertification se manifestent sous une forme très intensive.

Le Comité d'agriculture à la onzième session du 22 au 30 avril 1991 a reconnu la participation insuffisante d'experts techniques des pays en développement situés, pour leur grande majorité, à des distances importantes de Rome.

Le rapport du COAG a été approuvé à la quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session du Conseil faisant l'objet des paragraphes 64 et 65 du rapport du Conseil.

Au paragraphe 65 le Conseil a demandé au Directeur général d'examiner la possibilité de la création - je cite - "d'un fonds fiduciaire destiné à faciliter la présence d'experts techniques dans les délégations de pays en développement aux réunions des comités techniques du Conseil".

La délégation portugaise aimerait savoir si cette demande du Conseil a été prise en compte dans ce budget.

**Jovan TEGOVSKI (Yugoslavia):** At the very outset I should like to express the deep appreciation of my delegation to the FAO Secretariat for the outstanding work carried out on the preparation of document C 91/3, as well as to Mr Shah for his introductory statement.

As we are all aware, the international economic crisis continues to exert an adverse influence on all countries in general and on developing countries in particular.

We therefore think that international organizations should invest maximum efforts to adjust their budgets to the actual possibilities of member countries with respect to payments of contributions.

The Yugoslav delegation is exceptionally pleased with the Proposed Budget envisaging a zero budget growth. Over the past years we supported the increases, confident that they would contribute to an improved quality of the Organization's work. However, having in mind the great financial difficulties many countries are facing and the will expressed by many countries aimed to reach consensus on this subject, Yugoslavia fully supports the present proposal. We find that the Director-General's approach towards this issue is an appropriate one and we are sure that under his wise guidance the efficiency and quality of the Organization's work will not be threatened.

We have also thoroughly examined the proposed cost increases, paragraph 87, in the amount of almost US\$83 million, which means US\$4 million less than in the budget proposal reviewed at the June session of the Council and we welcome this approach. Nevertheless, we think that in the course of this Conference the possibility for additional reductions may be examined. A half of that amount is linked to the increase due to inflation and, understandably, that is something that can hardly be changed. However, the fact that it will cause a significant increase in contributions by the member countries (for Yugoslavia, for example, that will imply an additional US\$200 000 a year) forces us to ask that this issue be reconsidered once again.

With regard to external borrowing, I would briefly like to point out that even though we are fully aware of the adverse financial position of our Organization, we think we should first of all examine the possibility of cost reductions rather than opt for borrowing.

Before I turn to the proposed Programme, allow me to emphasize once again that Yugoslavia is not advocating a reduction of the effective Programme of the Organization. However, we think that it would be possible to achieve a certain reduction of administrative and staff costs, re-allocation of assets through different programmes, reduction of the number of technical meetings, re-evaluation of the current programme of meetings, shortening of their duration rather than increasing the costs.

Mr Chairman, allow me to make a few comments on the proposed Programme of Work. In our view, the list of the priorities given in the proposed Programme of Work was made in line with the actual needs of FAO, so I am expressing our support of the list of these priorities. I would like to refer in particular to the Technical Cooperation Programme. It enables FAO to provide developing countries with the indispensable technical assistance. That Programme has for years played an important role in the field of agricultural development of many developing countries, Yugoslavia

among them. This Programme enabled Yugoslavia on a number of occasions to ensure initial resources and technical assistance before launching very important activities. We are looking forward to continuing our cooperation along those same lines. We therefore fully support its inclusion among the FAO priorities.

Yugoslavia attaches great importance to the work of FAO in the field of environment and in particular development, including the contribution of FAO in the process of preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development. We welcome the strengthening of the Sub-Programme on the Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development. We are also glad to see an increased interest in promoting agricultural data, particularly the special efforts being exerted in order to develop the World Agricultural Information Centre. In this particular area we see a highly important role which FAO can play specifically in developing statistical data on the environment and sustainable development.

Yugoslavia attaches a high priority to the role of women and the need for FAO to continue its activities on the implementation of the related Plan of Action.

We fully support the convening of the International Conference on Nutrition. As far as the proposed budget for this purpose is concerned, we wonder whether it would be possible to reduce it on account of additional funds from external sources.

In conclusion, we wish to point out that it is highly important that forestry be included among priorities of the future Programme of Work. World forestry now, and even more so in the future, will be faced with huge tasks. We believe that at the global level FAO will have an important part to play in this area. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**C.B. HOUTMAN** (Netherlands): This Agenda Item, the Programme of Work and Budget, is always a very central topic in the Conference. My delegation is of the opinion that this year, however, it looks to be even more the main issue of the Conference done for many years before.

The Programme of Work is more than just an Agenda Item on its own. It is very much connected with the result of developments inside and outside FAO and should therefore reflect all these. Before going a little more into detail I would like to dwell a moment on some important factors which are affecting our work programme for the next biennium. My Minister already mentioned two days ago that our work is changing more rapidly than ever before. Political ideologies which were a fact of life for some decades, have disappeared from one day to another and in many countries processes of democratization have started to develop. At the same time we see a worldwide trend to move from government to private initiatives.

In the UN system, and in the policies of the major donor countries too, more and more the awareness is emerging of the necessity for the developing countries themselves to play a major role in the development process of their countries. So far, those are developments outside FAO. Now for some developments inside FAO. Mr Chairman, the Twenty-fifth Conference adopted a Review Resolution which started a process to make our Organization more effective and better prepared to face the problems for the coming years. In a separate Agenda Item we deal with the implementation of the Review, as we

did already with the Medium-Term Plan which was one of the results of it. Today, we are discussing the first Programme of Work and Budget in which the outcome of the Review is reflected. It is also the first Programme of Work and Budget which reflects the necessity of inter-agency cooperation and a multi-disciplinary approach.

Mr Chairman, my delegation, as I have just explained, is of the opinion that this Programme of Work and Budget is an extremely important one in the history of FAO and it is far from easy to produce such a Programme of Work and Budget these days while facing financial problems for so long. These financial problems hamper the introduction or delay the development of new activities.

It is against this background that my delegation would like to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. I will start first with the priorities; in this Programme of Work and Budget we see not only clear priorities but posteriorsities as well. We would like to compliment the Secretariat on that. It has been a very crucial point in our discussions with regard to the Programme of Work and Budget over the last biennia and the demand for it was reflected in the Review. Priority setting also is a good remedy while facing financial constraints. Whereas everybody seems to agree on that, it appeared to be much more difficult to formulate posteriorsities. My delegation is very satisfied to see a Programme of Work and Budget with both and we think it is courageous to indicate reductions. It is courageous because it is not attractive to indicate posteriorsities. Undoubtedly, these are not to everyone's satisfaction.

The next point is decentralization. The strengthening of Country Offices is a point the Netherlands pleaded for years. The basis for this idea was the enhancement of the interaction between the Regular and the Field Programme and the improvement of the quality of the field work. Better identification and monitoring should be possible. With the increasing importance of national execution the importance of Country Offices will increase accordingly. The accompanying reduction of Regional Office's activities looks almost like a logical consequence. We can well imagine that this will be partly offset by sub-regional activities of the larger Country Offices.

The next point is cooperation with other organizations. The emphasis on this cooperation with other organizations, within and outside the UN system and with governmental and particularly with non-governmental organizations, is welcomed very much. In an earlier intervention I said extensively more about this.

With regard to agriculture, the budget for agriculture as a whole decreases, but here a choice between higher and lower priorities have been made. Resources for agriculture increase as well as for sustainable development and environment. In this context I would like to remind you of what my Minister said on Tuesday in his statement on the use of external inputs. He stated that where the application of chemical fertilizers and agro-chemicals may have to be limited in certain areas, the individual situation of the country or the region should be decisive. That is why he talked about adequate external input agriculture and that is why we can very well understand the concern expressed especially by African countries on the reduction of resources related to fertilizers and soil depletion. We welcome the increased attention to FAO/WHO activities in the framework of

the Codex Alimentarius. The modest increase for subjects related to policy analysis and advice is welcomed but a less modest increase would have been welcomed even more.

With regard to forestry, the increase is welcomed. Our views in TFAP were extensively expressed during preceding Councils. We will closely follow the activities around TFAP and wish to be involved in the activities that are ahead shortly as a result of the Council decision.

On TCP, the TCP discussion has been difficult during the last biennia. The Netherlands has always favoured a sound and transparent TCP. We have always stated that an increase of TCP funds would only be favoured if and when the management of TCP was more transparent. We can however understand that the Director-General proposes this relative standstill of 11.9 percent of the budget given the various other priorities in the budget. We find his proposals for country allocation interesting if this would really add to transparency. We will judge this on its own merit. And if this would add to more transparency I could imagine that pleas for reduction or resistance to increase TCP resources would diminish. The chapters on TCP mentioned by Mr Shah in his introduction proposed "Programme Implementation" and "Programme Evaluation" reports should contain extensive information on the results of country and regional allocations.

This reference of the excellent introduction of Mr Shah brings me, Mr Chairman, to the last part of my intervention, the Budget. We can agree with the zero growth and even with the cost increases of US\$83 million, through still high with 14.6 percent. We know technically everything can be explained, most of the time financially as well and, Mr Chairman, we can even imagine that a low lapse factor in financially difficult circumstances is a welcome source for financial stopgapping. That is why we do not ask to explain the low lapse factor of 3 percent since that would be too difficult.

It will be clear Mr Chairman, that we, after having said all this, approve the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 and we sincerely hope that with all the different difficulties the various countries have with the proposals, this Programme of Work and Budget will be seen as a compromise; a compromise that should result in an adoption by consensus.

**V. NIGHIPONDOKA (Namibia):** I would like to congratulate you upon having been elected as Chairman of this Session. You are now chairing the third session on this matter and you have shown your leadership, and we hope this session will have as good results as we did then. Our delegation would also like to congratulate the Director-General for the enormous work done in producing the PWB as contained in document C 91/3. The content of the PWB indicates to us the farsightedness of the Director-General and his staff on the existing global financial problems which enormously have affected the budget and the FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

Mr Chairman, whilst applauding the enormous work, also the farsightedness of the Director-General and his staff, the Namibian delegation wishes to join other delegations who have registered their dissatisfaction and disappointment on the issue of zero growth, as being advocated. We hope this is only a temporary measure.



As a young nation we are learning with bitterness how to get ahead with agricultural development in our underdeveloped areas, where the people had hoped to have the situation bettered under the new circumstances. We had, and still have, the hope to get some of the required resources from organizations like FAO.

Being a country which is well-endowed with sea fisheries and marine resources, Namibia had hoped to see more resources allocated to that sector. We are, however, thankful to FAO in conjunction with other donor countries who have helped us bring the situation of overfishing to a certain degree under control. This is by way of conservation management and patrolling of our seas.

Mr Chairman, on the priority areas as contained in document C 91/3, the Namibian delegation fully supports the Director-General. As I have stated earlier, we are now faced with the enormous task of developing the underdeveloped areas of our country. Most of the priority areas proposed in the document have as well been identified by the Namibian Government as areas which will need immediate attention if sustainable development is to be achieved in our country.

On the TCP, Mr Chairman, much has been said by other delegations. We also would wish to have seen Resolution 9/89 fulfilled at least by a minimum. At this junction, however, the Namibian delegation wishes to call upon and encourage the Director-General to do his utmost in securing more resources, if possible, in order to change the situation in regard to the TCP, which is important to countries like Namibia.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I would like to be brief. Just after achieving our independence, the Government of the Republic of Namibia organized a donors Conference in New York, which was aimed at selling our programmes of development. During that Conference we received a lot of pledges from donor countries and organizations but, Mr Chairman, the actual delivery of donors is just trickling in. This has taught us that we are living in a world of financial difficulties.

Looking at the whole PWB, the same message transpires. We believe that it is also time for us as Member States of the FAO to re-look at our priorities and programmes and at the changing circumstances and adjust accordingly.

With these few words, Mr Chairman, the Namibian delegation wishes to propose the adoption of the PWB by a consensus.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Gracias, señor Presidente, y gracias a la Secretaría por este documento tan importante, el cual reviste un interés particular para mi país por cuanto refleja el panorama presupuestal y la disposición operativa de la FAO para el próximo bienio. Sus capítulos responden tanto a las necesidades de la FAO en sí como a los objetivos que perseguimos los Estados Miembros en los ámbitos de la agricultura y la alimentación.

México ha estado atento a los trabajos realizados en la elaboración del Programa 1992-93 de la FAO, al haber participado como miembro del Comité del Programa. Asimismo, el Gobierno de México ha logrado cubrir oportunamente su cuota anual a la FAO este año. Esto representa un

ejercicio de congruencia de mi Gobierno, ya que sustentamos nuestro interés programático precisamente en el cumplimiento de los compromisos presupuestales con esta Organización para cuya Secretaría brindamos así un voto de confianza.

Compartimos la propuesta del Director General sobre las prioridades globales establecidas para el próximo bienio, ya que con ella se combinan temas significativos y medios relevantes para la acción concreta. Entre los temas encontramos el Medio Ambiente, el Desarrollo Sostenible, la Mujer en el Desarrollo y la Silvicultura. Entre los medios ubicamos los sistemas de datos, el PCT y la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición. Las prioridades advierten además ciertos mecanismos que permitan avanzar a los temas con los medios disponibles. Los mecanismos que establecen los documentos son las representaciones de la FAO en los países y una mayor coordinación con otras organizaciones internacionales.

Es, en ese contexto de necesidades, posibilidades y responsabilidades, como apreciamos, un documento de la dimensión como el que nos ocupa y cuya estructura constituye una referencia fundamental para que los países actuemos en los ámbitos regionales y nacionales. Por su magnitud programática y presupuestal el Capítulo 2 del documento referido a Programas Técnicos y Económicos, merece una particular atención así como los Capítulos 3 y 4, relativos, respectivamente, a programas de apoyo al desarrollo y al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Asimismo, el Capítulo 5 relativo a servicios de apoyo ofrece un sustento fundamental para los capítulos que citamos inicialmente.

Podemos referirnos brevemente a algunos puntos de interés particular para México contenidos en el Programa Presupuesto 1992-93. En relación con el Programa de Cultivos existe interés por ampliar las acciones en materia de recursos genéticos y prevención de pérdidas de alimentos. Reafirmo el interés de mi país en el desarrollo y la aplicación de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, cuyo Secretariado de la FAO debe fortalecerse. Llama nuestra atención el Programa de Fomento de la Investigación y la Tecnología y en particular lo referente a la Biotecnología. Alentamos una mejor vinculación con los sistemas AGRIS y CARIS.

El Programa de Desarrollo Rural es importante a la luz del proceso actual de modernización del campo en mi país y la implementación política en el ámbito de las instituciones. El proceso de concertación social ampliado y las nuevas disposiciones en los servicios de apoyo.

Sobre el Programa de Nutrición, puede precisarse que mi país prevé ser sede, en marzo del próximo año, de la Reunión Regional Latinoamericana y del Caribe, preparatoria de la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Reiteramos nuestro interés por los trabajos de normalización que se realizan conjuntamente con la Organización Mundial de la Salud a través de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius.

El Programa Principal de Montes lo consideramos muy valioso y las actividades que se realizan por la FAO en el marco de este Programa reciben una atención considerable por las instituciones forestales de mi país. Una expresión al respecto lo constituye el esfuerzo que se realiza actualmente en la sólida formulación del Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical de México.

A mi delegación le causa cierta preocupación ver que la reasignación de recursos no ha dejado de afectar a Programas como el de Agricultura y Pesca, este último muy sensible a cualquier disminución. Urge una reacción, cada vez más favorable, de los Estados Miembros para el cumplimiento de los compromisos contraídos en el marco de la FAO de manera que se alcancen los objetivos con la participación de los países en proporción a sus posibilidades de contribución.

Señor Presidente, la posición de mi Gobierno, en principio, es de no aumentar su cuota al presupuesto organización para el próximo bienio, lo cual responde a disposiciones presupuestales y a severas restricciones en el gasto público. Sin embargo, con el propósito de que haya consenso en la elaboración del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1992-93, mi Gobierno aprueba la propuesta de Programa y Presupuesto de la Secretaría de esta Organización para dicho período. De esta forma expresamos el rechazo al principio del crecimiento cero y reafirmamos la importancia que mi Gobierno concede a la cooperación internacional como instrumento para el desarrollo. En la cruzada para el desarrollo, la corresponsabilidad obliga a mayores esfuerzos.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I would first like to thank Mr Shah for his very detailed introduction to the document. We have already given an outline of the United Kingdom position at the Council but I would like to elaborate on some of the comments I made there now. My first substantive comments relate to the presentation of the document itself.

This is by far the best presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget that I have so far seen, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for all the efforts that they have put into its preparation. My delegation sincerely hopes that these improvements in the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget will continue and that the document continues to become, for want of a better expression, more "user-friendly".

My delegation is extremely pleased to see that the proposed budget represents no real growth over the last biennium. We are all acutely aware of the difficult choices that have had to be made, and in this respect we think that the Director-General has taken a brave and pragmatic approach to the Budget level, and the affects that any real increase would have on members' assessed contributions. We are fully confident that the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's operations need not be adversely affected by this restraint. We therefore hope that a consensus can be achieved on the Budget.

The inclusion of detailed explanations of the cost increases provided in paragraphs 65 to 109, including the effects of biennialization and expected inflation, are very welcome. We are, however, disappointed that paragraph 75 gives no justification for retaining the lapse factor at 3 percent. I will return to this point later, Mr Chairman. The reduction in cost increases by US\$4 million since the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was presented to the Council in June is particularly welcome. A significant number of members are having difficulty in fulfilling obligations. Those cost increases that have not been absorbed have an impact on members' assessments for the next two years. We therefore urge that these cost increases be absorbed to the maximum extent possible.

The Director-General has pointed out in his introduction to the PWB that the Italian lire/US dollar exchange rate is another important aspect. As he says, clearly this rate can move in either direction between the time of preparation of the document and the time this Conference will vote on the Appropriations Resolution. This, together with its repercussions, needs to be borne in mind by all members.

We have noted the concerns expressed in the document about the level of support costs income which FAO can expect to receive during the 1992-93 biennium and likewise the references to the close interaction between the Regular and Field Programmes. Continuity is important in most activities, and is the essence in many aspects of the Regular Programme such as GIEWS and Codex Alimentarius. We would urge that in the medium- to long-term the quality and scope of the Regular Programme be maintained, although inevitably this will mean making painful decisions elsewhere.

The document highlights areas where resource changes are proposed. My delegation welcomes the increased emphasis on forestry, the environment, sustainable development, agricultural data and policy advice as well as women in development. We are however concerned about the lack of progress on improving coordination of the TFAP, but we are confident FAO will fulfil its role in active involvement in the preparation and follow-up to UNCED and in AGRIS and CARIS. We regard all these areas as ones where FAO has a core role as coordinator and where it has a comparative advantage.

My delegation welcomes moves towards prioritization in the programme. However, by and large the changes proposed involve quite small amounts; I have taken due account of Mr Shah's comments in his introduction regarding the areas specified for lower priority. Nonetheless, Mr Chairman, the United Kingdom delegation feels that FAO could have used this opportunity to make even more radical shifts, set even clearer priorities and to focus its resources on activities where the Organization really does have a comparative advantage. The linkage between the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget is pertinent here.

While on the subject of comparative advantage, we hope two references in paragraphs 504 and 566 to the FAO role in the coordination of international fisheries research, as a follow-up to the Inter-Agency Study of International Fisheries Research Needs for Developing Countries. The United Kingdom delegation is aware that a detailed plan for coordinated action following this study must await the proposed Third Fisheries Donor Consultation in October 1993. As we said at the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June, and notwithstanding the response at the time when the Secretariat stated that it was appropriate and that they saw an important coordinating role for FAO, we remain of the view that the FAO Fisheries Department may not be ideally structured to take a new and leading role in the international coordination and direction of fisheries research and that comparative advantage may well lie with other organizations. The Committee on Fisheries did not offer a clear mandate to FAO for these activities.

The United Kingdom delegation recommended at COFI that finances allocated to the international research coordination should be redirected to the support of Technical Assistance and Extension in Aquaculture, which is identified as a priority but subjected to reduced funding. Paragraph 527 of C 91/3 explains the background to this and we welcome this indication that the Secretariat has taken due account of the debate at COFI.

I would therefore nonetheless like to reiterate the point I made at the June Council regarding priority setting and comparative advantage, Mr Chairman. My delegation would like to see concentration in priority areas and not the diffusion of funds to activities for which FAO may not have a clear mandate from its membership nor a comparative advantage, I have also taken note of the Secretariat's comments at the June Council, that if there are any doubts at all about FAO's role in this area, that role could be re-examined.

We note with some concern that both GIEWS and the Food Standards Programme are scheduled to suffer cuts - albeit small ones - in their budgets, since we regard both these as vital core functions of FAO, and we hope that efficiency savings can ensure that these activities are protected.

I would now like to turn to the Technical Cooperation Programme. We have indicated on numerous occasions that we are not opposed to the TCP *per se*. We accept that a technical agency like FAO can benefit from managing its own well-constructed TC Programme. We do not however accept that this is where FAO's comparative advantage rests and, although the Director-General has taken a pragmatic approach to Resolution 9/89, we remain concerned that, as stated in paragraph 30 of the document, the proposal before us means that the greatest net increase in the budget is assigned to the TCP. We simply cannot go along with this, Mr Chairman. We have long advocated that FAO should concentrate its limited finances to areas of priority and where FAO has a comparative advantage - as I said earlier we do not think that FAO has a comparative advantage in this area.

We welcome the additional information provided on the TCP in both the Budget document and the Review of the Field Programme and we are pleased to see this move towards greater transparency. We do however consider that there is still some way to go if we are to achieve full transparency. As the Secretariat will be aware, Mr Chairman, we have long championed the need for individual project evaluation of TCP projects and I have taken due note of the comments made in paragraph 740 of the Budget document, which refers to the fact that the results of 58 project evaluations are reported in the Review of the Field Programme. We will consider this further when we come to discuss document C 91/4.

Regarding the proposals put forward for the distribution of TCP resources along the lines of UNDP, IPF's, we have some misgivings about the proposal to allocate the TCP as proposed.

We consider that the Outline Budget Process has been a very valuable tool in giving member countries advance notice of proposed levels in the Budget, and we particularly welcome the recommendation made by the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees that this become an established feature of FAO's Programme Budget Process. My delegation would like to endorse this recommendation.

We fully recognize the financial difficulties the Organization has experienced, particularly in the current year. However, I reiterate my Government's attitude to external borrowing by the Organization. We believe that all governments should meet their assessed contributions but, if necessary, ways should be found to reduce expenditure rather than resorting to external borrowing. We have taken note that the Director-General proposes to meet the interest payments accrued on these external loans from Miscellaneous Income, obviating the need to levy any charge on Member

States. It is not however that straightforward and at the end of the day Member States - including those who have paid on time - will be contributing to this interest. In adopting the Programme of Work and Budget, members' assessments are arrived at by taking the full cost of the PWB, adding an element for the Tax Equalization Fund and subtracting estimated Miscellaneous Income. It is the figure that is left that members are assessed on.

By meeting interest payments from Miscellaneous Income, this will reduce the figure subtracted from the Budget, thus increasing members' assessed contributions. I would be grateful if the Secretariat could confirm my understanding of this - or not - as the case may be.

I would now like to return to the issue of the lapse factor. Mr Chairman, my delegation still finds it difficult to understand the rationale behind this. I have noted from documentation before us that the Finance Committee was not unanimous in their agreement to continue at the 3 percent level. Concern still remains. My delegation would like to add their voice to these concerns. In our view, the lapse factor should not be used as a supplement, due to the inadequacy of overall resources, but that it does have a direct bearing on the vacancy rate. That's what it's there for. We strongly urge that the level be increased to more correctly reflect the actual vacancy rate.

Mr Chairman, as you suggested in your introduction to this item, we will address the proposal for change in the calendar of events separately if necessary, but I would like to indicate now that my delegation supports the Director-General's proposals.

We note that the issues relating to the Working Capital Fund and Special Reserve Account will be dealt with in Commission III and we will address them there. Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to support the Austrian delegate's suggestion to include expenditure tables in the documentation.

**Sra. Mireya DURAN ROSALES (Bolivia):** En nombre de mi delegación deseo sumar nuestras felicitaciones a las ya expresadas por los oradores que me antecedieron, por su elección como Presidente de esta Comisión. De la misma manera, felicito al Sr. Shah por la excelente presentación del documento que nos ocupa.

Ante la difícil situación financiera de la FAO, mi delegación considera que habria sido imprescindible proveer a la Organización con un marco presupuestario positivo y estable para que pueda estar en condiciones de dar el aporte que esperamos de ella.

Sin embargo, y a pesar de que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 no contempla estas consideraciones, creemos que el enfoque real del mismo nos lleva a aceptar el nivel del presupuesto previsto, y esperamos que se apruebe por consenso.

Por otra parte, deseamos expresar nuestra conformidad en forma general con las prioridades propuestas para el bienio, esperando que en lo que se refiere al Programa de Cooperación Técnica se reitere lo enunciado en la parte dispositiva de la Resolución 9/89.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America)** : We wish to express our appreciation for the opportunity to present the views of the United States delegation on the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. The Director-General's energetic and creative leadership in the development of this PWB has been vital to the achievement of zero real growth, or no net programme increases, and some cost containment. We also would like to convey our thanks to Mr Shah for his extensive, introductory comments. The United States was privileged to participate in the debates on the budget level and program priorities which began in January that have led up to the Conference discussions today. We remain hopeful that a consensus on the budget will yet be achieved.

The budget before us will be implemented at a time of profound political and economic changes in the world. Secretary Madigan, in his speech on Tuesday, mentioned just a few of these dramatic changes. At the same time, we cannot fail to acknowledge the challenges facing us in the areas of environment, drug control, human rights and peacekeeping, to name a few. They are not insurmountable. FAO must do its part in playing a more active and complementary role to alleviate human suffering in its area of expertise. The UN system organizations must work together cooperatively and effectively.

The United States recognizes the enhanced importance of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the better world to which we all aspire. We commend FAO for its efforts and achievements. President Bush unequivocally is committed to strengthening and restoring the financial stability of international organizations, including FAO. To meet this strong commitment, we paid nearly US\$50 million to FAO last month. Of this amount, US\$13.7 million was allocated toward arrears. We intend to work constructively and cooperatively with all Member States in the coming days to reach an acceptable consensus solution on this budget, as we have done throughout the UN system.

Given the cost containment standards applied system-wide, and the general difficulties of Member States in meeting assessments, the United States believes a lower budget level reflecting a 13.5 percent nominal increase from the 1990-91 biennium would be both sustainable and supportable. If adopted, we consider that this growth rate would establish the level against which the next biennium would be calculated.

Reaching a consensus would enable the United States to make a prompt and essentially full payment of its regular assessment and to move quickly on reducing our arrears even further, as part of the President's overall efforts to pay arrears over the next several years. This restoration of United States financial support will contribute most directly to rebuilding FAO's financial and fiscal viability.

For many years, the United States has been a strong supporter of the Budget Outline Process, since it allows Member States to participate at an early stage in a dialogue on FAO's major policy priorities and an overall budget level. Early agreement, by consensus, on broad programme objectives and an overall budget level, enhances forward planning of resource allocations. We welcome the support of other Member States in seeking to ensure the continuation of this process as a permanent feature of FAO's budget formulation procedures.

Turning to the programme proposals, Secretary Madigan, in his speech on Tuesday, highlighted a number of programmes to which we attach high priority. Foremost among them are Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention. We believe FAO should devote more of its Regular Programme resources to these activities. We would also like to see FAO expand its technical capacity, as it plays a critical role in supporting, through sustainable agricultural reform, the profound political and economic changes that are taking place throughout the world. Having said that, with this dramatic transformation under way, we believe too few resources in the proposed 1992-93 budget were allocated to private sector development in the food and agricultural industries and hope FAO will seek opportunities to target this area in the future.

In paragraph 131 of the budget document, we were pleased to note the strengthening of the programme planning, budgetary and evaluation service. Increased attention to sound management practices and ongoing evaluation of both the Regular Programme and field activities must be central components of FAO managerial operations in the years ahead. We applaud the sustained efforts to improve budget formulation and performance monitoring. Concurrently, we believe that the establishment of linkages between this function and the financial results of operations would further improve operational efficiency.

In the past, the United States and other Member States have requested and obtained information during the Conference on actual cash expenditure data in assessing the budgetary performance of the Organization. We seek clarification on whether this information will be circulated. In our judgment, such information enhances the transparency of the Organization's operations and greatly improves Member States' understanding of FAO operations and performance. It would also contribute in a positive manner to the upcoming debate in Commission III on the proposals for special assessments.

As we have stated on numerous occasions, FAO must focus on implementing programmes where it has a clear, comparative advantage. We welcome the steps taken to make shifts, review and consolidate programmes, and devote fewer resources to those activities that have not achieved desirable results. We also favour the complete elimination of programmes that no longer serve a useful purpose. Though not an easy task, this process is essential, particularly in an era of shrinking resources. To achieve this goal, we believe more impact evaluations of FAO activities are needed.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), the views of my delegation are well known. As at least one other member country has mentioned, we believe FAO's comparative advantage lies elsewhere.

We appreciate the Secretariat's initial efforts in paragraphs 757 through 766 to make the TCP funding allocation more transparent, but more needs to be done, and we would expect future presentations to do so.

With respect to the budget, the United States is committed to the principle of zero real growth and maximum absorption of non-discretionary cost increases for the assessed budgets of international organizations, such as FAO. In June, we entered a reservation in the Council's report that proposed cost increases were too high. We repeated that reservation at the just concluded Council session. We are confident that further steps can be taken to reduce the budget level, which would enable us to join consensus



in adopting the budget later this month. An increase in the lapse factor to reflect the current staff turnover and vacancy rate is an available option to achieve budget reductions.

Finally, we note with satisfaction FAO's proposals to reduce the number of established posts in the Regular Programme. In the past, FAO has provided very useful information on expenditures on established posts as a percentage of the total budget. It would be helpful to my delegation if the Secretariat shared this information with the Conference.

We wish to underscore our strong and fervent desire to move forward rapidly in regularizing our payments to FAO. We look forward to working with the FAO Secretariat and other Member States in the days ahead to adopt a budget, by consensus, that takes into account the fiscal realities confronting all of us.

**Jürgen OESTREICH (Germany) (Original language German):** First of all, I should like to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introduction to this item on the Agenda.

In the last biennium FAO completed an important Review of its activities. The objective was the strengthening of the Organization and greater effectiveness. This concern must also be taken into account by the Programme of Work and Budget for the next two years to be adopted by the Conference. This means inter alia that the authority and credibility of FAO with respect to its members require goals for activities which can start from a clearly-stated financial basis. For this reason, my Government supports, in principle, the proposed budget before us.

With regard to the planned adjustment to cost development, my Government understands that the utmost will be done by the FAO Secretariat to absorb these cost increases, as far as possible, in the budget. This is also true of the rate of cost increase to 14.6 percent as stated in the document.

As regards further increases, the budget document refers to a real zero growth. In the light of the great expectations and requirements of many developing countries, this is certainly unsatisfactory for many, and we are very clear about that.

By consistently fixing appropriate priorities, we believe it is possible, even with a real zero growth rate, to react flexibly to group requirements.

Document C 91/3 proceeds, as I say, from a real zero growth.

However, there are various points to be considered here. The actual net vacancy rate within FAO is at least 5.5 percent. Accordingly, for 5.5 percent of authorized posts there are no salary costs arising. If the lapse factor is assessed too low, then the salary costs will be budgeted for that do not accrue. The Organization thus has unearmarked resources available, which relativize the statement of real zero growth. This observation takes into consideration cost increases occurred subsequently during the current budget. Such so far non-budgeted staff costs are incorporated through the so-called biennialization into the envelope of the budget for 1992-93. So the lapse factor is not a necessary means of off-setting currently underbudgeted staff costs.

For that reason I emphasize once again our request that the lapse factor should be increased to a realistic level of at least 5.5 percent. This request by my Government is nothing new. We consider the lapse factor as a serious instrument of calculation for an as realistic as possible budgeting of accruing staff costs, and logically it must also be geared to the real vacancy rate. Accordingly, it should not be used for other purposes.

The draft budget before us is naturally only realistic - this is a point that I emphasize again - if all Member States meet their assessed contributions. So long as this is not the case, steps are necessary to bring the tasks of the Organization into line with the effective income. I must put the word "unfortunately" into that statement.

In this context, my delegation would like once again to stress that an approved FAO budget, like any other budget, represents an authorization but not an obligation to engage in expenditure. Thus, in Financial Regulation IV.4.1(a) we find an explicit reference to authorization.

We have always spoken out clearly against internal and external borrowings, and our attitude is unchanged here. We are against the planned increase of the Working Capital Fund and we cannot agree to the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account either. We shall be returning to these last three points in more detail under Item 31 of the Agenda.

As regards the individual sub-programmes of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93, these largely do justice to the demands of the FAO Review and the requirements of the Medium-Term Plan 1992-97. This programme also establishes what we see as the recognized priorities, and it follows the essential recommendations of the FAO governing bodies.

Like other Member States, we should have liked to see a greater increase for the Forest Programme, especially the Tropical Forest Action Programme. We believe it is important to strengthen the liaison and coordination functions in the reorganization of the TFAP.

As regards the agricultural reform processes in the countries of Eastern, South East and Central Europe, we think that the 2.2 percent of the Regular Budget for FAO activities in Europe is low, particularly so when we consider that this Conference has just welcomed the membership of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

We believe that here again the Organization should have a major advisory role.

Finally, we still have problems with the inclusion of the Technical Cooperation Programme in the FAO Regular Budget, and thus financing through assessed contributions. Let me explain this. Our delegation has already made the following point that, in terms of the general consensus on central financing of development work in the UN system, it is the policy of my Government to finance such programmes only through voluntary contributions. Programme financing via assessed contributions should give accordingly each individual Member State a possibility for monitoring activities. This is not sufficiently the case with the TCP. Generally, however, we are aware of the positive response of successfully implemented individual programmes within the framework of the TCP. Nevertheless, you will understand that our basic concerns vis-à-vis programme financing through assessed contributions remain unchanged.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the work it has done in providing us with these comprehensive and instructive document. The new procedure for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO has proved its worth and we are in favour of this being institutionalized in accordance with the Draft Resolution on the amendment of the corresponding Financial Regulations. We now look forward to further discussion on this point of the Agenda, and we very much trust that we shall all be able to find a common road that will lead us to consensus on this important issue.

**CHAIRMAN:** As I said at the beginning, the Drafting Group will meet right after the end of the Plenary meeting this afternoon. There is one change in the composition of the Drafting Group which I read out yesterday. Instead of Cameroon, it will be Algeria. The Chairman of the Drafting Group will be Mr Carandang from the Philippines.

The meeting rose at 11.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 11 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.00 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/II/PV/6

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SIXTH MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE  
SEXTA SESION

(14 November 1991)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 (continued)

16. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 (suite)

16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 (continuación)

**Gürsu OKURER (Turkey):** I would like to start by congratulating the Secretariat for the excellent work undertaken in preparing the document for the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93, which indeed presents a realistic package of proposals. The steady improvements in the format and presentation of the document deserve our full appreciation. My delegation is also pleased to observe that the decisions and recommendations made at previous Conference and Council meetings are duly taken into account to ensure that the programme priorities respond to present global requirements. Accordingly, my delegation agrees on the proposals which are aimed at shifting resources to priority areas, within the limits of the overall budget level.

Under the existing financial constraints, we note that the Director-General was bound to set the level of Budget on the basis of no real growth. We certainly do not consider this approach as desirable but note it as a praise-worthy attempt to reach a consensus.

My delegation attaches importance to arriving at decisions based on consensus. This would not only signify our determination to consolidate the universality of the Organization but at the same time our will to ensure its future achievement. With this approach, my delegation goes along with the proposed level of budget for 1992-1993.

Mr Chairman, we welcome the procedure of biennial programme-budget formulation, which is distinguished by the supplementary step of an Outline of Programme of Work and Budget. We deem it useful to continue with this procedure which permits us to review the programme priorities at various Technical Bodies. We are also pleased with the links established between the budgetary proposals and other documents presented to the Conference on Medium-Term Plan, and the reviews of the Field and Regular Programmes.

Having said this, Mr Chairman, we endorse the programme priorities such as environment and sustainable development, improvement of agricultural data, policy advice, the Technical Cooperation Programme, Tropical Forestry Action Programme and enhanced cooperation with other international organizations.

We would however like to make some brief remarks on a number of specific programmes.

Mr Chairman, we feel that greater attention paid by FAO toward agricultural data development is an important and timely action. In this connection, we hope to see that within the available resource base, works related to the completion of the World Agricultural Information Centre will be the main focus of attention. This centre, not only will help FAO to consolidate its activities, but will also contribute to better collection and dissemination of agricultural data in member countries.

On Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture my delegation would like to make the following specific comments:

First of all we welcome the greater attention paid to "farming systems development" in response to expressed interest of many member countries. We would also like to underline the priority attached to integrated pest management. We wish to express our willingness to take part in the works planned on this subject.

My delegation however feels somewhat uneasy with the intention to reduce the overall budget for animal health in particular for infectious diseases. Especially in our Region, infectious diseases can easily spread among the livestock population which is mainly due to the practice of grazing on common rangelands. In order to compensate the decreased resources for this Sub-Programme, we would like to strongly suggest that efforts be made to supplement them by way of extra-budgetary supports.

As regards Programme 2.2 Fisheries, my delegation would like to stress the importance of promoting regional cooperation on fisheries, particularly on aquaculture, which has a great potential for further development in many member countries. We however note with concern that this action is not provided with adequate resources but left to the availability of extra-budgetary resources.

On Programme 2.3 Forestry, we welcome the overall priority given to the Tropical Forestry Action Programme (TFAP). It is a realistic and practical approach that TFAP will coordinate several Sub-Programmes by Regional Offices. However, we believe that it would also be useful to consider cross-regional Sub-Programmes on TFAP such as a Mediterranean Forestry Action Programme.

It is worthwhile to point out that the Sub-Programme of the TFAP for the Office of Near East proposes studies to be conducted on Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP). Despite its growing economic importance, the NWFP subsector has not received commensurate attention in forestry development policy. In recognition of the importance of NWFP in Turkey, we are very much interested in participating in the above studies within the framework of TFAP.

My delegation observes with satisfaction that the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is agreed as a vital element in FAO's field programmes. In recognition of this, the Resolution adopted in the previous Conference has provided guidance to the present Conference on the level of resources to be allocated for this effective programme. We therefore appreciate the efforts made by the Director-General to ensure that this programme will enjoy the greatest net increase in the proposed budget. While we expected to see that this increase should be at the percentage decided upon at the Twenty-fifth Conference, for the sake of consensus, we are prepared to agree to the proposed level.

We are also inclined to look favourably to the proposals regarding the process for the allocation of TCP resources on the basis of the established criteria and appraisal/review process and considering the concerns of some member countries for greater transparency. However, we would like to stress the importance of the basic objective which led to the establishment of the TCP.

We are of the opinion that most of the action programmes stated in the document may gain further vitality and concerted action by establishing regional training activities under the TCP. As a matter of fact, several of the training activities were undertaken in our country. In the opinion of the participants and Secretariat these training activities have been effective in strengthening regional cooperation and exchanging information among respective countries. From this standpoint, we are prepared to make further contribution to technical cooperation activities by establishing two regional training centres on agriculture and on forestry in Turkey.

FAO Country Representatives have proven their usefulness in the past. Taking into account our greater expectations from these offices such as the promotion of TCDC, national execution and coordination, we endorse the proposed increase in the Programme of Work and Budget. However, we note with some caution the reduced resources for the Regional Offices since these offices play an important role in the generation of extra-budgetary funds for the field programme activities.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, with the above specific remarks, my delegation gives its overall support for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN:** Before giving the floor to the delegate of Japan, I would like to read out the complete list of the members of the Drafting Group. Do remember, members of the Drafting Group, you have to meet right after the end of Plenary this evening. The room is the Mexico Room.

Now, members of the Drafting Group: the Chairman is Mr Carandang from the Philippines; and the members: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Haiti, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sudan, the United States of America and Zambia.

**Takayoshi ISHIDERA (Japan):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor under this very important Agenda Item. First of all, I must apologize to you for coming in too late. I'm sorry.

Japan has already explained its views on the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 at the Hundredth Session of the Council, but we would like to make an intervention again on the following five points in the light of the importance of the debate on this Agenda Item.

First of all Japan's views on the circumstances and the surroundings for formulating FAO's Programme of Work and Budget have been continuously stiff and tightly constrained, reflecting the financial difficulties and tightness of each member's own financial situation, including Japan. In this regard our delegation is pleased to welcome the zero real growth of the PWB for 1992-93. We too support most of the priority areas which are environment and sustained development, agriculture data development, women in development, policy advice and forestry, an International Nutrition Conference, decentralization and the merging of the IAA and DDA units into a consolidated Office for External Relations.

Thirdly, concerning TCP, Japan recognizes that TCP plays a catalytic role and provides FAO with the flexibility to respond to urgent small-scale requests from developing countries.

Japan, however, has great concerns that TCP is an unprogrammed reserve, and its detail is not shown in the PWB while other FAO Regular Programme details must be registered in the programme budgeting system. The increase of US\$4 million for TCP is an imbalance in the total budget when other major programmes are under severe financial restraint. The TCP projects, training, advisory service, investment, formulation/programming support of TCDC and support to development, can be implemented to a large extent through FAO's Trust Fund and UNDP funding field programmes, and we believe that through better coordination with those programmes the aims and objectives of TCP projects could be effectively and efficiently executed.

Fourthly, concerning cost increases, taking full account of the financial constraints and difficulties of member countries, we believe the proposed cost increase of 14.6 percent is too high. Japan sincerely and wholeheartedly requests a review of the cost increase and asks FAO to make every effort to find ways to decrease costs.

Fifthly, lapse factor. We understand that the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference approved a lapse factor of 3 percent. This lapse factor was a change from the original proposal immediately after the last Conference of 5.5 percent and was the main reason why Japan could not endorse the PWB for the current biennium during the last Conference. Japan continues to believe that the lapse factor should be decided on a realistic vacancy ratio and that the 3 percent must be subject to further adjustment to a realistic and reasonable figure. We would appreciate if the FAO Secretariat could come up with further reductions of cost increases by the adjustment of this lapse factor.

**Mme. Fatma LARBI (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe):** M. le Président, je tiens tout d'abord à vous féliciter au nom de la délégation tunisienne de votre élection à la direction de notre Commission. Nous espérons que nos débats seront couronnés de succès. Je tiens aussi à féliciter M. Shah de ses remarques très claires; c'est d'ailleurs une chose à laquelle il nous a toujours habitués pour ce qui est du Programme de travail et budget.

La délégation de mon pays est d'accord avec toutes les délégations qui se sont exprimées auparavant, surtout celles qui ont dit qu'elles étaient d'accord avec le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est soumis par le Directeur général, et qui a été déjà approuvé par le Comité financier, le Comité du Programme ainsi que par le Conseil lors de sa dernière session.

Le niveau du budget qui nous est proposé, surtout si nous considérons la croissance zéro, est un niveau qui n'est pas très satisfaisant. Nous ne pensons pas que nous pourrions réaliser des progrès tout en maintenant le niveau du budget au même niveau. Nous savons que les pays en développement ont besoin davantage d'aide, mais les ressources et le budget ne cessent d'être réduits.

Donc, afin d'arriver à un consensus et pour aider le Secrétariat, nous apportons notre soutien au PTB dans l'attente d'un avenir meilleur. Peut-être que la croissance zéro nous permettra de réorienter nos priorités. Mais je vous rappellerai à nouveau que les pays en développement ont des



besoins plus grands aujourd'hui que par le passé. Donc, mon pays aimerait demander à tous les autres pays de remplir leurs obligations financières. Je leur rappellerai que la FAO a prouvé sa capacité et son efficacité au sein du système des Nations Unies. Il y a des programmes excellents que nous avons déjà vus à l'action. Tout le monde est d'accord aujourd'hui pour dire que la FAO a eu des activités couronnées de succès. Il y a eu par exemple la lutte contre les acridiens et contre le criquet pèlerin, la campagne de lutte contre la lucilie bouchère qui menaçait non seulement l'Afrique du Nord mais la plupart du continent africain ainsi que des pays méditerranéens, c'est-à-dire la plupart des pays de la région dont je proviens.

Nous appuyons aussi les priorités qui nous ont été fixées dans le Programme de travail. Elles reprennent toutes les recommandations du Comité du Programme.

Le Conseil a approuvé cela également.

Nous nous satisfaisons par exemple des programmes des forêts, du rôle de la femme dans le développement, des statistiques agricoles, des conseils en matière de politique ainsi que du PCT et du fait que les priorités de celui-ci doivent être atteintes. Nous pensons que ce sont là des aspects positifs que nous devons appuyer jusqu'au bout.

**Yun HYONG CHONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea):** May I voice my thanks to Mr Shah for his clear explanation on document C 91/3. I would like to make a brief comment on the item under discussion. First, I believe that the Director-General and his staff have taken all possible measures to reflect a realistic package of proposals, taking into account the interests of all the Member States of our Organization. I am in favour of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 presented by the Director-General.

Secondly, with reference to the budget levels contained in the Programme of Work and Budget, I express my opposition to the concept of zero growth for an international organization like FAO in view of the magnitude of the requirements for assistance particularly in the developing countries. However, I accept the present budget levels for the sake of facilitating a consensus.

Thirdly, in regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is important for developing countries, I am disappointed by the percentage of the TCP appropriation in the proposed overall budget remaining at the current level of 11.9 percent, which is too low. I am particularly concerned that the terms of Conference Resolution 9/89, inviting the Director-General to make every effort to restore the resources available to the TCP to the former level of 14 percent of the total Programme Budget, and if possible to raise it to 17 percent, have not been fulfilled. In this regard, I invite the Director-General once more to do his very best to restore the resources available to the TCP to at least 14 percent of the next Programme Budget.

The proposal for the system of indicating country allocations under TCP is unacceptable to us. I also emphasize that the flexibility of the TCP represents one of the main strengths of the Programme. We have never witnessed the need to introduce a modification to the present operating procedure of the TCP. I insist TCP should be more flexible.

A mi delegación le causa cierta preocupación ver que la reasignación de recursos no ha dejado de afectar a Programas como el de Agricultura y Pesca, este último muy sensible a cualquier disminución. Urge una reacción, cada vez más favorable, de los Estados Miembros para el cumplimiento de los compromisos contraídos en el marco de la FAO de manera que se alcancen los objetivos con la participación de los países en proporción a sus posibilidades de contribución.

Señor Presidente, la posición de mi Gobierno, en principio, es de no aumentar su cuota al presupuesto organización para el próximo bienio, lo cual responde a disposiciones presupuestales y a severas restricciones en el gasto público. Sin embargo, con el propósito de que haya consenso en la elaboración del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1992-93, mi Gobierno aprueba la propuesta de Programa y Presupuesto de la Secretaría de esta Organización para dicho periodo. De esta forma expresamos el rechazo al principio del crecimiento cero y reafirmamos la importancia que mi Gobierno concede a la cooperación internacional como instrumento para el desarrollo. En la cruzada para el desarrollo, la corresponsabilidad obliga a mayores esfuerzos.

**Ray ALLEN (United Kingdom):** I would first like to thank Mr Shah for his very detailed introduction to the document. We have already given an outline of the United Kingdom position at the Council but I would like to elaborate on some of the comments I made there now. My first substantive comments relate to the presentation of the document itself.

This is by far the best presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget that I have so far seen, and I would like to thank the Secretariat for all the efforts that they have put into its preparation. My delegation sincerely hopes that these improvements in the presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget will continue and that the document continues to become, for want of a better expression, more "user-friendly".

My delegation is extremely pleased to see that the proposed budget represents no real growth over the last biennium. We are all acutely aware of the difficult choices that have had to be made, and in this respect we think that the Director-General has taken a brave and pragmatic approach to the Budget level, and the affects that any real increase would have on members' assessed contributions. We are fully confident that the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's operations need not be adversely affected by this restraint. We therefore hope that a consensus can be achieved on the Budget.

The inclusion of detailed explanations of the cost increases provided in paragraphs 65 to 109, including the effects of biennialization and expected inflation, are very welcome. We are, however, disappointed that paragraph 75 gives no justification for retaining the lapse factor at 3 percent. I will return to this point later, Mr Chairman. The reduction in cost increases by US\$4 million since the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was presented to the Council in June is particularly welcome. A significant number of members are having difficulty in fulfilling obligations. Those cost increases that have not been absorbed have an impact on members' assessments for the next two years. We therefore urge that these cost increases be absorbed to the maximum extent possible.

You all know that Iraq is an agricultural country. We need this kind of assistance so that we can carry out our agricultural production.

Finally, I hope I have not been too long. I thank you very much, Mr Chairman, and may God's peace and blessing be on you all.

**P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** We thank Dr Shah for the clear explanation of the document C 91/3.

Indonesia has been associated with this exercise of formulating the Programme of Work and Budget, being a member of the Programme Committee, various Technical Committees and Council. Nevertheless, my delegation welcomes this further opportunity to share its views on a number of PWB's components. My delegation has read the documents. We believe that the Director-General and his able staff have taken all possible measures to formulate a realistic package of proposals, taking into account all suggestions and guidance of various FAO's concerned Bodies. We also note that this PWB is presented at the time of a difficult global and national economic situation, especially for the developing economies.

We share the views that FAO's assistance still plays an important role in the developmental programmes of the developing countries. It is, therefore, our delegation's wishes to see any possible real increases of this FAO's PWB, because we believe it can give a positive response to the calls of combating the world's problem on hunger and malnutrition and of helping the needy developing countries to implement their agricultural development programmes in a very successful manner.

However, we also take note of the views that we should prepare a PWB for the forthcoming biennium which really considers the real and latest economic condition of the member countries, in order to assure the maximum participation of all members in sharing the cost of the forthcoming programmes.

We note that the PWB is proposed with no real growth and, therefore, it will mean that this Organization will be in a more difficult situation in the years to come if FAO really wishes to help the developing countries in their struggle to combat hunger, malnutrition and poverty. We also note with concern the possible "migration" of many brilliant experts and technical officers from FAO due to the financial limitations of the Organization. It is in this light that we follow with full attention the process of finalization of the PWB.

FAO has, in the past, repeatedly implemented programmes with the objective of directly assisting farmers in the developing countries, in their efforts to become successful producers and traders of their own agricultural produce. It is the wish of my delegation that FAO be in the position to continue such a programme in the future, since this programme proved to be important to the developing countries.

We support the proposed global priorities of the PWB in which the programme on environment and sustainable development receives high priority. We also appreciate efforts to strengthen the Major Programme on Forestry.

We welcome the strengthening of programme and budget allocation for the Programme on Women in Development, as this is a logical consequence of the inclusion of the WID in the mainstream of FAO's programme.

At the previous Council's meetings we have expressed our full support for the convening of the International Conference on Nutrition. We, therefore, welcome the provision of a net increase of US\$1 million for the preparation of this Conference.

However, we also wish to request FAO's Secretariat also to take any possible efforts to assist the developing countries in their national preparations for this Conference. Likewise, we also wish to request FAO to secure funds for assuring the attendance of representatives of all developing nations, especially the least developing countries at the coming ICN.

We also wish to reiterate our support for the gradual strengthening of the office of the FAO Country Representatives. The consolidation and modernization of FAO's Representatives is one of the recommendations stemming from the FAO Review, in the context of growing national execution and in the light of the urgent requirements for more rapid, effective and substantive advisory services of FAO at the national and regional level.

One of the main important components of FAO's PWB is TCP. We note that, as a response to Conference Resolution 9/89, it is proposed that the TCP receive a net programme increase of US\$4 million, meaning that the greatest net increase is assigned to the TCP. We wish to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his efforts to implement Resolution 9/89.

The TCP's main characteristic has placed this programme as one of FAO's main instruments for a speedy response to an emergency request to help member countries because of unpredictable problems which happen in the agricultural field.

However, much more effort needs to be done in the future, if we really wish to commit ourselves to the wishes of Conference Resolution 9/89, that is to restore the resources available to TCP to the former level of 14 percent of the total Regular Programme Budget and, if possible, to raise it to 17 percent.

We note that there are no extra budgetary resources for TCP for the next biennium. We, therefore, wish to appeal that FAO seeks every possibility to secure extra budgetary resources for this very valuable programme.

As regards the area of reduced resources, we note with concern the decreased allocation of the funding level for the Major Programmes, Agriculture and Fisheries. In previous meetings we have stated that, in the light of the overriding importance of poverty alleviation, there should be emphasis on upgrading human resources and, therefore, we regretted the reduction in resources for the relevant Programme.

In previous Council meetings we also noted that the Member Nations of the Asian and Pacific Region have expressed their disappointment that the regional study for their Region could not be carried out during the 1990-91 biennium, and their call for its inclusion in the PWB 1992-93.

With regard to Fisheries, in view of the fisheries sector's significant contribution to national economic, social and nutritional goals, we requested the Director-General to reconsider the allocation for the Major Programme. At the last Council meeting we requested whether it was possible at least to reach the level of the current biennium.

We also wish to express our concern regarding the suspension of the Professional Training for Agricultural Development Programme. As the previous speaker said, we look forward for the possible reinstating of this important programme in the future PWB. We believe that this programme is very useful for strengthening the managerial capability of technical departments' ministries in the developing countries, and also in the light of the growing needs for national execution.

In other matters related to this we follow with attention the development of matters regarding the Working Capital Fund and the replenishment of the Special Reserve Account. We wish to express our hope here that member countries can reach an acceptable solution, paving the way to a consensus on this matter.

In conclusion, we wish to express here our full confidence in the work of the Programme and Finance Committees. We respect all their wisdom and views. We hope that Conference will feel able to give its consensus, approval to this Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Hopefully, this consensus, approval will be a good basis for renewed financial stability in FAO.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** Coming as I do at the tail-end of the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1992 and 1993, I will keep my intervention Very brief. I intend keeping it more so as India has already made its views known in the Council and the Technical Committees and I already perceive a consensus emerging in this House in support of the PWB for 1992-93 as presented in document C 91/3. India does not feel particularly satisfied with the fact that the budget maintains current level in real terms. In the context of increasing demands being made on FAO to meet the twin challenges of hunger and poverty, the call for zero growth is quite incomprehensible. We feel that for any organization as vital as FAO, it is imperative to maintain a certain rate of growth lest it should be rendered incapable of following its mandate. However, in the interest of the emerging consensus and realism, India is willing to go along and support the Programme of Work and Budget as presented.

We are, however, happy that while maintaining zero growth, programme priorities such as environment and sustainable development, bio-diversity including plant genetic resources, policy advice, women in development, forestry and International Conference on Nutrition as laid down by the Council, Programme and Finance Committees and other Technical Committees have been adhered to. While we welcome the increased allocation in the PWB proposals for different priority sectors, we are concerned at the reduction in the provisions in respect of Agriculture and Fisheries. If FAO has to meet the growing demand of food for the ever growing global population, these programmes will need to be augmented suitably from extra-budgetary resources. India needs additional regional and country programmes in fisheries exploitation and utilization, aquaculture, development of value-added products from low-value fish and marketing. India supports priority being accorded to agricultural data development primarily through the World

Agriculture Information Centre (WAICENT) project and Remote-sensing, Agro-meteorological monitoring and forecasting Global Information and Early Warning System.

India is one of the few countries having a well-established system of collection and compilation of agricultural statistics which have been established over a century ago. The area estimates of different crops are based on complete enumeration whereas the yield estimates are derived from well planned and scientifically designed crop cutting experiments. For handling data of such enormous proportions, and that too at micro level, the use of an extensive electronic data processing system would be helpful in enlarging the coverage and improving the quality and timeliness of the agricultural information system.

In this context, we support the idea of assistance for a statistical system based on a computer package suitable for developing countries' requirements. This would certainly help in improving the coverage, quality and techniques of agricultural statistical information in India, and may act as a model for developing similar systems in other developing countries.

We support the budget proposals for the livestock sector. The attention proposed to be given by FAO to diseases like rinderpest, foot-and-mouth diseases and zoonosis diseases like brucellosis and rabies is also welcome. The proposed centre for veterinary vaccine quality control will be highly beneficial to veterinary, biological products, quality control centres having been established by the Government of India. We are also happy for extension of bio-technology to animal breeding genetics, and utilization of animal genetic resources and conversion of indigenous breeds, germplasm. Application of bio-technology to milk processing and milk products is an important programme element which needs due support from the FAO.

The emphasis proposed in the budget for FAO's research and technology programmes in regard to issues concerning environment and sustainable development, assistance in monitoring of natural resources, prevention of soil salination, agro-meteorological crop monitoring and forecasting in support of early warning system for food shortages are in line with our planned research thrusts and we welcome them.

Like my colleagues from other developing countries, India also feels that provision of US\$774 million for TCP, though at an increased level from the current Programme of Work and Budget, is inadequate. This also fails short of the exhortation given by the Conference Resolution 9/89 in calling upon the Director-General to make every effort to restore the resources available to TCP to the formal level of 14 percent of the total Regular Programme and Budget and, if possible, to raise it to 17 percent.

The Indian delegation also appreciates the recognition given by FAO to TCDC as the key element for collective self-reliance in the developing world. We would, however, suggest that FAO may establish an institutional mechanism and a fund to implement cooperative activities to ensure effective transfer of technology among developing countries.

My delegation had raised the question of implementation of the FAO decision to carry out detailed studies and initiate the work of such a study for Asia and the Pacific Regions. The Report of the Hundredth Council also

recalls such requests by the members of the Asia and the Pacific regions. My delegation will reiterate that the study should be undertaken during the biennium 1992-93 and adequate financial provision be made for the same.

India welcomes the various cost containment measures proposed in the budget. We, however, feel that adopting a lapse factor at a rate higher than 3 percent may be detrimental to the smooth functioning of the Organization. We also lend our support to the imperative need for replenishing the Reserve Fund of the Organization.

I cannot conclude without making reference to the excellent quality of document C 91/3 presenting the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. Unfortunately, I was not present when Mr Vikram Shah, Assistant Director-General, introduced the Agenda Item but judging from the quality of the debate and the comments made by various delegates on this Agenda Item, I can say that it must have been of a very high order.

The Indian delegation feels that the new budget process adopted since the last biennia involving preparation of a supplementary Outline of Programme of Work and Budget has considerably improved the quality of the end product and therefore should be retained. Finally, the Indian delegation is happy to commend the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 for adoption to the Conference.

**Igor MARINCEK (Suisse):** J'aimerais remercier M. Shah de son introduction dans ce point de notre ordre du jour et le secrétariat de l'élaboration du document, ce document plus informatif que dans le passé, et nous nous en félicitons bien que nous voyions encore des possibilités de l'améliorer.

D'emblée, j'aimerais signaler que ma délégation approuvera le niveau budgétaire proposé. En acceptant le budget, nous voulons témoigner notre attachement vis-à-vis de cette organisation, et prouver en même temps le caractère constructif de nos remarques et propositions.

Je rappelle ce qui a toujours été notre position à l'égard de la FAO. Nous ne voulons pas une FAO qui coûte moins cher, mais une FAO plus forte et plus efficace dans le cadre d'un budget donné, et une FAO qui puisse contribuer mieux à relever les défis qui sont sa raison d'être principale.

Ma délégation souhaite cependant pouvoir éviter une augmentation du Fonds roulement et la reconstitution du Compte de réserve spécial. Vu les déclarations faites par le plus gros contributeur dans la Plénière, il semble que l'on s'approche de la fin du tunnel et que la situation financière de la FAO s'annonce plutôt bonne à partir de l'an prochain.

Dans ces perspectives, nous ne voyons donc pas de raison pour les mesures proposées qui devront être discutées plus en détail dans la Commission III.

J'en arrive à mon deuxième point: le Programme de travail proposé ne peut pas nous convaincre pleinement. Nous constatons, comme dans le passé, une nouvelle augmentation du nombre des éléments de programmes proposés, ce qui est un indicateur d'un éparpillement croissant des ressources. Nous pensons que cela affaiblit la FAO. Nous sommes pour une concentration des activités et programmes sur les domaines où la FAO dispose d'un avantage comparatif. En concentrant l'action de la FAO de cette manière, nous pouvons à notre avis favoriser un triple renforcement de la FAO:

Premièrement, en privilégiant les domaines d'action où la FAO est particulièrement compétente et efficace. L'efficacité de l'ensemble de l'action de la FAO se trouve améliorée.

Deuxièmement, en concentrant l'action de la FAO, nous pouvons obtenir des gains de productivité de nature tant qualitative que quantitative grâce à la spécialisation. L'effort consacré aux projets récents ouvre des perspectives très intéressantes dans ce sens.

Et troisièmement, en se concentrant sur ces domaines d'avantages comparatifs donc de compétence, d'efficacité et de succès, la FAO pourra renforcer sa compétitivité dans le système international, ce qui améliore ses possibilités d'augmenter sa part relative dans le flux de l'aide au développement.

Je pense notamment aux ressources du PNUD, aux fonds bilatéraux, aux fonds de la Banque mondiale.

Nous pensons donc qu'il est dans l'intérêt de tous les pays membres de concentrer l'action de la FAO sur ces domaines d'avantages comparatifs. Pour le faire de la manière la plus rationnelle possible, il serait bien de pouvoir disposer d'une information concrète sur le développement de la productivité qualitative et quantitative dans les différents domaines d'action de la FAO.

Je rappelle ma proposition faite pendant notre examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91. Lors de notre examen du Plan à moyen terme, hier, nous sommes parvenus à un consensus sur le Plan à moyen terme et ses priorités, ce qui est réjouissant.

Dans le futur, le Programme de travail et budget devrait refléter davantage ces priorités. Dans deux ans, nous espérons donc trouver un Programme de travail qui propose une concentration des programmes sur les priorités du Plan à moyen terme; car c'est seulement en le traduisant dans le Programme de travail et budget que nous pouvons mettre en valeur le Plan à moyen terme.

Nous ne pouvons pas encore nous attendre à ce stade à une telle harmonisation entre Programme de travail et Plan à moyen terme.

Dans deux ans, nous serons cependant plus exigeants. Il est clair que les priorités du Plan à moyen terme et du Programme de travail et budget ne peuvent pas s'appliquer à toutes les lignes du budget de notre Organisation.

En fait, c'est avant tout les chapitres deux et quatre qui se prêtent pour un exercice de concentration sur des priorités. Ils représentent ensemble quelque 60 pour cent du budget. C'est dans ces deux chapitres que les priorités du Plan à moyen terme devraient pouvoir bénéficier d'une part croissante des ressources disponibles, ceci aux dépens des domaines moins prioritaires. Si de telles activités pouvaient être reprises par d'autres organisations qui sont déjà actives, la division du travail et l'efficacité du système international en profiteraient.

J'en viens à mon troisième point: le calcul des augmentations des coûts. La présentation n'est pas tout à fait claire pour nous dans le document. En approuvant le budget il y a deux ans, nous avons accepté une provision de



quarante millions de dollars pour l'inflation prévue pour 1990-91. On nous dit maintenant qu'il faut encore une fois quarante millions pour la biennalisation des coûts en cette même période. Est-ce dire que l'augmentation des coûts dans le biennium actuel s'élèverait à quatre-vingt millions de dollars? Est-ce que M. Shah peut nous confirmer ce calcul?

Ma deuxième question concernant les augmentations de coûts est relative à la prise en compte des améliorations de la productivité. Dans le paragraphe cinquante-deux, il est mentionné que l'informatisation a permis d'améliorer la productivité et de réduire les tâches à forte intensité de travail le plus souvent confiées à des agents de services généraux. Nous en sommes contents et nous espérons, et sommes même convaincus, que l'amélioration de la productivité touche aussi les cadres organiques. Augmentation de la productivité signifie qu'on arrive au même résultat avec moins de ressources, ce qui devrait compenser, tout au moins en partie, les augmentations des coûts pour ces dites ressources. Est-ce que M. Shah peut nous informer si l'on a tenu compte de ce phénomène dans le calcul des augmentations des coûts?

J'en arrive à mon quatrième point: le budget proposé n'est pas établi sur la base des dépenses effectives dans le présent biennium mais sur une base budgétaire assez théorique. Dans sa réponse à la fin de notre débat sur l'examen du Programme ordinaire 1990-91, M. Shah nous a informés sur les niveaux des dépenses atteintes dans le biennium en cours. Selon ses dires, les dépenses du chapitre deux ont dû être réduites en raison de la situation financière difficile de quelque 10 pour cent, c'est-à-dire environ 27 à 28 millions de dollars.

Si nous partons de l'idée que les autres chapitres n'ont pas subi de coupures, les dépenses de notre Organisation, liées à l'exécution du Programme ordinaire pendant le biennium en cours, se seraient élevées à quelque 540 millions de dollars.

En partant de la base budgétaire de 568 millions approuvée il y a deux ans, nous aurons ainsi, de toute façon, une augmentation réelle des ressources disponibles à condition que tous les Etats Membres paient leurs contributions.

Vu les circonstances particulières, nous ne considérons cependant pas cette augmentation comme une croissance réelle du budget. Une fois la situation financière rétablie, nous aimerions que l'on commence à préparer les budgets à partir des dépenses effectives.

J'en arrive à mon cinquième point: dans le paragraphe 77, nous lisons, et je cite, que "le budget-programme est établi par imputation des mois de travail correspondant à chaque poste inscrit au Programme ordinaire, et que le budget est calculé compte tenu des augmentations de coûts et de l'abattement pour mouvements de personnel à l'aide des nouveaux coûts normalisés".

Peut-être l'examen des organigrammes des postes ouverts et des changements proposés au niveau du personnel nous donne-t-il une meilleure indication des priorités du programme que les descriptifs que nous pouvons trouver dans la présentation des programmes proposés.

Or, nous constatons, dans le tableau après le paragraphe 55, que la variation brute des postes du cadre organique proposés se limite à de maigres 5 pour cent de l'effectif, et qu'une partie significative de cette variation ne concerne en vérité que le transfert de certains postes d'un service à l'autre.

S'il est vrai que pour de nouvelles priorités il faut faire appel à de nouveaux spécialistes, je ne vois pas très bien comment notre Organisation compte relever les nouveaux défis avec détermination. Au rythme de 5 pour cent tous les deux ans, il faudrait 40 ans pour changer de cap totalement.

Il y a évidemment des activités qui doivent rester en permanence dans les attributions de la FAO comme les travaux liés aux statistiques, aux conférences, etc. Mais, là aussi, les méthodes de travail changent comme en témoigne le projet WAICENT que j'ai déjà mentionné et dont nous attendons beaucoup.

J'en viens à mon sixième point: le budget préparé avec un taux d'abattement de 3 pour cent. Nous étions opposés à la réduction de ce taux de 5 à 3 pour cent il y a deux ans. Il semble que les vacances de poste établies se situent nettement au-dessus des 10 pour cent. En été, le taux de vacances se serait même situé à 18 pour cent. Nous regrettons que le Comité financier ne se soit pas intéressé à nous informer de la situation actuelle sur cette question. Dans son rapport au Conseil, nous avons cherché en vain à trouver l'information sur ce sujet. Comme les coûts de personnel organique, c'est-à-dire sans les consultants, absorbent quelque 62 pour cent du Budget ordinaire, une différence de 10 pour cent entre le laps factor et le niveau effectif des vacances de poste laisse une marge très importante de quelque 40 millions de dollars au niveau du budget proposé de 652 millions de dollars.

Mon septième point concerne le PCT. Nous sommes contre une allocation géographique de celui-ci mais nous sommes pour une allocation thématique en accord avec les priorités du Plan à moyen terme. Pour nous, le PCT peut remplir une fonction utile de lien entre Programme ordinaire et Programme de terrain, notamment dans le domaine de l'analyse et des conseils en matière de politique.

Concernant le niveau proposé du PCT, nous constatons que ce programme bénéficie d'une augmentation nette de 4 millions de dollars, c'est-à-dire d'une augmentation réelle de 6 pour cent. C'est seulement grâce à des augmentations de coûts plus faibles de ce programme en comparaison avec d'autres que la part du PCT dans le budget reste la même que dans le budget précédent.

Mon huitième point concerne les activités en Europe. Celles-ci sont importantes vu les changements qui ont eu lieu au centre et à l'est de ce vieux continent. En Europe aussi il s'agit de combattre le gaspillage des ressources par des doubles emplois. Ma délégation a déjà proposé dans la plénière la fusion du Bureau régional de la FAO pour l'Europe et de la Division mixte FAO/CEE, et parallèlement celle des organes européens de la FAO avec les organes agricoles et forestiers de la Commission économique pour l'Europe. Une telle fusion permettra une concentration de l'offre des activités du système onusien dans l'agriculture, l'alimentation et les pêcheries en Europe, ce qui conduira à une amélioration de l'efficacité et à une diminution des coûts des divers services concernés au sein de la FAO et de la CEE comme au sein des administrations des pays de la région.

Concernant le budget proposé pour l'Europe, nous constatons que seulement un tiers de celui-ci est géré par le REUR et le GEUR, c'est-à-dire le Bureau régional et la Division mixte. Les deux tiers sont affectés aux activités menées par le Siège. Nous aimerions que la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe soit dans l'avenir informée davantage sur l'utilisation de ces deux tiers et qu'elle puisse avoir une prise plus directe sur les activités financées par ces ressources. Par ailleurs, nous espérons que les Etats baltes que nous saluons comme nouveaux membres de l'Organisation participeront pleinement aux activités européennes de la FAO.

Mon neuvième point concerne l'allocation de ressources pour les questions de l'environnement et du développement durable. Le paragraphe 22 nous informe d'une plutôt maigre augmentation nette de crédit de 1.5 million pour cette grande priorité du Plan à moyen terme. Le paragraphe 23 se veut un peu rassurant en rappelant qu'un certain nombre d'unités de la FAO prévoient de renforcer leurs activités ayant trait au développement durable. Pouvons-nous savoir quelle est l'augmentation nette liée à toutes les activités? Nous espérons que la priorité accordée dans le Plan à moyen terme au développement durable se reflétera dans l'avenir dans une augmentation substantielle de la part relative des ressources allouées aux activités dans ce domaine. Les activités agroforestières et forestières sont également très importantes dans ce contexte.

J'en arrive à mon dixième et dernier point. Mon pays a déjà signalé à plusieurs reprises son opposition au recours aux emprunts pour faire face à la situation financière difficile dans laquelle la FAO s'est trouvée. Nous sommes opposés à l'idée de déduire les coûts des emprunts des recettes diverses. A notre avis, il faudra les déduire plutôt du remboursement de l'excédent de trésorerie des pays qui n'ont pas rempli leurs obligations financières.

**S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand):** We thank you for this opportunity to say a few words on the very important subject of the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium. We have followed with interest the various interventions on this issue. We would like to compliment Dr. Shah and his staff for the progress and the improved format in the quality of the C 91/3 budget document.

Dealing with the programmes first, Mr. Chairman, New Zealand supports FAO's programmes in the areas of policy advice, environment and sustainable development, provision of agricultural statistics and information. We have also been strong supporters of FAO's Field Programmes which are in some ways the bread and butter of the Organization. Acknowledging the importance of substantial statistical data and information, we are pleased with the progress being made towards the establishment of the World Agricultural Information Centre or WAICENT as it is known.

New Zealand also supports FAO's work in the forestry area. In our Plenary address the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture stressed the importance of the contributions being made by FAO in the area of international standards harmonization through programmes such as Codex. Indeed, the proposed GATT Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures recognizes the very important role being played by organizations such as FAO in the area of standards development harmonization as a means of reducing technical

barriers to trade. In this context we are disappointed that progress has yet to be made on the establishment of a Support Secretariat to service the programmes and objectives of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

We hope early progress can be made on this in the next biennium.

Mr. Chairman, moving on to the issue of the Biennial Budget I would like to restate our support for a zero growth budget. We acknowledge the efforts that have been made by the Organization to achieve cost savings and improve internal efficiencies, and this is by no means an easy task as we have found from our own experience when faced with, not so much a zero budget but a declining real budget. Even so, we do have some reservations about the level of cost increases predicted for the biennium particularly against the background of the decisions made at the last Conference on the lapse factor. We are nevertheless prepared to work for a consensus.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, we are concerned about the proposals for replenishment of the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund through special assessment. We have to view the depletion of FAOs reserves in the overall context of arrears in contributions. We are concerned that the Organization has had to resort to external borrowings necessitated by that and would hope that all member countries would clear outstanding arrears to the Organization and arrange to meet their financial obligations as soon as possible each year consistent with their budgetary cycles. We believe the settlement of arrears will obviate the need for special assessment.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate our willingness to work towards consensus on this important issue. Thank you.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Philippine delegation would like to express the hope that consensus can be achieved during the Commission concerning the Programme of Work and Budget.

We are all aware of the importance of achieving consensus, since it can contribute towards the solution of the problems related to economies and the problems consequent thereto, i.e. the need for borrowing, forcible programme cuts, and the diminished ability of the Organization to deliver agreed programmes and respond to the needs of the Member Nations.

In this spirit, and upon the instructions of the Head of the Philippines delegation, we wish to reiterate our support for the Programme priorities and resource allocations which have already been deliberated upon and generally agreed upon by the FAO Technical Bodies and the Programme and Finance Committees at the last session of the FAO Council.

In the same vein, the Philippines delegation wishes to indicate its support for the budget level and the resolutions on the Special Reserve Account and the Working Capital Fund. We believe that the proposed budget level is already the result of compromise that has been made by various parties in the interest of consensus. The Group of 77 is ready to set aside the objections in principle to zero growth in spite of the fact that more is required now of the Organization, in view of the deteriorating food

production problems in the developing countries and the new initiatives required of the Organization related to sustainable development support for the Uruguay Round set-up of policy advice and other priorities.

The Philippine delegation is of the view that a study has to be made to better address the problem of currency fluctuations and exchange rates. Right now, for example, because of unfavourable dollar exchange rates, countries which have devalued their currencies against the dollar have to face a double jeopardy. Those countries, however, whose currencies have appreciated against the dollar, for example various European currencies, will have to pay less in terms of national currency. In the spirit of greater equity and equal distribution of burdens, perhaps this could be taken into consideration in any future studies regarding contributions. Various ideas are floating, for example regarding forward-buying and split-currency contributions. Split-currency contributions, for example, would shift the instability of currency exchange rates to member countries. Forward-buying is not without costs, but perhaps expert advice would be required to obtain optimum results. We realize that it is unfair and not possible at all to request the Conference to give its views on such ideas for which no adequate study or documentation has been prepared.

For the present, therefore, the Philippine delegation believes that we have to keep the present device of the Special Reserve Account to ensure delivery of the approved programmes. In the past, Member Governments have received their share of surpluses as a result of favourable exchange rates. Now that we have unfavourable exchange rates, who in here complains about the Special Reserve Accounts? But this is probably not entirely logical since we were aware of the nature of the Special Reserve Account when we approved it.

With regards to the lapse factor, Mr. Chairman, we wish to say only that a return to a high level of lapse factor would mean a lower availability of resources for the Organization, which has already been obliged to absorb cost increases.

With regard to the TCP, we only wish to say that while approving the present budget level we wish to reiterate our support for the Resolution asking the Director-General to allocate 14 percent of the budget of the TCP and if possible 17 percent. The Philippine delegation attaches great importance to TCP as it enables FAO to provide technical assistance in the various areas of its competence and where it has comparatively advantage. The Philippine delegation supports the flexible nature of the TCP and is not in favour of a rigid allocation of TCP resources which can only favour disharmony among regions.

**Neil PIERRE (Guyana):** I would like at the very outset to commend Mr Shah for the very useful and informative presentation of this item made to the Commission yesterday, and to the Secretariat for the high quality of the documents before us.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, let me know go straight to the point of my intervention, which is to register some comments on the proposals we are now considering. We have been presented firstly with the proposal for a zero growth budget. While recognizing the Director-General's underlying objective in presenting this budget, of facilitating its adoption by consensus, my delegation finds it difficult to reconcile such a principle

of no growth with the nature and extent of the Organization's work. It is a principle, we believe, that should never be supported as a general rule in organizations such as FAO, but it is an action nonetheless in these specific circumstances which receives the endorsement of my delegation in a spirit of compromise and in recognition of the efforts of the Director-General and of his staff in attempting to put forward such a compromise.

My delegation will therefore support the adoption of the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 by consensus.

That general comment apart, let me at this stage, enter our very strong reservations on the section of the proposal dealing with the TCP. My country, like so many others, has found the resources available under this Programme to be very effective in meeting some of our more immediate needs. It is to be regretted therefore that at a time when demands on such resources will inevitably increase, a commensurate increase in its allocations, will not be forthcoming. This will undoubtedly result in the build up of un-met requests and the denial of much needed project support. It is a matter of great regret, therefore, that the established funding targets of 14 and 17 percent will remain in the realms of illusion.

My delegation believes that the existing arrangements governing the TCP should be duly maintained since these have proved to be both effective and flexible in responding to needs of countries such as ours.

Finally, we welcome the current focus in the budget on areas for priority action by FAO. This focus in general accords with our own developmental priorities and is necessary in a period of scarce resources. In particular my delegation is pleased with the emphasis on forestry and with the resources allocated for backstopping the TFAP. We look forward to the full and effective implementation of this Programme as a matter of great urgency.

With these few comments, Mr Chairman, let me thank you for giving me the floor, and wish you well in your attempts to guide the work of this Commission.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** Je voudrais d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous ont été soumis pour débattre de ce point de l'ordre du jour.

La Belgique ne faisant partie d'aucun des organes restreints de la FAO, du moins en ce moment, elle n'a jusqu'ici pas encore eu l'occasion de se prononcer sur le Programme de travail et budget. Toutefois, depuis la publication précoce du schéma, nous avons suivi toutes les étapes de la procédure d'établissement du Budget-Programme biennal, et nous sommes donc de ceux qui sont favorables au maintien de cette étape supplémentaire.

Nous avons également écouté les orateurs qui nous ont précédés et, comme vous sans doute, nous avons noté la fréquence de l'utilisation du mot "consensus". Pour ne pas briser ce consensualisme de bon aloi, ma délégation se livrera ici à une froide analyse des documents qui nous sont fournis, en les examinant selon la bonne vieille méthode de comptabilité, c'est-à-dire du point de vue des ressources, du point de vue des dépenses.

Voyons tout d'abord le point de vue des ressources.

Le niveau du budget pour la période biennale 1992-93 s'élève à un peu moins de 652 millions de dollars, je parle ici des ressources allouées au Programme ordinaire. Ce montant est faible.

Il est faible si on le compare aux sommes allouées au développement agricole par la voie bilatérale. Il est faible aussi si l'on compare le budget de la FAO à celui d'autres organisations qui couvrent le même secteur et dont certaines sont établies à Rome. Il est dérisoire enfin si on le compare au besoin d'assistance technique des pays en développement, même compte tenu de la capacité limitée d'absorption de l'aide par l'économie de ces pays.

A ceux qui font observer que ce faible montant s'explique par le fait que cette organisation n'a pas de vocation financière, je répondrai que l'assistance technique qu'elle fournit constitue le moyen le plus sain et le plus sûr d'attirer d'autres financements.

Certains disent aussi que le budget n'a qu'une valeur indicative, et qu'une fois voté il ne doit pas nécessairement être dépensé dans sa totalité. C'est malheureusement un luxe que la FAO ne peut se permettre. Compte tenu de la situation actuelle qui l'oblige à racler ses fonds de tiroirs, il est peu réaliste de demander à cette organisation de constituer une sorte d'épargne budgétaire.

J'en viens à la deuxième remarque concernant les ressources.

Pour la première fois le Directeur général nous propose un budget à croissance réelle nulle. La FAO rejoint en cela l'austérité budgétaire pratiquée par d'autres organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies.

Des controverses subsistent sur la question des accroissements nominaux des coûts ramenés à 83 millions de dollars. Ces controverses risquent de compromettre tous les efforts que l'on s'est donnés pour remplacer la vilaine notion de "croissance zéro" par une expression plus pudique, "la non-croissance réelle", qui camoufle mal cependant les coupes sombres dont plusieurs programmes techniques ont déjà fait l'objet.

Au nom de cette même pudeur, nous encouragerions ceux qui exigent une réduction supplémentaire de l'augmentation des coûts à respecter d'abord leurs obligations budgétaires.

La Belgique est opposée à une croissance négative ou à une décroissance réelle du niveau du budget. L'accroissement des coûts étant dû pour l'essentiel à la réadaptation des salaires des fonctionnaires, il est en grande partie incompressible. Sans cet ajustement, l'Organisation perdrait les qualités dont elle a besoin. C'est d'ailleurs le même souci de préserver l'excellence de l'Organisation qui justifie selon nous la diminution du taux d'abattement pour postes vacants. Nous pensons que cette mesure couvre des coûts salariaux effectifs qui correspondent aux surcoûts occasionnés par l'emploi de consultants temporaires pour pallier les insuffisances du cadre organique.

La troisième remarque que nous désirons faire à propos des ressources concerne la provenance. Si l'on en croit le tableau de la page 65 du document C 91/3, les 652 millions du budget représentent seulement un peu

moins de 43 pour cent des ressources de l'Organisation. Le reste, c'est-à-dire environ 880 millions de dollars, soit un peu plus de 57 pour cent de l'ensemble des ressources, provient de sources extrabudgétaires.

Il est vrai que d'autres organisations spécialisées connaissent le même phénomène, et, pour ce qui concerne la FAO, nous pensons qu'il s'agit d'une anomalie. Il n'est pas sain que les activités relevant par essence du long terme et donc du Programme régulier soient financées par des ressources extrabudgétaires. Cette anomalie est particulièrement perceptible dans certains programmes comme celui consacré aux forêts tropicales, et cette anomalie ne pourra être corrigée que par une augmentation à terme du budget de cette organisation.

Une fois de plus, nous désirons rappeler que ressources budgétaires et ressources extrabudgétaires doivent être complémentaires mais ne sont pas substituables ni interchangeables.

J'en arrive maintenant à l'examen des dépenses.

A leur sujet nous ferons deux remarques, la première concerne le PCT et la seconde les priorités.

En ce qui concerne le PCT, on peut ne pas apprécier ce programme à sa juste valeur, on peut même douter de son utilité. Nous ne sommes pas intolérants ni sectaires, mais il y a une chose que l'on ne saurait lui reprocher, c'est sa transparence. A ceux qui en doutent encore, je conseille vivement de se pencher sur ce document intitulé Annuaire des projets de terrain qui vient d'être distribué. Peu de sujets ont fait l'objet d'autant d'expertises et d'évaluations. A force de transparence, on risque de faire du PCT un véritable programme fantôme.

La délégation belge continue de penser qu'à travers ce programme, dont les modalités sont très strictement définies, c'est toute la capacité opérationnelle de cette organisation qui est préservée. Ce programme joue le rôle irremplaçable d'amorce pour la mise en place des projets. Il constitue le chaînon indispensable qui relie le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain. Sa souplesse d'utilisation doit être préservée.

Le deuxième point que je désire aborder sous la question des dépenses est celui des priorités. C'est un problème important. Lors de la vingt-cinquième Conférence, nous avons manifesté notre scepticisme sur leur instauration. Deux années après, le processus semble bien engagé et conforme aux recommandations de la Résolution 10/89 et à l'idée de Plan à moyen terme. Je dis "semble", M. le Président, car la FAO peut difficilement faire plus avec moins de ressources. Une lecture attentive du document C 91/3 révèle que les secteurs bénéficiant d'une augmentation de dépenses correspondent à des domaines pour lesquels la FAO doit faire face à des échéances à court terme. Je pense particulièrement aux Conférences sur l'environnement et à celle sur la nutrition. Ces sujets sont certes importants mais l'Organisation est en fait plus contrainte à parer au plus pressé qu'à opter pour de véritables choix stratégiques qui conditionneraient son action pour les années à venir, et ceci confirme les craintes que nous avons exprimées il y a deux ans. Nous continuons de penser que la fixation de véritables priorités nécessite au préalable une situation financière saine.



En conclusion, je désire rappeler que l'adoption du budget n'est pas seulement un acte comptable; c'est aussi un acte politique qui conditionne l'avenir de cette organisation, et qui conditionne aussi les relations entre ses différents membres.

Nous espérons nous aussi que ce budget sera adopté par consensus, mais nous ne voudrions pas que les choses s'arrêtent là. Ce consensus ne sera significatif que lorsque tous les Etats Membres, joignant le geste à la parole, décideront de mettre un terme au psychodrame financier de cette organisation en s'acquittant de leurs obligations financières.

**F.A. Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh):** First of all, I would like to compliment FAO's Secretariat for producing the document. I would also like to extend our very warm thanks to Mr Shah for introducing the subject with the clarity which characterizes his presentations. We are aware that the Director-General and his officials have had to prepare the budget with the constraint of resource limitations, aggravated by the fact that some Member Nations have not paid their dues in full. We hope countries in default will clear their arrears as soon as possible. What we feel is badly needed today is prompt payment of assessed contributions by all Member Nations to enable the Director-General to prepare the Budget with the confidence that he has the funds required for the allocations that have to be made. My delegation also feels that efforts should be made to avoid borrowing without cutting down on the essential activities of the Organizations.

My delegation is pleased to see that major priorities in areas of increased resources have been given to environment and sustainable development, agricultural data development, women in development, policy advice, TCP, International Conference on Nutrition, forestry, strengthening of Country Representations and enhanced coordination with international and NGOs. All these areas are of great importance to Bangladesh and FAO activities in these areas would effectively complement the endeavours of the Bangladesh Government for all-round agricultural development. We are particularly happy to see the emphasis on women in development. In Bangladesh, where the majority of the population live on agriculture, there is an increasing awareness of the role of women in development, particularly agricultural development. A recent study indicates that 40 percent of our rural women are involved in primary agricultural production. The new projects that are being undertaken in my country aim at ensuring adequate involvement of women in production activities, both as participants and as beneficiaries. We are also happy to see the emphasis on TCP and the International Conference on Nutrition. Bangladesh hopes to benefit from participation in the Nutrition Conference and there are ongoing activities in the country in preparation for the Conference. We would also like to see increased allocation on the TCP in future.

Finally, my delegation commends the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget be adopted by consensus.

**J.O. FALOBİ (Nigeria):** The Nigerian delegation would like to start by congratulating the Director-General and his staff on the meticulous and well-articulated document prepared on the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992-93 biennium. There is no doubt that a lot of painstaking efforts have been put into the preparation of the document. We appreciate and commend the efforts. The Nigerian delegation would, however, also like to

join other delegations in saying that we do not support zero growth for future programmes of work. We would like to caution that we cannot shy away from zero growth for future Programmes of Work and Budget if Member Nations do not honour their financial obligations fully and promptly.

As observed by the Director-General in his introduction, unless we return to a normal pattern of payment of assessed contributions for current year and until all arrears due are cleared by the governments concerned, the hand-to-mouth existence imposed on this Organization will continue to have all the negative implications on the services it renders to its Member Nations. Amongst these negative implications is zero growth or negative growth in its Programme of Work and Budget, as we see in the Programme of Work and Budget before us for discussion today. Although we are not in support of zero growth in the Programme of Work and Budget, under the present dwindling financial resources faced by the Organization, we would like to say that the Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Director-General is well-balanced and articulate. We are pleased to note that major priority areas, as recognized and endorsed by the Council, which include, among others, environment and sustainable development, agricultural development, women in development, policy advice, Technical Cooperation Programme and Tropical Forestry Action Plan which is of global importance in view of the need to promote concerted action for addressing the problem of deforestation and ensuring conservation and sustainable development of tropical forests have been given some prominence in the Programme of Work and Budget.

We recognize the need to provide a better financial resource base from Member Nations through prompt payment of contributions and arrears owed by countries concerned. There is therefore a need for the Council to examine very critically the various options for an improved Programme of Work and Budget in future. When adequate funds are available we would like the Director-General to allocate more financial support to the TCP, the TFAP, Agriculture Data Development and Women in Development Programmes.

Finally, there is no doubt that the Director-General and his staff have had a difficult task prioritizing and preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992-93 biennium on the basis of no real programme increase, and that cost increases are contained to the maximum extent possible while at the same time providing for the requirements for the implementation of the Programme of Work approved by Council within the financial resources at its disposal. We therefore lend our support to the Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Director-General.

**Saleh Idris MUHAMMED (Tanzania):** Since Tanzania is taking the floor for the first time, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on having been elected to the Chair of Commission II. I would also like to congratulate Mr Shah for his very informative and extensive introductory remarks. My delegation would like to commend FAO for the comprehensive Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. The task put before FAO of setting priorities within a rationality of zero budget growth was not an easy one. However, the concept of zero growth in the budget is untimely. It comes when the human environment, especially in the developing countries, is dominated by poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and sheer misery. Thus, with such enormous requirements, one would expect FAO to have a reasonable budget to meet the ever-increasing demands. The concept of zero growth in the budget undermines FAO's operations and one finds FAO failing to live

fully in line with the set goals and objectives in the development of world food and agriculture. My delegation would like to join in endorsing the Budget but would like in future to see FAO budget being allowed to grow and being directed to the most needy areas. Tanzania supports and endorses fully the priorities set in the 1992-93 Programme of Work. The priorities are relevant and appropriate. The priorities include environment and sustainable development, agricultural data development, women in development, policy advice, the Technical Cooperation Programme, International Conference on Nutrition, forestry, especially support to the Tropical Forestry Action Programme, strengthening of Country Representations and enhanced cooperation with other national organizations and NGOs.

On environment and sustainable development, Tanzania observes that the need for linking environmental considerations with national development strategies is growing.

The majority of the people in Tanzania are directly dependent on their environment for their livelihood. Yet these people experience hardships as a result of degradation and depletion of vital natural resources. We are deeply concerned that degradation of our natural resources undermines our efforts in the development process. We are further concerned that emerging environmental conditions such as global warming and climatic changes might threaten our agricultural production, reduce our woodland resources to bare earth, destroy our aquatic resources and wildlife, and hence threaten the existence of our future generations.

Tanzania has tried, to the best of her ability, to respond to these development problems. However, on our own, we are limited by the complexity of the tasks.

The developing countries, especially African countries, are confronted with grim situations. In order to arrest and reverse this unsatisfactory and unacceptable situation, great efforts have to be made. For developing countries appropriate economic and social policies must be put in their proper places. For FAO it is not enough to be sympathetic only to the needs of the rural poor. FAO has to act adequately and with speed.

It is in the light of the above that my delegation feels uncomfortable with the stagnation of budgetary allocations to the Technical Cooperation Programme. Maintaining the same level of budget for TCP at 11.9 percent as that of the biennium 1990-91 will have a negative impact on FAO's Programme implementation. Tanzania would like to join other member countries in appealing for increased budgetary allocation to TCP, at least to the recommended level of 14-17 percent of the Regular Programme budget as contained in Conference Resolution 9/89.

My delegation would like to remind the Conference of the adverse effects of structural adjustment programmes on the agricultural sector, in particular to small farmers. As we all know, structural adjustment programmes currently implemented in a number of African countries are accompanied by massive devaluation of local currencies and removed subsidies even on production inputs. Since we import most of our inputs, the cost of these inputs has risen beyond the means of our farmers.

My delegation would like to request an increased budgetary allocation to inputs such as fertilizers. Similarly, we appeal to FAO, to carry out related studies on structural adjustments and give appropriate advice, so that the agricultural sector is not adversely affected by such programmes.

My delegation would also like to join other member countries in appealing for FAO's increased participation in technology transfer, fisheries, human resources deployment, Codex Alimentarius Commission, pest management and Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

May I suggest that the more fortunate developed countries should take heed of the Holy Father's statement this morning that FAO should listen to the pleas of the poor.

The Tanzanian delegation endorses the Budget and the Programme with the observations that I have stated.

**Oscar MAS HERRERA (Costa Rica):** Seré extraordinariamente breve. En primer lugar, vayan nuestros saludos más cordiales a usted por su nombramiento para ese honroso cargo. También deseo agradecer al Sr. Shah por la presentación que ha hecho, con la competencia que le es usual, del documento relativo a Labores y Presupuesto 1992-93. La delegación de Costa Rica desearía manifestar su apoyo a la aprobación por consenso del Presupuesto presentado a la Conferencia; creemos que debe ser así en bien de todos, dadas las circunstancias.

Pero nuestro apoyo es sólo en principio puesto que estimamos que hay algunas observaciones que parecieran indispensables de hacerse.

En primer lugar, queremos referirnos al crecimiento cero, o llamado de otras maneras algo más maquilladas, que lo tenemos por un mal pero que probablemente hoy por hoy sea un mal necesario. Ojalá el crecimiento cero sea sólo coyuntural y que en un futuro cercano el crecimiento de la Organización sea positivo, especialmente en lo relativo a los programas de cooperación. No desearíamos ver a la FAO estancarse en su capacidad de ayuda, en especial a los países del Tercer Mundo.

Otro punto al que quisiera referirme, es la supresión de los Fondos de Reserva. Nuestra delegación considera tal medida como altamente calamitosa. No sabemos de ninguna otra institución en este mundo que maneje fondos y desarrolle programas, que no cuenten con sus correspondientes Fondos de Reserva. Pero advertimos ciertamente las dificultades que este punto supone y no quisiéramos entrar en detalles de procedimiento para lograr la restitución de estos fondos, sino únicamente señalar el problema conscientes de que, sin duda, lo más apropiado sería profundizar en el tema pero que en este documento no lo consideramos oportuno.

Finalmente, quisiera hacer un llamado a la Conferencia para que los cálculos del Presupuesto de la Organización se atengan al cambio del dólar el día de la aprobación del Presupuesto, tal y como ha sido la inveterada tradición de la FAO, sin fijar arbitrariamente el nivel del dólar, hecho, que a nuestro juicio, podría traer daños considerables a nuestra Organización.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** Since this is the first time that we have taken the floor in this Commission, the Ethiopian delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Commission.

Our delegation would also thank Mr Shah for his clear introduction of this item.

We have had a chance to indicate our position with regard to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 during the last Council session and we see no need to go into detail.

We have also had a chance to air our views in the development of the Programme of Work and Budget during the biennium, and we are convinced that our concerns are fully covered in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget by the Director-General.

Therefore, we would like to express our endorsement of the proposals as presented in the document that we have before us. However, our delegation would like to make some specific remarks with regard to some of the issues related to the Programme of Work and Budget.

The introduction of a discussion on the summary Programme of Work and Budget was initially decided upon with the understanding that it will assist in establishing earlier agreements and lead to a consensus during the decision-making process on the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

It is reported to us that an understanding has been established and the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is based on this agreement on the summary Programme of Work and Outline.

Priority programme areas are in line with this understanding that was reached during the various exhaustive discussions and also the last session of the Programme Committee. Therefore, we would like to express the firmest support of the Ethiopian delegation for the proposed PWB.

The Ethiopian delegation feels that further cost absorption will affect the Programme of the Organization which has to operate under financial constraints for quite a long time now. The position of the Ethiopian delegation, therefore, is to endorse it as presented by the Director-General rather than requesting further cost absorption.

Zero growth at budget level was accepted at an earlier stage of the preparation of the document, on the grounds on reaching a consensus rather than justified adequacy for an Organization whose mandate covers the whole area of food and agriculture. This being a part of a package of all issues related to the PWB, its present level will need to be seen accordingly.

The increase of the TCP and the total resource allocation for it, is below the 17 percent level that was called for by the Conference. The proposed allocation for the TCP can only be acceptable as a package of the overall budgetary proposal, rather than adequacy on its own merit.

The issue of cost increase is a technical matter which is based on factors affecting it. From the explanation of the Assistant Director-General, we understand that some of the factors that should have been accounted for are

left out because of the rationale of reaching a consensus. Our delegation, therefore, feels that a further decrease in the cost increase will affect the PWB; hence we favour the endorsement of the proposal as presented.

The Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account are affected, either directly or indirectly, by the payment of assessed contributions. We also understand that currency exchange fluctuations are also factors contributing to their depletion. All of these factors have prevailed in both the present biennium and the one before it. Replacement of these two funds is a logical sequence if member countries fail to fulfil their obligation as per the decision of the Conference during the Twenty-fifth Session and also the previous Conference.

The regional allocation and distribution of resources at a country level were called for in some previous meetings and the Organization, in its preparation and presentation, is just responding to its calls. We thank the Organization for responding to these calls and agree with the proposal as presented in the document. However, we would like to express our positive view on the modalities of operations, the TCP project implementation of the past. Our delegation has had no problems with the way in which it was done in the past.

Finally, the PWB is to be seen in relation to payments of assessed contributions, cost increases and the replenishment of the two funds I have just mentioned. If each of these items is to be seen in isolation, there might be a need to assess the whole area as it might need a review and revision in the light of actual needs rather than facing the budget on a consensus framework.

Our delegation feels that the package approach as presented in the proposal of the Director-General could be used as a basis for a consensus. We are supporting this approach. Failure to see the proposal accordingly might force our delegation to revert back, in which case we might request the floor once again.

However, at this stage we are stopping our deliberation here and will examine the discussion and see if there is any reason to come back to the discussion.

**Mrs Maria Alessandra FABI (Italy):** The Italian delegation is pleased to join the other participants to this Commission in praising Mr Shah for his particularly clear and exhaustive presentation of document C 91/LIM/9. The establishment of the Outline Programme of Work and Budget on a permanent basis is seen by the Italian delegation as a positive step towards facilitating the consensus process which it hopes may be achieved on the 1992-93 budget.

The initiative of the Director-General in submitting proposals regarding FAO's Programme Budget Process is to be praised insofar as it streamlines the work of the Secretariat and of the delegations.

More in detail, we deem particularly useful and constructive the involvement of the COAG and the COFI. The adoption of both the Programme Implementation Report and the Programme Evaluation Report may be seen as true progress in the monitoring of FAO's activities in line with what is done within other international organizations.

**Mansur Mabruk SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** Mr Chairman, allow me to begin by thanking FAO for all their efforts in the drafting of this very voluminous document C 91/3, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93. This document contains a great deal of information which is very interesting for delegations. I should also like to thank Mr Shah for his very precise and clear introduction to this document.

My delegation expressed its opinion on the Programme of Work and Budget at the Council sessions. We feel that this document is a very exhaustive one which we have been able to study in detail during the Council sessions as well as during other Commission and Committee meetings. We welcome all the innovations that have been made in the preparation of this document as well.

My delegation would also like fully to support the new methodology which has been proposed by the Director-General in suggesting to us increases in certain areas and programmes, and cuts in others.

My country would also like to support all the priorities which have been established within the Programme. For example, we would support Sustainable Development, Women in Development, Biological Diversity, as well as the other priority areas which have been identified.

My delegation is very concerned because we feel the text of Resolution 9/89 has not been fully implemented as regards the Technical Cooperation Programme.

My delegation firmly believes that flexibility must be respected for the TCP. We do not feel that it is necessary to change the present working methods.

My delegation would also like to support the Resolution of the Conference at its Twenty-fifth Session on the lapse factor.

In conclusion, allow me to say that my delegation would not wish to take up too much of our time but we do feel that this item on the Agenda has been covered very exhaustively. That is why we would like to ask all delegates to work towards a consensus on the acceptance of the present Programme of Work and Budget and the budget level for 1992-93.

**Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina):** Señor Presidente, como es esta nuestra primera intervención quisiera primeramente felicitarle por su elección a la Presidencia de esta Comisión, a la que usted tan bien está guiando en sus deliberaciones.

Agradecemos a la Secretaria la preparación y la presentación, en la gentil oratoria del Sr. Shah, del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1992-93 que estamos considerando. El mismo resulta ilustrativo y claro en su contenido, y constituye una guía adecuada para la asignación de los recursos en el próximo bienio, de conformidad con las prioridades globales señaladas en su primera parte.

La delegación argentina, coincide a grandes rasgos con la distribución de los créditos que se proponen, y se limitará, en aras a la brevedad, a señalar sólo dos aspectos: en primer lugar, el nivel del Presupuesto.

La República Argentina está atravesando un periodo de dificultades financieras derivadas principalmente del estancamiento de su economía y de su elevada deuda externa, que sumados al severo ajuste del sector público, le imponen la máxima austeridad en los compromisos monetarios.

La delegación argentina aprecia altamente el esfuerzo realizado por la Secretaría para presentar una propuesta de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto contenida, que incluye como único factor de crecimiento real los aumentos en los costos y la inflación. Pero, por las razones expuestas resulta sumamente difícil para mi país aceptar incrementos en sus contribuciones a los organismos internacionales.

Instamos entonces a la Secretaría y al resto de los países miembros a desplegar los mayores esfuerzos para contener aún más el monto presupuestario sujeto a cuotas.

En segundo lugar, respecto del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, la delegación argentina desea expresar su satisfacción por que se haya asignado al mismo el mayor aumento neto en las propuestas del bienio, en cumplimiento parcial, dadas las circunstancias, de lo decidido por esta Conferencia hace dos años.

El PCT constituye una valiosa herramienta, tanto para solucionar problemas particulares en los países, cuanto para mantener a la Organización al día con las necesidades de los sectores agroalimentarios de los mismos.

Sin embargo, la delegación argentina no puede aceptar, en esta instancia, la propuesta de establecer una preasignación de los recursos del PCT por países y por regiones, en base a los criterios expresados en el párrafo 761 del documento C 91/3. Estimamos que dicha preasignación es contraria a la propia esencia y objetivos del Programa, que lo distinguen sustancialmente de otros Programas de Desarrollo del sistema de Naciones Unidas, alguno de los cuales se propone como punto de referencia.

Creemos asimismo, que la propuesta constituye y constituirá, de insistirse en ella, una fuente de conflicto y recelo entre las regiones en desarrollo, y aún más entre los propios países de una misma región.

Por estas razones, la delegación argentina solicita respetuosamente a esta Comisión que decida que la administración del PCT a lo largo del próximo bienio se continúe realizando con la máxima atención en el cumplimiento de los criterios decididos por esta Conferencia, en la forma en que se ha hecho hasta el presente.

Proponemos asimismo que se solicite al señor Director General que al finalizar el próximo bienio informe detalladamente acerca de las asignaciones y prestaciones efectuadas en el marco del Programa.

Creemos que un par de años para reflexionar acerca de la necesidad de establecer nuevos criterios de asignación de los recursos del PCT serán de la máxima utilidad para poder adoptar, en el futuro, las acciones que se estimen adecuadas con el consenso de todos los países miembros.



**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** Le felicitamos a usted y también al Sr. Shah por la excelente exposición del documento C 91/3, en el que se concreta la propuesta del Director-General de la FAO para el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto del bienio 1992-93.

Del análisis detenido del documento se deduce, en primer lugar, una mejora sustancial en la presentación y contenido del Presupuesto, que hace más fácil la consulta y más documentado el contenido de los distintos programas que lo componen; razón por la que felicitamos a los servicios de la FAO también, por sus reiterados esfuerzos en este sentido.

El nivel del Presupuesto que se nos presenta, no contempla aumentos totales de gasto, si bien actualiza las dotaciones del bienio anterior con aumentos de costos asignados en los dos ejercicios anteriores, que representan un montante de 83 millones de dólares.

Nosotros estamos totalmente de acuerdo con la propuesta del Director General en que ésta sea dentro de la línea de crecimiento cero. Siempre habíamos lamentado que se adoptara esta línea, pero entendemos que en las actuales circunstancias y dado el momento económico que están viviendo gran número de países, dada también la evolución que presenta el mundo en muchos aspectos políticos, sociales y económicos, quizá la FAO tenga que adaptarse, tenga que seguir esta evolución y una forma de hacerlo sea adoptar este criterio y presentar estos presupuestos que durante estos años no crecen. Sin embargo, nos sigue preocupando que esto pueda influir en la cantidad o en la calidad de los servicios que la FAO presta a todos sus miembros.

Estamos de acuerdo con un buen número de países que también lo han manifestado así, en que los aumentos de los costos se ajusten a los niveles más reales posibles, y en particular que se acomode el coeficiente de descuento por vacantes a la realidad esperada para el periodo que contempla el Presupuesto, siempre que se mantengan para la FAO las posibilidades de elegir buenos y excelentes técnicos.

En cuanto a la financiación del Presupuesto, también hemos reiterado en anteriores ejercicios que hay que pagar puntualmente. Hay que pagar y hacerlo puntualmente en las cuotas pendientes; si no, vemos que los planes a medio plazo o el esbozo del Presupuesto, que consideramos excelentes herramientas para el buen desenvolvimiento de esta Organización, van a ser trabajos inútiles y sin ninguna utilidad. Esta falta de pago está originando hasta ahora dificultades financieras. Estas dificultades han repercutido en el Fondo de Operaciones y en la Cuenta Especial de Reserva. Esto origina costes adicionales, nos origina costes adicionales a todos los países contribuyentes.

Por otra parte, se mantiene, hasta que no se nos afirme lo contrario, que existe el peligro de acudir a préstamos mientras se mantenga esta crisis de liquidez con que cuenta la FAO. Siempre hemos reiterado que el afrontar estos gastos, estos costos adicionales que pueden originar los préstamos, que a su vez están originados por la falta de pago de otros países, tienen unas dificultades dentro de nuestros países, incluso de tipo estatutario, para afrontarlos.

En cuanto al proceso de presupuestación, que está a nuestro juicio mejorando la información del contenido de los distintos programas, nos parecería conveniente mantenerlo y darle carácter permanente a través de su inclusión como norma en los Reglamentos de la Organización.

Nos referiremos al PCT para indicarle que nosotros tampoco, con otros países, vemos la utilidad de esta repartición geográfica de los medios del PCT, que puede originar inútiles y no deseables tensiones entre diferentes regiones y países. Nosotros entendemos el PCT como un elemento de enlace y de apoyo mutuo entre los Programas de Campo y el Programa Ordinario y debería así constituir también una ayuda excepcional en los momentos en que se necesite dentro de un determinado país, pero nunca una fuente de disidencias.

En cuanto a las prioridades, volvemos a repetir que entendemos que la prioridad fundamental para esta Organización es mantener su nivel de excelencia en sus servicios técnicos. Si este nivel baja, debido a estas dificultades financieras, peligra la misma razón de ser de la FAO, peligra su propia existencia. Por tanto, para nosotros esa debería ser la principal prioridad.

En cuanto a las demás, para las que hemos colaborado en anteriores foros en su establecimiento, dentro de un delicado y fatigoso trabajo que han realizado todos los países miembros, no tenemos mucho que decir, puesto que estamos prácticamente en todas de acuerdo. Sólo subrayar que nos interesa mucho, nos preocupa, el ámbito de la silvicultura; nos gustaría ver incorporadas las recomendaciones del Congreso Forestal Mundial de París y también dentro de este mismo ámbito de la silvicultura; nos gustaría que las miras de la FAO se ampliaran no sólo a los bosques tropicales, sino a esos bosques semitropicales o regiones semidesérticas, zonas templadas con problemas de sequía, que sufren también la desaparición de su cubierta vegetal por los incendios o por la lluvia acida.

Nos interesa también, y así lo hemos reiterado otras veces, el trabajo que está realizando la FAO en los recursos fitogenéticos y nos hemos visto sorprendidos desagradablemente por el descenso en las dotaciones que se da en la pesca. La pesca, que es tan importante para la alimentación de muchos países y que además puede resultar una fuente de ingresos adicionales para muchas poblaciones, hay que convertirla en un instrumento más racional, en un recurso más racional mediante la ordenación de las explotaciones, y también enseñando a las poblaciones a consumir, a vender y a comercializar los productos de la pesca. En esto creemos que la FAO, tiene un papel fundamental. Creemos que tiene ventajas comparativas, puede perfectamente dedicarse, incluso dentro de sus labores sobre el medio ambiente y también dentro del propio sector de la División de Pesca que existe ya en la FAO, mejorando y apoyando sus dotaciones.

Por último, ya que todas estas prioridades han sido el fruto de un delicado proceso, deben ser sometidas continuamente a examen y estudio; no son algo definitivo, pero los criterios para la selección de estas prioridades no deben basarse en un frío examen de costos y beneficios desde el punto de vista económico. No tenemos que olvidar, como ponen los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO en sus primeros artículos, que el objetivo auténtico de la FAO es el desarrollo de las poblaciones, la eliminación de las lacras del hambre y la malnutrición. Esas deben ser las pautas, y debe

ser el modelo o los puntos básicos para evaluar la labor de la FAO, el impacto sobre el desarrollo y sobre la malnutrición y la pobreza en la población mundial.

**Ibrahima KABA (Guinée):** Veuillez accepter nos vives félicitations. Nous nous réjouissons de pouvoir réitérer notre position déjà prononcée lors des sessions précédentes d'autres instances de notre Organisation.

Tout d'abord, que M. Shah trouve ici l'expression de nos chaleureuses félicitations pour le talent remarquable qui lui est propre et avec lequel il a présenté le sujet sous examen.

La délégation guinéenne intervient brièvement pour apporter son soutien à celui généralement exprimé au niveau de notre importante commission en faveur du Programme et budget 1992-93 pour atteindre le consensus. Les différents documents y afférents sont d'une qualité qui reflète les efforts considérables déployés par le Secrétariat et qui facilite l'examen de cette question capitale. Les priorités et leur hiérarchisation dans le programme correspondent à nos préoccupations essentielles.

Par ailleurs, nous espérons qu'à l'avenir, avec l'amélioration prévisible de la situation financière de notre Organisation, le PCT connaîtra un accroissement conformément aux recommandations de la Résolution 9/89. Concernant le PCT et le principe de la croissance zéro, nous faisons nôtres les commentaires objectifs exprimés par de nombreux pays du Groupe des 77, et en particulier par le distingué délégué du Royaume de Belgique.

M. le Président, il est temps que la volonté politique qui motive notre présence ici se concrétise enfin par le paiement intégral de nos contributions statutaires, source principale des moyens financiers de notre Organisation.

**Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil):** As this is the first time I have the floor, let me congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission and also thank Mr Shah for his clear presentation.

In my statement I will not refer to questions relating to the Working Capital Fund, the Special Reserve Account and external borrowings. The understanding of my delegation is that these aspects will be examined in Commission III and included only in the Report of their respective items on that Commission.

As to this I would like to briefly reiterate the Brazilian support to the priorities set out in the Programme of Work for 1992-93 and express the hope that it will be fully implemented without need to readjust it or adapt programme execution to financial constraints. In any case, FAO should consider the following priorities: Environment and Self-Sustainable Development, Agricultural Data Development, including the WAICENT, Forestry, Women in Development, Policy Advice, Decentralization and the International Conference on Nutrition.

Brazil also deems the TCP very important and expects Resolution 9/89, adopted during the last Conference, to be implemented. If this is not possible it is just fair that at least the TCP is not reduced. Thus, Brazil

supports the increase of US\$4 million in order to allow TCP percent level to be kept the same as before.

Regarding the TCP, Brazil also believes that indicative country allocations might turn out useful, as it can permit a better coordination and planning by governments. However, our understanding is that these indicative allocations should not be viewed as a binding scheme to be obeyed but rather as a broad reference to work with. Flexibility is an important feature of TCP that can be maintained together with indicative country allocations. Brazil also thinks that indicative country allocations should not represent any reduction on present allocations for the Latin American Regions.

With regard to the level of the budget, the Brazilian delegation has made, during the Ninety-ninth Session of the FAO Council in June, many suggestions to reduce the proposed budget levels to more acceptable levels. Let me stress that Brazil did not and does not want to see reductions on FAO affecting its programmes for we understand the importance of FAO in developing countries. Our suggestions were presented with the aim of improving the situation of FAO taking into account the financial difficulties many of its member countries have been facing. I am sure our suggestions were noted and seriously considered by the Secretariat and therefore I will not repeat them.

The Brazilian Government appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat to reduce cost increases since then and also recognizes that the proposed budget assumes no real increase in the programmes of the Organization. However, my Government is worried with regard to the impact of the 15 percent increase of the proposed budget level on the assessed contributions of the developing member countries because they are facing economic and financial difficulties, mostly due to the burden of the external debt. It is well known that the international economic crisis continues to affect negatively the developing countries through the fall of export prices and monetary problems derived from the transfer of resources for the service of the external debt.

Therefore, we think international organizations should make every effort to adjust their budgets to the real possibilities of their Member States; many member countries have had to introduce measures of economic adjustment with painful social costs to their populations.

Our worries come from the fact that we have seen in the last few years that more and more countries are having economic and financial problems and are not managing to face their already existing contribution as well as their other international obligations.

It is difficult, therefore, to accept passively such an increase in contributions - contributions that many of us are having difficulties in paying. As a consequence, the Brazilian Government thinks that an even larger effort has to be made by FAO's Secretariat to reduce, as much as possible, the level of the proposed budget and thereby reduce this nominal, but substantial, increase of 15 percent to more acceptable levels.

In this connection we would prefer that the lapse factor be brought back to the 5.5 percent level as it was before the last Conference.

In conclusion, we support the proposed Programme of Work. However, we believe that it was necessary to draw the attention of the Conference, as we have done on previous occasions, to the impact of the budget level on the assessed contributions of developing countries facing economic and financial difficulties, due among other factors to the burden of the external debt.

The position of the Brazilian Government is consistent with our attitude regarding this issue in other multilateral fora. This position should be viewed as deriving exclusively from economic and financial factors and should not, in any way, be misconstrued as similar to other negative policies that aim at debilitating our Organization.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation, I would like to express my appreciation to FAO and the Secretariat for the preparation of the document C 91/3, and to Mr Shah for his clear introduction. I would like to make some brief comments.

The TCP, as most of the delegates have pointed out, have a great role in the developing countries and we fully support the paragraphs numbers 741 and 736 for increasing the percentage of the TCP to 14 percent and if it is possible, 17 percent. Paragraph number 504 is very important in sustainable development in Fisheries, but the paragraph number 527 has not enough effect on developing aquaculture, which has a great role in fishery development in future; training extension and transfer of technology should be increased in this regard.

Finally, we fully support the Major Forestry Programme, particularly forestry resources assessment of sub-tropical and temperate zones. Mr Chairman, I would also like to express my delegation's support of the Natural Resources Programme in general, and Sub-Programmes 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.5, namely Assessment and Planning, and Conservation and Reclamation, respectively.

Thanks to FAO and its role in agricultural development.

**CHAIRMAN:** We have come to the end of the speakers. Sixty-four delegates have spoken on this item, which I think is a very interesting performance.

When we started this item, I said there was a particular problem called the Programme Budget Process. I have sent through two things: first a memo commenting on that point too, and I therefore do not see any need for any further discussion. Secondly, and more importantly, all the delegates who have spoken have said this is a good idea - this should be continued, and therefore I take it that you approve the Draft Resolution here for forwarding to Plenary. If there is no objection, it is so done.

Now before Mr Shah answers, I think we have concluded the substantive discussion on Item 16, but we have a problem left. It is quite obvious to the Chair that there have to be consultations on the final outcome of the Budget Resolution, so I think we keep this part of the matter open until -let's put it this way, I say something more; I hope that may be tomorrow. So the item of substantive discussion is concluded, but we keep Item 16 open for a final discussion, or whatever it may be, on the budget level.

I give the floor to Mr Shah. I say in advance, both to Mr Shah and to you, we will conclude at 6 o'clock.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. As always I will abide by Office your directives.

Firstly, before I respond to the very large number of questions raised, may I make a point on the subject of the Programme Budget Process. You got the confirmation of this august body that the Draft Resolution on Amendments to the Basic Texts on the Outline Programme of Work and Budget is acceptable and will be considered by the Plenary. May also seek clarification that, as I heard the debate, there was general approval of the suggestions by the Director-General for the other aspects of the Programme Budget Process and the related documentation.

**CHAIRMAN:** I take it this is so. No objection? It is so.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Thank you, Sir. Now I will go ahead with the reply in the time that you have given me.

There are as usual some rules which I try to set myself in order to do justice to the debate and give the maximum number of answers. Let me say at the outset, Mr Chairman, first of all, through you, thank you to every member of this Commission who have expressed themselves. We have taken very careful note of all comments made. In responding to the questions, it seems to me that it may be most useful to the Commission if I take questions which have been raised by one or another delegation, but which, from the discussion clearly reflects a much wider interest, in a different category from a few questions which were very precise. I know who raised the question, but the answer to it may be so long that it may not do justice to the overall replies that you expect me to give in the time available. I will try to handle all of them to the best of my ability. If there are any questions which any member feels that he or she wants a public response to, which I have not given, then of course I will ask to come back at the time available.

One of the first questions raised, by the distinguished Ambassador of France, was about the follow-up given to the recommendations of the June Council in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget, and there are two aspects of this question to which I would like to reply. Firstly, the distinguished Ambassador referred to the proposals in the Summary and in the full budget regarding Fisheries. It is certainly true that there has been no overall increase in the appropriation proposed for the major Programme Fisheries as a number of delegations had indicated in the Council, but this is a major and a basic question of judgement that comes between the stage of the Summary and the full Programme of Work and Budget. Is it possible for the Director-General to shift resources further between agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and in relation to each other, in the light of all the comments made and in the light of all the commitments which are indicated in the Summary proposals? In this particular instance you see that the basic appropriation for Fisheries has

not changed, and yet we try, within that appropriation level, to respond to the comments which were made, and I have details but I will keep only to the main parts.

My colleague, the Head of the Fisheries Department, reflected in the full Programme of Work and Budget some changes with regard to the Sub-Programme on Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information 2.2.1.1, improvement in the coverage of fisheries information dealing with environmental policy, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries and biotechnology in specific response to comments in the Committee on Fisheries and at the June Council from Sweden, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom; development of a global inventory for fishery research and development in the promotion of applied research in developing countries in response to comments made by the United Kingdom, France, United States, Canada and Japan.

With regard to fishery data and statistics, Sub-Programme 2.2.1.2, Statistics on high-seas catches in consultation with other international fishery agencies and fishing nations, in response to comments made by Japan, Norway, Canada, Sri Lanka, Poland, Mauritius, France, Morocco, and a large number of other countries which I will not bother to list.

In the case of animal genetic resources, and here again there was a question from the distinguished Ambassador for France as to whether the views of the June Council on strengthening the work on animal genetic resources were taken into account, my answer, Sir, is yes. The animal genetic resources work has been strengthened by US\$200 000, made up of US\$100 000 from adjustment within the Programme on Livestock 2.1.3, and US\$100 000 from a number of cuts made within other Agriculture Department programmes.

There was a question and a number of comments again referring to the comparative advantage issue - and I refer to the comments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Nordic countries. I have already made a comment on this in relation to your debate on the Medium-Term Plan. I would only add that in this issue we might all bear in mind that comparative advantages of an ongoing Organization are something which can be built up. You can build them up or you can shift the comparative advantages from one organization to another, depending on respective priorities that you set in each and depending on the funds that you provide. The comparative advantage in one organization - our own, your own, FAO - can be easily reduced if governments do not pay their contributions and do not allow a particular Programme to be effectively carried out.

As an example of a converse situation, I would point out that over the last five years or so, the World Bank has built up a capacity, if not a comparative advantage in environmental work by a more than tenfold increase in its environmental staff. A number of delegations, and particularly the United States of America, refer to the emphasis on the private sector. There are some special programmes which directly and specifically rely on the initiative and the mobilization of the private sector; special programmes such as the one on marketing, on food and agriculture industries; but may I suggest that we all keep in mind that in most or many countries farming is essentially a private enterprise, as is fishing, and it can be said that a very large part of the FAO Programme, although directed to governments and involving collaboration with governments, is really in support of the private sector.

One of the earlier questions, which was repeated throughout the debate, was about FAO operationalizing - I do not like the term but that is the term used - in its Field Programmes the concerns about the environment and sustainable development, and there was a specific question from the distinguished Ambassador of France on whether we are introducing a procedure of environmental impact assessment in fields projects. The answer is yes, and the details are given in chapter four of the document which you will be considering, the Review of Field Programmes C 91/4, so I will not go into more detail now.

There was a question from the distinguished representative of Poland about whether the sterile insect technique has been used successfully against insect species. I do have a technical explanation which, even though I am not a technical person, I can understand, but I notice that the distinguished representative is not here so, in the general interest of the Commission's work, I will refrain from dealing with that question at this stage.

There were many, many references to the TCP and I have noted each one of them, and where I have not noted, my colleagues have. I do not need to respond to the views of the very large number of members who have expressed their support for the TCP, what they appreciate about it, why they like it and what they want for the future. What they want for the future, as I understand it, is for more resources to go into the TCP, and they do not accept the Director-General's proposal for the distribution of TCP resources by country. This is the overall response that I have understood, but some distinguished representatives have given their perception of the TCP which perhaps I should address. One comment is that the TCP, and the aspect of the TCP which does not appeal to some Member Nations, is that it is unprogrammed. Mr Chairman, I do not feel defensive about this at all. It is a characteristic of the TCP that appeals to the vast majority of Member Nations. It is the very characteristic of the TCP which has been endorsed over and over again, so I do not need to be defensive. It is a matter between all of you. Secondly, a comment was made about concerns about the impact of the TCP. The Secretariat of course responds to your enquiries, to your concerns, by providing information but if anyone says, "I am not convinced about the impact of the TCP", in a sense, nothing I say is going to change their minds. The answer comes from others who believe that the TCP has the desired impact, desired impact as far as they are concerned as recipients of TCP assistance, and that this is a valid impact within the mandate of this Organization. I cannot accept, with all respect, any suggestion that the TCP represents an engagement by FAO in activities which are not within its mandate.

The third aspect of the TCP is that the financial regulation which authorizes the carry-over of TCP funds from one biennium to another is still of concern to some Member Nations. Mr Chairman, the financial regulations are a fact. The reasons why the unobligated funds of the TCP are authorized to be carried over from one biennium to another has been explained to the Conference at every Session - certainly in the last ten years that I have been asked to do so - and has been explained to the Council and to the Finance Committee, and I am ready to do so again but I think the answer has been provided, so I take it that if the point was made, it is a matter of concern to those who expressed it, which nothing I say will change.



The fourth aspect of the TCP is about more information, and I am grateful for the expressions of appreciation which have been made about our providing more information on the TCP. I have every intention, and I know the Director-General has every intention, that we satisfy the general interest in the TCP in all the ways that we are doing and with improvements in the future.

Mr Chairman, the International Conference on Nutrition. The distinguished Ambassador of Colombia asked what the additional US\$1 million was for. I would refer him and others to paragraph 405 of the document Programme of Work and Budget, but to amplify what is in that paragraph let me say that the US\$1 million is broken down as follows: for the joint FAO/WHO Secretariat, US\$375 000; for travel, US\$85 000; for the holding of the Conference itself and the preparation (preparatory workshops and technical meetings) US\$350 000; and for the documentation US\$250 000; which brings us to a total of US\$1 020 000. A question was also asked about extra-budgetary contributions for the International Conference on Nutrition. Some of my colleagues are providing me with information of what they hope to receive. At this stage, Mr Chairman, I would rather be realistic with the Commission and report to you what we have received to date. The support obtained to date concerns essentially the preparation of country papers and the holding of national seminars. The support is provided directly by governments to the beneficiary countries in both cash and kind. For this reason, I cannot always give a precise dollar figure but we estimate that the bilateral donors and other organizations, UN agencies, are providing some US\$240 000 to country activities of which US\$200 000 is from bilateral donors and US\$40 000 from other organizations. There will be other extra-budgetary contributions received, particularly for the regional meetings, and eventually for attendance at the Conference itself. As this item, the preparations for the ICN, is going to be discussed in Commission I, I know that my colleagues next door will be ready to give any further information that may be of interest to delegations.

The next question, Mr Chairman - and if I recall correctly, it was Indonesia and Colombia which referred to it, and I hope I have not overlooked anyone else - expressed regrets about the proposal for not continuing with the Programme of Training for Agricultural Development (PTAD). I am glad to reply to this question because I would like to use it as an illustration, if I may, but first the specifics. We were asked for the average number of trainees per year. Since the Programme started in 1979, the average number per year has been ten, the average duration of their stay with FAO was three months, the average cost per trainee in 1991 - this year - US\$12 000 and the average annual budget US \$200 000. These are not vast sums, Mr Chairman, and I do sympathize with those distinguished representatives who attached importance to this Programme because they felt that their nationals could benefit from it and they would wish to see it continued, but this is also an illustration of the kind of situations in which the Director-General had to make choices. Many of you are always saying, "you have to make difficult choices", and among the judgements which were called in deciding on this matter were, irrespective of the usefulness of this Programme and its appreciation by those who benefit from it, is what FAO doing through PTAD of such scale, of such impact, that if we did not do it the world is going to suffer? Each one of us may have a different answer to this but the judgement which was used by the Director-General and by us, his colleagues, was that, irrespective of the value of this Programme or its utility, after all, the number of people we can help through this Programme is very small. If we do not do it, it is

the kind of support or assistance which is provided in many, many ways not only by FAO but by a large number of other organizations, so when it comes to making a choice, when we have to shift resources, when we have to reexamine priorities, this is the judgement which we submit to you on this occasion.

May I now turn, Mr Chairman, to a number of financial questions, and I will really try to answer all of them. Cost increases methodology. The distinguished Ambassador of Colombia was very tough with me, if I may say so, in asking whether the reduction in the amount of cost increases from US\$87 million to US\$83 million is a move away from the approved methodology, and I would very respectfully have to assure him and all other members that the answer is no; the methodology has remained the same. The methodology used to develop the cost increases in the document before you is the same as that applied over the past biennium and the same as used in the summary Programme of Work and Budget. The calculations and the assumptions which produced the figure for the summary which the Council examined in June have all been reviewed in the formulation of the full Programme of Work and Budget in the light of two factors. Firstly, the latest development in those external factors which affect our figures and, secondly, the Council's hope as expressed in its report that the Director-General would seek to contain the total level of cost increases as much as possible. The changes can be summarized as follows: firstly, the improvement in the exchange rate between the time that the summary was prepared last January, when you may recall that the rate was 1 100 lire to the dollar, to the full Programme of Budget which was prepared in July, when the rate was more than 1 300 lire. This allowed the cost increases for General Service staff in the field - not in Rome but in the field - to be reduced by US\$1.4 million and the biennialization of cost increases for general operating expenses, which was shown as US\$1.5 million in the summary, to be eliminated. Frankly, the recent weakening of the US dollar makes these adjustments seem rather optimistic but they were made in good faith based on the data available at the time the Programme of Work and Budget was prepared and they do not represent any change in methodology.

Similarly, the education grant provision has been reduced on the basis of further information. This reduction is US\$1.1 million.

A more discretionary item was the postponement of the cost increases for consultants from 1 January 1992 to 1 January 1993, which generated a further saving of US\$1.2 million.

The Director-General has exercised his judgement, taking into account the changes in circumstances and the Council's hope and wish for the containment of the cost increases. This approach is a reflection of a willingness to under-state, to be conservative, to compromise, which is presumably what the Council had hoped for.

Other questions on cost increases were more detailed. The distinguished representative of Switzerland asked whether it was true that the inflationary increases shown in the 1990-91 Programme of Work and Budget of 45.1 million should be added to the biennialization of 40.1 million in 1992-93, to arrive at the total effective increase in cost. I do not use the word "inflation" because that word is normally referred to for national inflation rate, consumer-price indices, wages indices. So I prefer to use this precise terminology.

Posts: the distinguished delegate of the United States asked for information on the percentage of the budget voted to established posts. The answer is: about 60 percent. The reason why we have not repeated this data in the current document is that there was no substantive change from the preceding biennium. The percentage represents a small rise which is not due to a change in the gross number of established posts because, in fact, you see a reduction of five, but it is attributable to a relatively high percentage of cost increases which are applicable to staff costs, versus the lower percentage applied to the remainder of the Programme.

The distinguished representative of Switzerland asked whether computerization has allowed the Director-General to convert General Service posts to Professional posts and whether this is further demonstrated by the change in posts of minus 23 General Service to plus 18 Professionals.

The delegate inquired whether such productivity gains should not be translated into cost-reduction rather than additional Professional posts.

In some cases, this might have been possible, but it did not meet the objective as stated in paragraph 52 of raising the professional level throughout the Organization.

A second point is that not all of these movements from general service to professional posts are, or can be, related to productivity. In many cases it is the nature of the work that has changed, now requiring a professional person rather than clerical skills.

There has been some concern expressed about a comparison in a budget document to a theoretical base, on the argument that not all the approved Programme of Work for 1990-91 has been, or can be, implemented, because of budgetary and financial difficulties, and that a large amount of funds has required, and will require to be transferred out of the Technical and Economic Programmes, Chapter 2. The question is, does this not result in an inflated growth of Chapter 2?

My answer is that the overall transfer of fund between Chapters - and in this case, from the budgetary Chapter 2 - is entirely due to the exchange rate and the cost variances; the cost variances, that is to say, between standard costs and actual incurred costs. We need to correct that from one biennium to another. That is the reason for the cost increases and the currency adjustment in the proposals before you. This is a practice which is followed by FAO and which is followed by organizations in the UN system. It is also applied by the majority of governments. I have not seen any reason why the methodology need to be changed.

Borrowing and interest: the United Kingdom in particular, and several other countries, raise the question of borrowing. There are two aspects for this. One is on the interest paid. The specific question was whether interest payments are charged against miscellaneous income. Yes, that is correct. This is in accordance with Council and Conference Resolutions on the authority to borrow.

Is this fair? This is a question for you to determine and I think many of you have given very clear answers.

Even if there is no borrowing, may I point out that the contribution to miscellaneous income in terms of interest earnings is clearly made by those who pay promptly. Those who pay late or those who pay in installments, therefore, contribute less to the average balance on-hand, and therefore have less entitlement to an equal share of miscellaneous income.

However, Member States falling into this latter category - and I am only stating a fact, I am not expressing any judgement, please believe me -these Member States have shown little interest in correcting this imbalance. In fact, attempts made to introduce any corrective schemes have not been received exactly with enthusiasm.

The second aspect of the question was on expenditure cuts in order to avoid borrowing. I would submit that a permanent reduction in contributions would need to be matched by a permanent reduction in expenditure levels and in programmes. But this is not what you have been led to believe by one another or what the Secretariat has been led to believe by Member Nations, of those who are in arrears, because these Member Nations, without exception, have stated that it is their intention to pay, and that it is a question of when.

Given that, the problem becomes one of irregular flow of income versus the more regular flow of expenditure. Whilst we can and do make every attempt to forecast expenditures, we cannot reliably do so for income as a number of Member Nations concerned do not - do not - advise us when and what amount they are going to pay.

Now the practical result has been that there are some months in the year when we simply do not have the cash. If we were to follow the advice of those members who state that we should adjust expenditures in order to avoid borrowing, let me tell you very calmly that this would have required the Director-General to dispense with the services of virtually all Regular Programme staff for the months of August and September of this year, only to hire them again when the two largest contributors made their payments in October.

I do not need to comment on the consequences of such management practices. I put the question whether this is serious and sound advice.

I cannot ignore the lapse factor. I am sorry that members of the Conference have perhaps not all seen the document we submitted to the Finance Committee at its last session, as we had submitted also two documents to the Finance Committee in the last biennium, but I am sure that members of the Finance Committee would be prepared to share this information with their fellow colleagues who are not members of the Finance Committee. This would save your time at this stage instead of my reading the documents. But I would point out again, as I did in the debate in the Council last week, that there is no standard lapse factor which can be mathematically relied upon. I do not deny that there is no link, there is some link between the lapse factor and the level of vacancies, but basically it is a question of overall resources.

You have before you proposals of the Director-General with the cost increases, with the assumption of a 3 percent lapse factor which leads to a certain budget level. Certainly, it is true that if you, the Conference, do not want to accept this budget level one way of reducing it is by amending the level of the lapse factor, but your debate has shown that there are two

points of view. There are many of you who accept the 3 percent lapse factor and what it entails, and I have noted very carefully that there are some others who do not. But this relates to the budget level and, in view of the announcement that consultations are under way, I hope this is a matter which will be resolved, and I do not refer to it specifically any further.

There are answers which I have, but we have reached the deadline of the time, so I hope that representatives will accept this response. I am once again available to help you further in this debate when you continue.

**CHAIRMAN:** I too hope that these answers are satisfactory. We cannot agree to everything, but I think the answers cover a broad range of activities, and I take note of the last point you made about the lapse factor. It is something which may or may not go into the consultations later on.

I take it that we can conclude this part of Item 16. We will keep the item open, and when consultations have moved some way I hope I can report back.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** At the beginning of this discussion you divided this question into the Programme of Work and Budget and the Outline Budget Process. Do we come back to that? We did not make any reference to that because we thought it was being dealt with later. Could you inform me about that?

**CHAIRMAN:** I can inform you that we decided here early on that, all the reactions were very positive, and therefore we could forward the Draft Resolution to the Plenary, including proposals. I hope that meets your views too.

We will adjourn now and meet tomorrow morning at 9.30 hours when we will start on Item 17 with Mr. Rinville's introduction of the item.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

Le 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/II/PV/7

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE  
SEPTIMA SESION

(15 November 1991)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la  
Commission II

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de  
la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

17. Review of Field Programmes 1990-91

17. Examen des Programmes de terrain 1990-91

17. Examen de los Programas de Campo 1990-91

17.1 Operational Activities for Development

17.1 Activités opérationnelles de développement

17.1 Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo

**CHAIRMAN:** The meeting is called to order. I apologize to the Commission for being late. That is not my attitude but I did it for a good purpose. We are engaged now on Item 17, C 91/4, and this is a sub-item with documents C 91/4-Sup.1 and C 91/4-Sup.2 on UNDP support costs, the successor arrangements. To be practical about this, Mr Rinville will introduce the item as a whole and then discussion will follow. It is up to each delegate to take the matters as a whole if they want to but if there are delegates who want to split them in two parts then I would willingly give them the floor in a second round but I think we should go through all those who wish to speak and then we will go through the supplementary comments on the UNDP. I know there are three or four delegations at least who wish to split. We will now make a start and Mr Rinville has the floor.

**F. RINVILLE (Sous-directeur général, Département du développement):** Le document C 91/4 se rapporte à la fois à l'examen du contenu et des résultats du Programme de terrain de la FAO et aux politiques régissant les activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation. Il souhaite donc être la bonne réponse aux souhaits exprimés par la vingt-cinquième Conférence et en particulier aux conclusions de l'examen de la FAO qui demandait plus d'information sur les activités de terrain, en particulier en matière de politique pour les orientations futures.

Cette fois-ci, l'examen du Programme de terrain est un document très exhaustif un peu plus important que la dernière fois. A côté des considérations traditionnelles sur les principales tendances, le contenu, les caractéristiques particulières et les performances du Programme de terrain de la FAO le document contient aussi une présentation relativement détaillée de l'impact, au niveau des principes d'action de la FAO, des mesures prises au titre des conclusions de l'examen de la FAO, des récentes décisions de l'Assemblée générale (en particulier la Décision 44/211 de décembre 1989) ainsi que de la dernière décision de juin 1991 du Conseil d'administration du PNUD; cette décision concernant essentiellement les nouvelles modalités de remboursement des dépenses d'appui aux projets financés par le programme.

L'examen du Programme de terrain tel qu'il vous est présenté se veut être un document complet en lui-même; sa lecture devrait suffire pour le travail qui vous est proposé dans cette session. Toutefois, pour tenir compte de l'évolution presque quotidienne des travaux de préparation à la mise en oeuvre des décisions prises, notamment de l'Assemblée générale et du Conseil d'administration du PNUD, deux suppléments ont été préparés depuis l'édition de l'examen, c'est-à-dire, depuis l'édition du document 91/4.

Le premier supplément, document C 91/4-Sup.1, fait le point sur l'état d'avancement des travaux préparatoires à la mise en oeuvre de la Décision 91/32 du Conseil d'administration du PNUD de juin 1991 sur le remboursement aux agences de dépenses d'appui.

Le second supplément, document C 91/4-Sup.2, présente la proposition du Directeur général relative à une révision des modalités de remboursement des dépenses d'appui technique et administratif que la FAO apporte aux projets financiers sur des fonds fiduciaires, c'est-à-dire des fonds apportés par des pays membres qui veulent participer à des opérations de développement dans des pays en développement.

Comme contribution à la discussion qui va s'engager sur l'examen du Programme de terrain, je ferai quelques remarques sur les points les plus importants de ces documents qui sont, comme vous l'avez probablement vous-même constaté, étroitement liés à l'examen du Programme ordinaire et au nouveau Plan à moyen terme.

D'abord, sur les grandes tendances, le contenu et les performances du Programme de terrain; ensuite, je parlerai du Chapitre 1 de nature plus politique puisqu'il concerne les principes d'action de notre Organisation dans le domaine opérationnel.

Vous noterez que 1990 fut une année record en termes de volume du Programme de terrain avec plus de 400 millions de dollars de réalisations, plus exactement 407, pas loin du volume record de 1981 en termes réels.

Tous les programmes sont sous le signe de la croissance au titre du présent biennium. Le Programme FAO/PNUD a été de 176 millions de dollars et devrait dépasser 180 millions de dollars en 1991 alors que les réalisations sur fonds fiduciaires ont approché en 1990 200 millions de dollars, calculés sur la même base que le Programme FAO/PNUD, c'est-à-dire en incluant les engagements. Dans les deux cas, les perspectives à court terme sont satisfaisantes.

Des indications récentes laissent toutefois penser que les ressources futures du PNUD (et cela nous le savons à la suite des débats qui ont eu lieu à New York) seraient moins importantes que prévu: on parle d'une croissance de 3.5 pour cent plutôt que 8 pour cent souhaités par l'Administrateur du PNUD. Cela aura des répercussions réelles dans deux ou trois ans.

De son côté, le Programme de coopération technique reste plus sollicité qu'il n'a de fonds: 36 millions de dollars pour 1990 et 30 millions en 1989. A propos de ce programme, l'examen en fait évaluation et de nombreux exemples en soutiennent l'efficacité.

Les tableaux analytiques des activités de terrain de la FAO, tels qu'ils apparaissent au Chapitre 2, mettent en évidence que le transfert de savoir-faire de la FAO, y compris dans le domaine de l'analyse des politiques, porte principalement sur le développement et l'amélioration des cultures et sur l'Afrique où près de 50 pour cent de toutes les activités de coopération technique de la FAO se concentrent. Il est de plus en plus fait appel au potentiel humain des pays en développement eux-mêmes, que ce soit pour désigner des directeurs et des experts nationaux dans les projets, ou que ce soit pour associer les chercheurs. Dans cet esprit, nous insistons



sur tout ce que peut produire de bon la coopération technique entre pays en développement, et elle est encouragée notamment par le Programme de coopération technique.

Parlons maintenant du Centre d'investissement. Ses activités sont très diversifiées et se maintiennent à un haut niveau. En 1990, ce sont 38 projets pour plus de 2,5 milliards de dollars d'investissements qui ont été approuvés, dont près de 1,5 milliard de dollars de crédits et prêts de différentes sources (Banque mondiale, FIDA, les banques régionales de développement et autres institutions financières) le reste étant apporté par les pays bénéficiant de ces investissements eux-mêmes. Ce centre, avec les qualités qui lui sont unanimement reconnues, est unique en son genre dans la famille des agences des Nations Unies et il conforte la présence et le travail technique de la FAO sur le terrain.

Vous avez été satisfaits, je le pense, de trouver dans notre document un compte rendu des débats sur le Programme de terrain qui étaient à l'ordre du jour des Comités techniques de la FAO: forêts, agriculture, pêche et Comité de Sécurité Alimentaire. Les résumés de ces discussions qui ont été de nature très concrète paraissent venir à point dans cet examen, dans la mesure où ils en sont un complément utile.

La partie "évaluation" du document, Chapitre 3, a - comme d'habitude - été préparée par le service d'évaluation de la FAO avec le professionnalisme et la compétence qui en ont fait la réputation. De plus en plus de projets font l'objet d'une évaluation indépendante, et ici les résultats de quelque 200 missions d'évaluation de projets sont présentés jusqu'à un niveau de détail relativement fin. Notre satisfaction, justifiée par les succès obtenus par la majorité des projets, ne peut toutefois être totale dans la mesure où un certain nombre de faiblesses signalées nécessitent correction et nous y veillerons. La FAO prend très au sérieux de telles leçons et en tire parti.

Comme je l'ai dit, ce chapitre contient aussi un examen complet du Programme de coopération technique basé sur l'analyse d'un échantillon de 57 projets. J'espère, M. le Président, que la Conférence saura apprécier que cette évaluation est sous le signe à la fois de la transparence et de la franchise, portant sur un programme auquel les pays récipiendaires sont très attachés et qui se caractérise par de bonnes performances et une efficacité reconnue.

Le sujet qui a été choisi pour être le thème spécial du présent examen est celui de la protection de l'environnement et du développement durable. Cette préoccupation doit maintenant être totalement présente tout au long du cycle des projets, de sa formation jusqu'à sa réalisation. Bien sûr, ne pourra pas être considéré comme bon un projet qui, ensuite, mourrait avec sa fin. Seul un projet qui entraînera une opération de développement durable qui se survivra à elle-même sera considéré comme un projet réussi. Ce domaine recoupe en fait tous les principaux Programmes de terrain puisqu'il doit être maintenant pris en compte dans tous les projets de la FAO, comme je l'ai dit, sur toute la longueur du cycle. Cela est expliqué en détail au Chapitre 4 qui montre combien les efforts de la FAO ont été importants ces dernières années pour que ces aspects fondamentaux soient totalement pris en compte dans le corps des projets. Tous les principaux Programmes de coopération technique ont été concernés comme la protection

des ressources naturelles et le développement durable. Comme noté dans le texte, ce chapitre devrait être lu conjointement avec le document C 91/30 relatif au développement durable et à l'environnement.

J'en viens maintenant à l'innovation la plus significative de cet examen biennal, à savoir l'examen sélectif des principes d'action présentés au Chapitre 1. Les faits et les considérations exposés dans ce chapitre sont en fait porteurs de conséquences pour l'ensemble des activités opérationnelles.

Face à une politique générale de coopération technique qui évolue, la FAO n'a pas été statique. Elle a bougé et s'est adaptée ces dernières années en prenant un certain nombre de mesures importantes: pour une part, en résultat de l'examen de la FAO conclu à la vingt-cinquième Conférence, et, pour une autre part, en réponse à un ensemble continu de Résolutions de l'Assemblée générale dont la plus récente, la Résolution 44/211, couvre un ensemble très large de questions qui touchent en profondeur les principes d'action du Programme de terrain. Tout cela matérialisé, repris, concrétisé dans la récente décision du Conseil d'Administration du PNUD de juin 1991 sur les dépenses d'appui, que ce nouveau Chapitre 1 et le Supplément 1 couvrent de manière assez détaillée.

J'espère que cet examen complet des principes d'action répond à vos souhaits de voir que de tels aspects et leurs effets sur le Programme de terrain figurent en bonne place au sommaire des rapports de la FAO sur les activités opérationnelles. C'est ce que nous avons tenté de faire dans ce document et nous poursuivrons nos efforts dans ce sens dans le futur comme nous saisirons toutes les occasions pour vous tenir informés.

La première partie du chapitre passe en revue la traduction en termes opérationnels des conclusions de l'examen de la FAO approuvées à la vingt-cinquième Conférence de 1989 dans les limites autorisées par la difficile situation financière de la FAO. Dans le même temps, l'Organisation poursuivait, en collaboration étroite avec le bureau du Directeur général pour la coopération économique internationale et avec grande détermination, la mise en oeuvre des nombreuses mesures préconisées par la Résolution 44/211 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Vous trouverez cela dans ce même chapitre.

En ce qui concerne la décision du Conseil d'Administration du PNUD sur le remboursement des dépenses d'appui, nous avons souhaité vous donner la mesure de notre participation soutenue à la longue maturation de ce dossier. La FAO y a joué un rôle important et même prépondérant en assurant la présidence de la Task Force inter-agences. Le Directeur général lui-même s'est adressé au Conseil d'administration du PNUD pour appeler son attention sur l'importance politique fondamentale d'une telle décision et sur la sous évaluation de ses conséquences possibles, dont la première est l'impact potentiellement grave d'une telle décision sur l'avenir même de la coopération technique pour le développement du système des Nations Unies dans son ensemble.

La décision dont je parle maintenant, Décision 91/32 annexée au Supplément 1, est vraiment très compliquée et nous espérons que la description sommaire qu'en donne notre document vous sera utile. A cause de sa nature complexe, sa mise en oeuvre ne sera pas facile (ni pour le PNUD, ni pour les agences) et un vaste programme de formation de tous les

personnels associés à l'exécution des projets sera nécessaire, dont le coût, qui sera important, n'a fait l'objet à ce jour d'aucune prévision.

Comme vous le noterez dans le Supplément 1, les agences proposent d'unir leurs moyens pour organiser ensemble ces formations qui concerneront des centaines de personnes.

Les différents aspects de la décision, en nature de prestations individualisées et en crédits réservés par grands groupes de prestations, sont présentés dans la dernière partie du Chapitre 1. Il est clair qu'ils entraîneront des changements importants dans la manière dont la FAO apportera dans le futur son assistance technique aux projets financés par le PNUD, et ce ne sera pas sans une conséquence et sans conséquence très substantielle pour l'Organisation.

Le Groupe de travail interne de la FAO sur les dépenses d'appui fait une première évaluation de ces conséquences potentielles et le résultat provisoire de cet exercice est présenté dans le Supplément 1.

Dans le cadre du Groupe de travail inter-agences, la FAO et ses agences soeurs ont organisé un grand nombre de réunions avec le PNUD pour parvenir à des définitions claires et communes des termes de la décision et élaborer les modalités pratiques pour sa mise en oeuvre. Si chacun y met du sien pour résoudre les problèmes rencontrés, de façon pragmatique, beaucoup reste cependant à faire dans un temps très court si l'on considère que tout devrait être prêt pour une mise en oeuvre effective au 1er janvier 1992.

Il reste que l'une des tâches essentielles auxquelles la FAO, les autres agences et le PNUD doivent faire face est, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, la formation des personnels qui sera à peine engagée au moment de l'échéance théorique. Et cela coûtera plusieurs millions de dollars en termes de temps passé par les personnels, en coûts de missions et autres, un sujet dont il faudra bien débattre lors de la trente-neuvième session du Conseil d'administration du PNUD dans le contexte des mesures de transition considérées comme absolument nécessaires.

Pour en venir à un problème souvent évoqué de l'exécution nationale, un facteur important qui reste à déterminer est le taux de croissance de l'exécution nationale dans le secteur d'activités de la FAO. La dernière décision du Conseil d'administration du PNUD sur ce sujet, Décision 91/27 de juin 1991, appelle une approche prudente où la FAO et les autres agences doivent être totalement associées aux réflexions des représentants du PNUD sur la manière de développer cette modalité pays par pays. Nous sommes très attentifs au respect de cette Résolution qui ne parait pas avoir été encore totalement entendue partout, dans tous les pays, par tous les représentants résidents du PNUD, et nous sommes en relation étroite avec les services du PNUD de New York pour suivre l'évolution de cette question attentivement.

Malheureusement, comme je le dis, de nombreuses informations en provenance de nos représentants font apparaître que des représentants du PNUD prennent des décisions unilatérales en vue de développer l'exécution nationale sans procéder à la consultation obligatoire; et ils le font souvent par le biais de l'accroissement des capacités opérationnelles des bureaux du PNUD, des recrutements de personnel et un appel accru au Bureau de service des projets.

En ce qui concerne notre analyse des conséquences de la Décision 91/32 pour la FAO, le taux d'exécution nationale pourrait atteindre en 1996 quelque chose comme 40 pour cent. Mais ces évaluations ne sont basées que sur des supputations qui devront être confirmées par l'expérience car les conclusions que l'on peut en tirer devront être ajustées dans le temps à mesure que l'expérience les confirmera. Essentiellement, les activités de la FAO de support au PNUD relèveront de moins en moins de l'administration de projets et de plus en plus d'un soutien technique direct à la fois aux projets et aux programmes comme les examens sectoriels, les analyses des politiques, les missions de programmation, etc.

En fin du Supplément 1, C 91/4-Sup.1, sont traitées les nouvelles modalités des remboursements des dépenses d'appui aux projets financés par le Fonds des Nations Unies en matière de population. Les activités de la FAO dans ce domaine sont de nature différente de celles financées par la PNUD et font donc l'objet d'un traitement particulier. On peut considérer que, dans ce domaine, les mesures adoptées sont satisfaisantes.

Il est apparu opportun d'engager, parallèlement à l'introduction des nouvelles modalités des remboursements des dépenses d'appui du PNUD, un processus de révision du mode de calcul des frais d'agence liés à l'exécution de projets financés sur fonds fiduciaires.

Il est proposé d'engager cette analyse et de faire des propositions avec l'objectif de dégager une solution qui prenne bien en considération les caractéristiques et les mérites propres des projets financés sur fonds fiduciaires en associant pleinement les partenaires concernés à l'élaboration de ces propositions.

Bien que l'objectif principal de notre démarche soit d'améliorer la qualité du soutien technique et administratif de la FAO aux programmes sur fonds fiduciaires, et de faire en sorte que ces projets soient réussis, il est néanmoins important d'éviter une pression financière excessive de ces activités sur le Budget ordinaire de l'Organisation et il faut développer une approche très spécifiquement orientée sur l'analyse des différentes prestations et d'une juste affectation de leur coût. Il ne sera toutefois pas perdu de vue que les nouvelles modalités ne devront pas être trop compliquées et devront être faciles à comprendre et à appliquer afin que des dépenses techniques et administratives ne soient pas dispersées dans des problèmes de complexité.

La proposition qui vous est soumise consisterait à engager les analyses nécessaires dès maintenant pour être en mesure de recommander un dispositif viable et pratique aux prochaines réunions des Comités financier et du Programme en 1992. Ainsi on pourrait en assurer une mise en oeuvre provisoire et expérimentale d'ajustement après mai 1992 (pour les nouveaux projets). La confirmation formelle du nouveau dispositif interviendrait en 1993 après son adoption par le cent-deuxième Conseil en novembre 1992.

Pour conclure, je souhaite confirmer que les politiques déployées par l'Organisation en matière d'activités opérationnelles feront maintenant toujours l'objet d'un développement particulier dans tout rapport présenté par le Secrétariat sur les activités opérationnelles. Nous rapporterons de même aux Comités et au Conseil sur tout nouveau développement du dossier des dépenses d'appui du PNUD et sur toute conséquence envisageable pour la

FAO. Il en sera de même pour le problème du remboursement des frais d'agence liés à la mise en oeuvre de fonds fiduciaires, comme je viens de le dire.

Mes collègues et moi-même sommes à votre disposition pour tout complément que vous pourriez souhaiter sur ces importants documents et dont, je dois le reconnaître, certaines parties sont complexes et difficiles.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Rinvile for his introduction. As I said before, delegates should feel free to deal with this item in one speech or two, I hope most will only do it in one; otherwise we may get into trouble later on, but it is up to each delegate. The item is open for discussion. The following are the speakers on the list: Colombia, Denmark, Congo, Finland, China, Germany, Sweden, USA, UK, Canada and France. I give the floor to the first delegate.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** El Sr. Rinvile ha hecho una excelente declaración que facilita nuestra participación en el debate sobre este tema. Las orientaciones que usted ha dado son, como siempre, prácticas. Trataremos de hacer una sola declaración y ojalá no ocupar demasiado tiempo.

Los representantes de Colombia pensamos que este nuevo examen confirma la evolución muy favorable que vienen cumpliendo las actividades de campo de nuestra Organización. Actividades que el Gobierno de Colombia considera pilar fundamental dentro del conjunto de la labor de la FAO. Afortunadamente están ya muy lejos hacia atrás los tiempos, hasta principios de los años sesenta, cuando las actividades de campo eran apenas como cierto espejismo para los países beneficiarios, ya que los expertos que generalmente se enviaban a nuestros países, carecían de nivel técnico, no hablaban los idiomas de nuestras poblaciones, sus estómagos no resistían nuestras comidas autóctonas, les incomodaba el clima y las demás condiciones de vida del Tercer Mundo. Era así como debían cumplir el contrato de permanecer dos o tres años en cada país, sin llegarse a compenetrar ni entender con los representantes de los gobiernos, y mucho menos con las gentes del campo.

Obviamente, actividades sobre el terreno cumplidas en esa forma, carecían de toda eficacia y beneficio para los países en desarrollo. Esos expertos que después volvían a Roma, muchas veces se traían copias de informes anteriores de otros expertos que habían trabajado más o menos en esas mismas lamentables condiciones y, basados en esos informes, presentaban el resultado de su misión. Además, el apoyo técnico de la Sede, indispensable y básico, les era ofrecido desde aquí por burócratas encallecidos que en esos tiempos disfrutaban de la tranquilidad de vivir en esta ciudad, sentados en sus cómodos escritorios, o con sus pipas humeantes en los bares, restaurantes y en la terraza de este edificio con esa fantástica vista de las ruinas del Imperio Romano. Y ofrecían ese apoyo técnico basado en indicadores obsoletos. Se inspiraban en ese panorama para hacer diagnósticos y recomendaciones con desconocimiento completo de la realidad económica, de los problemas sociales, humanos, y de todo orden, de la población de los países para los cuales decían, o creían, estar en condiciones de trabajar.

Todo eso particularmente a partir de 1976, bajo un nuevo concepto pragmático, ha venido siendo superado. Hoy la FAO ha logrado la designación de más de 400 Directores Nacionales en sus Programas de Campo, así como 850 oficiales de proyectos nacionales. La FAO apoyó desde sus comienzos la modalidad de avanzar hacia la plena ejecución nacional de los proyectos financiados por el PNUD.

El párrafo 1.59 de este documento contiene cifras comparativas relativas a los últimos ciclos de comparación; cifras que esperamos se incrementarán en el futuro.

Los representantes de Colombia estamos de acuerdo en que aún algunos países beneficiarios no disponen de personas con conocimientos técnicos suficientes, ni de capacidad institucional adecuada para asumir toda la responsabilidad de la ejecución. Por ello, hemos sostenido siempre que aunque la plena ejecución nacional debe ser el objetivo final, eso tiene que ser un proceso gradual pero con sentido de avance, en el cual las experiencias y los conocimientos de la FAO deben ser utilizados por los gobiernos en las etapas de identificación, preparación y, si fuese necesario, también ejecución de los proyectos.

Hay que explorar todos los medios que permitan a los gobiernos utilizar el oportuno asesoramiento de la FAO que asegurará la calidad en la ejecución de los buenos proyectos. Como lo dice este documento, seguramente es cierto que hayan surgido problemas en cuanto a la presentación de informes y rendición de cuentas en algunos países. Pero no conviene generalizar. La FAO debe intensificar su asistencia a esos países para que progresivamente vayan superando y solucionando favorablemente esos problemas que son marginales: presentación de informes, rendición de cuentas, aspectos marginales frente a la gran importancia que el Gobierno de Colombia atribuye a la ejecución nacional mediante la cual se incrementa la capacitación de nuestro propio personal y se fortalecen nuestras instituciones nacionales, con la esperanza de que pronto podamos librarnos completamente de la dependencia de expertos externos a que antes estábamos totalmente sometidos, y así ojalá nunca más volvamos a la etapa colonialista, hasta un poco folclorística, de la asistencia técnica a que hicimos referencia en esta declaración.

A los representantes de Colombia nos complace que aun en medio de la grave crisis financiera de nuestra Organización, el volumen de gastos del Programa de gastos de la FAO haya alcanzado cifras excepcionales. Durante el bienio, aumentaron las entregas FAO/PNUD de los fondos fiduciarios y del PCT. Sin embargo, nos preocupa que la parte del Programa del PNUD correspondiente a la FAO siga reduciéndose. Sería una lástima que las perspectivas bastante alentadoras del futuro se afectaran considerablemente por las nuevas disposiciones del PNUD relativas a los gastos de apoyo. De todos modos, el crecimiento de todos los programas principales durante el bienio es demostración de la confianza múltiple de las instituciones de financiación y de todos los gobiernos donantes y beneficiarios, en la eficacia del Programa de Campo de la FAO.

Ese general aprecio positivo a las actividades de campo, parece estar reflejado en este documento, sobre todo en la parte primera que contiene el análisis de los recursos de las misiones de evaluación. El Servicio de Evaluación trabaja eficazmente. Lamentamos que la falta de recursos haya impedido fortalecer ese Servicio. No obstante, estamos seguros de que el nuevo puesto profesional y el Inspector Superior de Campo contribuirán a

que el Servicio de Evaluación siga mejorando aún más sus importantes tareas. Convendrá intensificar progresivamente la participación de las Oficinas de la FAO en los países, en el asesoramiento directo a los ministerios e instituciones gubernamentales, y en el apoyo a los Programas de Campo de la Organización.

Para que esa participación sea verdaderamente eficaz, será necesario que las Oficinas en los países sean reforzadas con el incremento del personal profesional de categoría superior que está disponible para atender las solicitudes de los gobiernos. Esto se hace más imperioso ahora, cuando a partir del próximo bienio lamentablemente se debilitarán las Oficinas Regionales.

Una vez más, lamentamos que la crisis financiera haya impedido al Director General su propósito inicial de reforzar más ampliamente ese personal de las Oficinas en los países, lo cual además corresponde a las recomendaciones dimanantes del examen de algunas de las actividades de la FAO.

El modesto aumento de sólo seis puestos, tres de ellos apenas de categoría superior, es insuficiente para lograr adecuadamente ese reforzamiento. Las Oficinas en los países deben contar con un suficiente y adecuado servicio de apoyo operacional y profesional. Está muy bien que las actividades de campo se enfoquen hacia el mayor estímulo y apoyo a la cooperación técnica, y apoyo entre países en desarrollo. Las CTP y CTPD, así como las Redes de Cooperación, representan ahora una especie de refugio para los Estados del Tercer Mundo frente al descenso de los recursos para la cooperación internacional. Los Estados industrializados en su mayoría vienen reduciendo inexplicablemente, o desviando en forma persistente, que nos inquieta por sus graves repercusiones en el futuro largo plazo.

La creciente cooperación con las Organizaciones no gubernamentales es otro filón que la FAO aún no ha explorado suficientemente. Las ONG internacionales y los países industrializados en general, es cierto que suelen tener muchos recursos, personal técnico, experiencias y conocimientos que pueden ser utilizados en las operaciones de campo de la FAO, pero también las ONG nacionales son importantes, tienen un capital que es valioso y de significación excepcional. Esas ONG nacionales, aunque cuentan con menos recursos, tienen la ventaja del conocimiento directo de las condiciones de vida de los países, de sus gentes, de sus hábitos, de la idiosincracia y de las sensibilidades de la población. Todo lo cual sumado representa un valioso capital. Por ello, nos complace que, como lo dice el párrafo 1.55: "Las Direcciones Técnicas y Económicas de la FAO mantienen amplias y valiosas relaciones con las ONG de los países receptivos y donantes". Creemos que este concepto es necesario que se mantenga porque ese conjunto de ONG vienen contribuyendo a la ejecución de muchos proyectos en los que sólo la participación activa y eficaz de la comunidad y de los grupos de población, permite obtener resultados satisfactorios y sostenibles.

A fin de atender a sus juiciosas directrices, y para no extendernos demasiado, sólo nos resta reconocer que estos exámenes del Programa de Campo han venido mejorando cada bienio y siguen las orientaciones de los órganos rectores, lo cual asegura que esos progresos que los representantes de Colombia reconocemos, sinceramente se prolongarán y se consolidarán en el futuro.

**John PONTOPPIDAN (Denmark):** Denmark channels half its development assistance, i.e., in 1991 more than US\$500 million, through multilateral agencies.

While we in DANIDA have a fairly clear picture of the agencies' performance at headquarters level, our knowledge of their performance in the field has until now not been based on sufficiently comprehensive information.

It was in order to provide the basis for a more systematic analysis of agency field effectiveness and to make possible relevant comparisons between agencies that DANIDA decided to ask a Danish consulting company (COWIconsult) to make a study of the field effectiveness of 11 agencies' operations in four developing countries. Among these agencies, FAO was included.

Another main objective of the study was the elaboration of a monitoring system, which will enable us on a continuous basis to follow multilateral field activities in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

The study, which consists of 10 agency specific reports and a general report, was published earlier this year and has been presented within the UN System. I should like to stress that the views expressed in the reports are not official Government positions but are meant as contributions to the international dialogue.

The general study suggests that a more clear-cut division of labour among multilateral agencies be established. This division of labour should be based on the comparative advantages of the different multilateral agencies. This should increase the transparency of development co-operation both internationally and at country level. It would undoubtedly lead to more effective use of resources and greater impact of development.

A key implication of the study suggestions is that the UN specialized agencies concentrate their activities at two levels: one, policy advice plan formulation, and capacity building assistance within important sub-sectors of government affairs; and, two, technical assistance to socially and/or institutional complex programmes and experimental activities, including pilot projects.

The study further states that for years there has been increasing competition between the multilateral agencies in financing as many projects as possible, often without any overall and coherent planning. The authors of the study call the project sitic disease.

Turning briefly to the specific report about FAO, the two main suggestions as to how FAO could improve its role in the division of responsibilities among multilateral agencies are as follows: FAO should enforce a concentration of its field operations within the field and sub-sectors where the agency globally has its relative strengths. This would require stronger direct links between FAO's technical departments and its field operations.

FAO should support programme cooperation aimed at long-term capacity-building between the specialized divisions and FAO Headquarters and their counterpart institutions in developing governments.



Now turning to the report on FAO's Field Programmes 1990-91, document C 91/4, we welcome this document, which we find makes a good basis for our deliberations under this Agenda Item. We have studied with special interest the sections dealing with the "up-stream" activities in FAO. As stated in paragraph 1.31, both UNGA Resolution 44/211 and the FAO Review process stress the importance of expanding the above activities comprising policy and sectoral/sub-sectoral advice and review services, as well as strengthened programming efforts. We have noted that paragraph 1.36 states that "the expansion of the "up-stream" activities continues to be promoted under Field Programmes, along with the necessary strengthening of the database, and the coordination of in-house country information for this purpose". This expansion, as indicated earlier in my statement, is a development which we fully support and which we can only urge FAO vigorously to pursue.

As indicated in paragraph 1.39, UNGA Resolution 44/211 further places particular stress on steadily changing the pattern of technical assistance from a project towards a programme-dominated approach. This is an approach which Denmark for several years has been pursuing in our Trust Fund cooperation not only with FAO but also with other UN agencies. Therefore we urge FAO to intensify its efforts to concentrate its field activities based on a programme approach which is interlinked and coordinated with FAO's Regular Programme activities. Because of this interlinkage between the two programmes, we support the idea to unite the two reports in future.

I would now like to turn to another very important issue: the recent UNDP Governing Council Decision 91/32 on Support Costs Successor Arrangements. This issue as you indicated is being dealt with not only in the main report in front of us, but also in two supplements.

Denmark welcomes the new support cost arrangement. It should contribute to a development, where competition among agencies for project finance is reduced. This will lead to less emphasis by the agencies on their project-executing role and thus enable them to focus more on their central mandates.

The new system is evidently, as is pointed out in the documents in front of us, rather complicated. This has been necessary in order to achieve the objectives of reducing competition for projects and improving the quality of backstopping, to which TSS-I and TSS-II will contribute.

I should like to stress that the calculations in the documents of the proportion of TSS-I and TSS-II allocated to FAO are misleading. It was very clear from the discussions at the Twenty-eighth UNDP Governing Council that there is no predetermined distribution of TSS-I and TSS-II funds among agencies and only a very rough one among countries. Distribution is alone to be determined by development needs. This is spelt out in Annex IV of the UNDP decision, where it is stated in paragraph 12 on TSS-I that "there will be no pre-allocation of resources by sector or agency", and in paragraph 19 on TSS-II that "TSS-II resources will not be apportioned by agency or sector".

With regard to national execution, my Government, together with a number of others, is firmly of the view that, although national execution should increase and be the ultimate goal, the process must be gradual. The capacity of recipients to execute varies considerably.

It must, however, be envisaged, and indeed is desirable that mixed national and agency execution is increasingly applied. The new method of calculating AOS, splitting the costs into components with different rates of compensation, should facilitate the use of mixed execution.

I will briefly comment on the proposals contained in document C 91/4-Sup.2, Support Costs Arrangements for Trust Fund Donors. As a large Trust Fund donor to FAO, we have studied the document with special interest. It is our position that, as in the case of the new UNDP support costs arrangement, the burden-sharing between the donor and the executing organization should remain unchanged. Therefore, Denmark cannot accept that the share for AOS and possible TSS-II expenses, which the donor has to pay, exceeds 13 percent on average for executed Trust Fund projects.

We do not oppose an investigation as indicated in paragraph 11 of the document, be carried out so long as it is understood that it respects the above-mentioned burden-sharing. Further, we find that a possible new support costs arrangement between Trust Fund donors should be of a common nature for all donors.

Lastly, a possible new arrangement should only cover new projects and not on-going projects including new phases.

I should now like to make some comments in connection with factor 3, Part 1, of the report in front of us which deals with evaluations.

The Director-General in his Foreword welcomes the effort to assess the sustainability of the results of projects, which he finds is a key factor in determining their ultimate success.

We agree that the importance of sustainability of the results of projects cannot be underestimated. Therefore, in our view, it gives rise to concern, when we learn from the report that, though the evaluation findings point to improvements in the performance of UNDP and Trust Fund field projects in 1987-88, a number of serious weaknesses have been found to persist. Here I refer to page xvii in the summary where it is stated that "concerning the sustainability of project results, just over half of the projects evaluated were judged likely to be sustainable after project completion". We therefore agree with the conclusion that improvements in project design must take into account, increasingly, those factors that influence sustainability, that is, the policy and institutional environment in which projects are placed.

More specifically, we see a problem in the fact described in paragraph 3.19 that the time available for 32 percent of all missions during 1989-90 was found to be insufficient in relation to their terms of reference. In our view, more realistic time resources thus have to be allocated to evaluations. Instead of implementing many evaluations of individual projects, in our opinion it would be more advantageous and cost-effective to concentrate more on evaluations of a sectoral and/or thematic nature. Further, we would recommend that FAO gives a higher priority to ex-post evaluations, which would give a more realistic picture of the actual sustainability of the projects.

Chapter 3, Part 2, of the report describes TCP activities. The Danish policy position regarding TCP activities has already been expressed in the Nordic statement concerning the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93.

On this occasion I shall limit myself to commending the Secretariat for the detailed description of those activities. We can only urge that this line be continued and that the greatest possible transparency in regard to TCP activities be achieved. We therefore support the suggestions for improvements mentioned in paragraph 3.115.

With these comments, I should like to thank the FAO for a relevant report of its field activities in 1990-91. We look forward to further discussions of this important item.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** M. le Président, pour commencer, permettez-nous tout d'abord de remercier M. Rinvile pour la brillante présentation qu'il vient de nous faire en introduisant ce point 17 de notre ordre du jour consacré à l'examen des Programmes de terrain 1990-91 de la FAO, examen auquel nous attachons beaucoup de prix. M. le Président, à l'instar des éditions précédentes, le présent examen procède à l'évaluation de toute une foule de programmes sectoriels de terrain. Il serait à notre avis fastidieux d'essayer de faire des appréciations particulières et détaillées sur chacun de ces programmes. Nous n'en aborderons donc que certains que nous aurons triés sur le volet en raison de l'importance plus élevée que nous leur accordons.

Pour aller de l'avant, nous aimerions tout d'abord rappeler l'importance que nous attachons à la collaboration étroite et constante qui continue d'exister entre la FAO et le PNUD.

Tout en nous félicitant de constater que le PNUD reste la principale source de financement de projets de la FAO, nous insistons pour que toutes les mesures soient prises afin que les Etats Membres de notre Organisation, et en particulier les pays en développement, puissent tirer meilleur parti des avantages comparatifs et de l'expérience incontestée de la FAO pour les activités financées par le PNUD.

Dans le cadre de cette collaboration existant entre la FAO et le PNUD, notre attention a été naturellement retenue par la Résolution 91/32 du Conseil d'administration du PNUD concernant les nouvelles dispositions relatives aux dépenses d'appui.

Dans ce cadre, tout en nous félicitant du fait que l'exécution de projet soit de plus en plus confiée aux pays bénéficiaires, et même en fonction de leurs capacités opérationnelles, nous souhaitons que l'accent soit mis en conséquence sur le volet formation du personnel et des cadres desdits projets, et que parallèlement, la FAO continue à jouer son rôle habituel d'assistance dans la mise en place de telles capacités opérationnelles et dans la fourniture des services consultatifs, et à participer à l'exécution desdits projets.

Nous pensons nous aussi que le transfert de ces capacités opérationnelles doit être progressif. Dans cette perspective, nous suggérons une prise en charge conjointe des coûts qui en résulteront par la FAO et le PNUD.

Par ailleurs, même si cela semble encore difficile à faire, nous souhaiterions que le Secrétariat essaie de se pencher sur l'incidence financière des décisions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD sur le régime et les dépenses d'appui de la FAO, même s'il ne s'agit, dans un

premier temps, que d'une estimation grossière. A ce titre, les deux documents C 91/4-Sup.1 et C 91/4-Sup.2 mis à notre disposition récemment sont de bon augure.

Nous appuyons la proposition du Secrétariat quant au regroupement de l'examen du Programme ordinaire avec celui des Programmes de terrain au titre du point 3 de la procédure Budget Programme.

Bien que nous en ayons déjà parlé lors de nos précédentes interventions, nous aimerions tout de même saisir cette occasion pour souligner l'intérêt particulier que nous attachons au Programme de coopération technique, un programme dont l'efficacité n'a d'égales que sa souplesse et son caractère catalytique.

Nous nous réjouissons des diverses activités menées par la FAO pour faire face au nombre de plus en plus élevé des situations d'urgence parmi lesquelles figurent celles liées à la lutte contre les acridiens et la lucilie bouchère en Afrique.

Nous demandons que, dans les exercices futurs, la FAO continue d'accorder à l'Afrique toute la priorité qu'elle mérite. Les approches de CTPD et de CEPD ainsi que les problèmes d'intégration des femmes dans le développement et le rôle des ONG ont tout notre appui.

L'introduction du Chapitre spécial consacré aux aspects des Programmes de terrain concernant les développements durables et la protection de l'environnement nous satisfont.

Nous appuyons les activités menées par le Centre d'investissement de la FAO.

**Ms Anna-Liisa KORHONEN (Finland):** At the Conference two years ago the Finnish delegation, in its statement on this same subject, pointed out some specific problems concerning the general lines of Field Programme management. We feel that the concern then expressed is still valid. We wanted especially to underline the importance of the policy advisory role of the FAO in the Field Programmes. At the same Conference also the Review Resolution 10/89 recommended inter alia that the FAO was to be more prominent in this advisory role. We are pleased to note that this line of thinking has been generally accepted and integrated into the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme of Work and Budget. This appreciation was expressed in the Nordic statements on these Agenda Items yesterday and the day before. But as regards the Field Programmes we do not see that this new policy advisory role, which eventually should guide the planning process, is properly integrated in the document now before us. We understand that it takes time to accomplish this task and that a transfer period is required. But at least some general ideas or visions on how this task is to be worked out should have been elaborated at this stage.

As a second main concern - a logical consequence of the above-mentioned - the Finnish delegation feels that the national execution of programmes ought to have been more visible and clearly presented as a general goal for Field Programmes. We find that document C 91/4 still continues to concentrate on quantitative argumentation and financing aspects of the FAO Field Programme. Qualitative argumentation and assessment of the comparative advantage or sustainability of FAO solutions to the problems of agriculture

and environment are not included in the document. As a matter of fact, the discussion of FAO's excellent capacity in proposing solutions to the specific problems of the developing countries is altogether absent from the document.

As regards the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211 on operational activities of the UN system, the FAO document we are handling now indicates that the FAO interpretation of it is not entirely constructive. For instance, no statement on a genuine striving for field coordination is given in the document. Paragraph 1.20 states that the FAO fully cooperates with the UN Secretariat, but it does not explain what this actually means. Paragraph 1.24 again states, when dealing with cooperation with country offices, that what more often is required is an improved institutional environment within which the respective participants can bring to bear their full capacities under the team-leadership concept. This seems to imply that the host country should take action. However, the spirit of the UN Resolution clearly states that the operational organizations should come up with ideas and that they should improve their joint performance as a system in the field.

As we see it when studying the document on Field Programmes, the FAO seems to measure performance not in terms of quality, but in terms of expenditure. The document does include a theoretical chapter on sustainability. But it does not in fact describe what sustainability means in agricultural, forestry, fisheries and environmental fields of technical assistance projects and programmes. The assessment FAO makes deals with its project preparation, implementation and management performance and the sustainability of the different part of its project cycle.

This is dealt with in Chapter 3 and more specifically in paragraphs 3.14 and 3.34. This does not correspond with our interpretation of the concept.

One more concern we have regards the description of TCP given in paragraph 2.36. We find it very superficial and not convincing. What is the relationship between the "priority ranking" of the projects and programmes financed by the countries from their UNDP IPFs and financed directly by FAO TCP funding? We also have doubts in terms of efficient cooperation and utilization of scarce resources. What role the recipients have in the planning of these resources is unclear.

Turning now to the proposals before the Conference on the new Support Cost Arrangements and the planned Trust Fund study, I should like to make the following comments; the new Support Cost Arrangements to be applied from 1 January 1992 have important implications to the FAO Field Programmes. My delegation has warmly welcomed the reform of the old Support Cost Arrangement, even if we agree that the new system is more complicated than the old one. We believe that the change correctly reflects the principles outlined in the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211 aiming at making the system of UN operational organizations an efficient machinery to assist the less developed countries in their development efforts. As stated in the document C 91/4, the arrangement consists of several different parts of services to be reimbursed to the implementing agencies; time will be required before the new arrangement is fully operational.

It is clearly stated in the document and its supplements that FAO is very much aware of the consequences of the changes to its important Field Programmes. My delegation would like to encourage FAO to fully participate

in the coordination with the other specialized agencies and the negotiations with UNDP concerning the operationalization of the new arrangement according to the plans outlined in the documents. We are, however, a bit surprised by the high costs calculated for the relevant training of FAO's field staff and government officials involved. In our opinion, whatever the arrangement applied in financial administration, the competence of the field staff in all operational offices requires continuous on-the-job training. Crash courses can be given if needed, but the lessons from the arrangement are learned essentially only by doing.

To our disappointment, the documents discuss the financial aspects of the new arrangement at length but very little on the conclusions for FAO of how to further improve its competence to readily and efficiently service the developing countries' needs in the sectors of FAO's specific comparative advantage. The issue is not to compare with the recipient governments the share of funds that the national execution modality will use, but to assess how the substantive advice and expertise can be provided on their request.

Let me also underline that my Government does not endorse the efforts to further mobilize additional donor support through Trust Funds. In our opinion, the extra-budgetary funding of development activities has a tendency to distort the focus of the activities or at least not directing them towards the needs and priorities of the recipient countries. As to the Director-General's proposal for developing a revised system of support costs reimbursement for the Trust Fund Projects, my delegation has serious reservations with regard to the proposal. In our view this session of the Conference cannot go along with the proposal. We also think that it would be more fruitful to take into account the discussion and decisions that the UNDP Governing Council will take in May 1992 on this matter on the basis of a proposal which UNDP's Secretariat is preparing at the moment on the Support Cost Arrangements of Trust Funds. I thank you Mr Chairman.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** We commend the Secretariat for producing this very useful document C 91/4 which is comprehensive and sets out clearly the results of the evaluation process that has been undertaken within FAO.

The Field Programmes of FAO are an integral part of FAO's work and it is important that they continue to be effective and relevant. The evaluation process is important in ensuring this and it is hoped that FAO will continue to strengthen the process and maintain efforts to improve project performance.

Australia is pleased to see that FAO has increased the focus on environment and sustainable development aspects of field projects and the emphasis now being given to policy advisory work and women in development.

Australia is particularly interested in the outcome of the Review of the Technical Cooperation Programme carried out by FAO's Evaluation Service and the conclusions at page 106. They contain suggestions for improvement of the Technical Cooperation Programme and nominate specific areas which require further strengthening. They are: follow-up to project results, systemic monitoring and assessment of the quality of project results, wider dissemination of information on TCP project results, improved work planning

for project implementation, clarifying project categories in relation to TCP criteria and functions. Australia supports these suggestions for improvement and would wish to see them implemented.

Turning very briefly to the Supplement to Agenda Item 17 concerning Support Cost Successor Arrangements, Australia considers that FAO and the other agencies should be commended for the constructive nature of the support costs implementation negotiations. We also consider that the setting up of collaborative training arrangements between the five agencies and UNDP is to be commended. The costing estimates for the training programmes, however, appear to be quite high. We would appreciate details of their composition. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** The document we are studying, C 91/4, describes the FAO Field Programme in a self-critical and global manner. Our delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this document and to thank Mr Rinvile for the presentation he has made under this item of our Agenda.

We noted with pleasure that the global volume of the FAO Field Programmes in 1990 increased considerably. Our satisfaction about the growth of Trust Fund cooperation and the confidence it inspires is mixed nonetheless with concern about the long-term future in view of the difficult financial position of the Regular Programme of Work and Budget and the consequent weakening of the structures of the Organization. This could likewise question project execution at high quality level. This concern is one more reason for our delegation to appeal to all those parties involved to do everything in their power to bring to an end FAO's financial crisis by fulfilling their commitments.

We read with great interest the comments on development of sustainable agriculture. The evaluation of the important consequences to the environment of any activities of an agricultural, forestry or fisheries nature is, in our opinion, of great importance for the future activity of our Organization. We would like to encourage FAO to take any measures necessary in this respect in order to ensure that all project activities respect the environment.

Another sector of activities receive our special attention, and I refer to the presentation of the political development of FAO's Field Programmes taking into account the results of the Review of the Organization, which concluded at the Twenty-fifth Conference in 1989. We have noted with great satisfaction that FAO has taken on board the results of this Review and are now at the stage of putting these results into practice.

The Report to Member States, which for our delegation is of extreme importance, and the role played by the Council and Conference in this respect have undoubtedly been strengthened and the Organization should be congratulated on this. In this respect, we should also mention cooperation within the United Nations system in an effort to avoid duplication of work and in an effort to improve the efficiency of development work within the entire family of the United Nations. Improvements have been noted here as well and we would like to welcome these developments.

Without going into great detail about this intensive cooperation within the system I would like to record that my country has made its voice heard within the various bodies of the United Nations in order that these efforts are made to avoid duplication and improve efficiency. The document we are studying has given us the impression that the constructive contribution that FAO can make in this respect has improved both quantitatively and qualitatively speaking. Together with an improved project quality in our opinion we should have an improvement in national abilities in order to strengthen project implementation at the level of national institutions and in the respective beneficiary countries.

In our opinion, we have always used this principle with great success in our bilateral cooperation work. Therefore, we welcome the progress that has been made in this regard by FAO during the last biennium.

In the Governing Council of UNDP, my Government participated actively in the elaboration of the new arrangements for the reimbursement of support costs in the United Nations system. Successful implementation of these new provisions in the system can only be successful, in our opinion, if all the participating bodies work together in a constructive manner and if the necessary amendments are implemented with flexibility and taking into account local situations.

To conclude, within the Regular Programme it is necessary to have structures and financial resources which should be made available. We are convinced that under these conditions, and with the goodwill of all parties involved, considerable success will be assured in the long term and at the same time we will have an improvement in the efficiency of the Organization. A lot could still be said about the document before us, but I would like to stop here and thank you once again for your attention.

**Bo WILEN (Sweden):** The Secretariat should be commended for the new format of the Review of the Field Programmes. My delegation would like to thank Mr Rinvile for his interesting presentation of the Report.

The Report differs from earlier versions in the sense that more emphasis is put on policy and strategic issues and trends affecting the forward planning, and less on detailed presentation of specific evaluation exercises. It thus presents a good basis for an extensive discussion on future directions of the Field Programmes.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to start by commenting on policy advice, sectorial and sub-sectorial analysis and strengthened technical support - that is, paragraphs 1.31 to 1.38.

The importance of such expounded upstream activities is stressed both in the FAO Review and in the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. Considering the small portion of UN funds in the overall ODA, it is the more important that they are used where they can best support national development, and the most obvious comparative advantage refers to such activities where assembled, analyzed and structured knowledge from the specialized agencies can support the formulation of realistic plans and programmes. It is more important in an era of structural adjustment.



Mr Chairman, what is said under Towards a Programme approach in paragraphs 1.39 to 1.44 may be something new to the UN family, although it has been a guiding principle of Swedish development cooperation for a number of years.

Paragraph 1.40 indicates a certain hesitancy on the part of FAO to discontinue ad hoc activities, but the argument is strong for responding in the first instance to requests for field projects in areas of high priority, both in Regular Programmes and Field Programmes, where an increased professional competence is systematically being built up.

Three selection areas of emphasis are brought forward in the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions and dealt with in paragraphs 1.45 to 1.55. Promotion of TCDC has increasingly been of concern for FAO although the volume of support has been low. It may be difficult in many cases to distinguish between TCDC activities and more formal Regional Programmes as part of FAO's work, but generally a more positive attitude to TCDC may be justified. Increased cooperation with NGOs should be supported, although it may be more difficult for UN agencies to cooperate on the national level with NGOs. Such cooperation often involves more or less open political implications.

Now to the most important questions about national capacity building and the move towards national execution. The FAO attitude is still as ambiguous as it has always been. On the one hand the FAO is said to be in the forefront of the UN family. On the other hand, a number of difficulties are raised and a slow process towards the direction of national execution is proposed. For many years the Swedish approach has been that the country's national authorities are fully responsible for planning and execution of their developing programmes and projects. Support from outside may be requested and provided for by international or bilateral financial and technical assistance.

The agency is organized for the external support, the flow of funds, recruitment and employment of short- and long-term expertise and may provide certain services, such as procurement, as agreed. With such a view a statement like "the project has enjoyed a good cooperation from the government", which has figured in earlier Field Programme Reviews, in fact is an anomaly. It is in fact the FAO that cooperates with a government. FAO projects and entities in themselves would be impossible. It is time for FAO to be even more serious in its efforts to turn over to real national execution. In all FAO supportive projects the element of national capacity-building should be prominent. Reference is made to more country-specific approaches, although the countries differ very much with regard to national capacity and thus demands for support, projects and programmes still have a tendency to be rather similar. An even greater degree of adaptation to specific national demands is called for.

About the new support costs arrangements I will be brief. My delegation supports what has already been said by the distinguished delegates of Finland and Denmark. Thus, my delegation believes inter alia that the change in the system correctly reflects the principles outlined in the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211. We encourage FAO to fully participate in the coordination with our specialized agencies and in the negotiations with UNDP concerning the operationalization of the new arrangements.

As to the Director-General's proposal for developing a revised system of support costs through investments for Trust Fund projects, my delegation has reservations. It would be premature to go ahead and take a decision now. We think it would be fruitful to take into account the discussions and decisions the UNDP Governing Council will have in May 1992 on the basis of the proposal the UNDP Secretariat is preparing at present on the support costs arrangements for Trust Funds.

A few words on Chapter 2, dealing with current trends and outlook. The Field Programme is financed by extra-budgetary funds from three sources, UNDP, Trust Funds and TCP. The UNDP funds are recovering after the liquidity crisis at the beginning of the 1980s but have still not reached the level of 1981-82. The FAO share of total UNDP expenditure continues to fall and is now down to 17 percent. Trust Funds contribute more to the Field Programmes than UNDP and have done so for a number of years. Among them, the unilateral ones constitute the second largest category beside the government-cooperative programme. To an increasing extent this means FAO execution of programme components financed by the World Bank or other developing financial institutions. This again indicates that in future FAO may have to function as a consultant amongst other consultants in execution of field projects.

In Table 2.4 the distribution of extra-budgetary resources to the main programme areas is prevented. Crops have decreased and forestry increased, both by 3 percent, but most surprising and less satisfactory is that the policy analysis does not show any increase. Conceptual and theoretical work in Headquarters has to result in more activity in the field at country level.

We have now come to the investment support activities. In paragraph 2.112 it is stated that investment projects are increasingly difficult to find. This underlines again what has been proved during many years: the problem is not lack of money but relevant and planned projects. It follows that there are strong links between technical assistance and investment, both in the pre-investment phase and in the planning and implementation of investment projects. A number of investment projects have failed and become a burden to the countries because they have not been relevant to the economic and policy environment. A thorough and realistic analysis in these respects is a must to ensure that a project is truly viable. Further, the social and environmental relevance of the investment projects calls for particular attention as noted in paragraph 2, part 110.

The Chapter on Assessment of Field Projects includes an extensive and useful analysis of project sustainability. Table 3.6 brings forward reasons most commonly given as to why projects are not likely to be sustainable. It is the result of 94 evaluation missions during 1988-90. It comes out clearly that policy on economic and institutional capacity in the recipient country has been too weak. This is an aspect which is now and then referred to but in spite of that often overlooked in the planning of projects and programmes, and it is the recipient country itself that ultimately has to pay for such mistakes. Of the total number of projects where judgements on sustainability were made, about half were deemed sustainable. A weak point is that the judgement referred to projects ongoing or close to termination. An interesting evaluation project would be to go back to a number of different projects which were terminated five to ten years ago and see how sustainable they have been.

About TCP: from paragraphs 108 to 109 it can be noted that TCP seems to be used for functions agreed upon by the Conference. Sweden once supported the establishment of TCP and has appreciated the need for some flexible money for quick responses to requests under the categories in paragraph 3.108. However, TCP should not be allowed to grow at the expense of other Regular Programme activities.

Last but not least, the issue of sustainable development and environmental protection aspects of FAO Field Programmes. Since the 1989 Conference, in pursuance of Conference Resolution 3/89, FAO has taken a number of measures to adapt to the heightened focus on environment and sustainable development aspects. These refer both to internal administrative and organizational aspects and policy and strategic work in the long- and medium-term perspective. What has been done is still very much on a conceptual and theoretical level. At this stage the increased emphasis should be welcomed. The responsibility to gear the world towards sustainable development falls particularly heavily on FAO, which is active within agriculture, rural development, fishery and forestry. The FAO Den Bosch Conference is one good example of steps taken in the right direction. Nevertheless, it is at present difficult to see which course should be taken to overcome cultural and socio-economic obstacles in the rural economy to measure increased and sustainable production. Here a further effort must be made to strengthen the existing knowledge and competence in FAO.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** On behalf of my delegation, I would like to make a brief comment on this Agenda Item.

The UNDP support cost successor arrangement had been discussed not only as a financial issue but also as one that would effect basic relationships among beneficiary countries, UNDP and specialized agencies in the UN system such as FAO.

Under the UNDP support cost successor arrangement introduced from 1992 onwards, specialized agencies are to execute TSS-I, technical support at the programme level and TSS-II, technical support at the project and get support cost of 2 percent from each sector. Developing countries will basically administer and operate the projects.

In this context, my country recognizes the importance of facilitating national execution and FAO should take into account the following points:

First, FAO should exploit its accumulated technical skill and know-how and elevate its expertise in the field of food and agriculture. In doing so, FAO can show its presence in TSS-I and TSS-II sectors.

Secondly, in transitional duration, even in AOS sector, FAO should be ready to cooperate with the countries which need its support in order to carry out the projects efficiently and effectively.

Thirdly, we are of the view that there are some points which we have to consider in this arrangement, and we should look after this arrangement continuously. Therefore, FAO should keep in touch with other organizations concerned and consult with them.

**Ms Robin MEYER (United States of America):** The US delegation appreciates this opportunity to discuss the detailed analysis of the Field Programme contained in this review. We believe that today's discussion will serve as a basis for better priority setting, development of clear criteria for the selection of TCP projects and improvements in project design. We also believe that this discussion will encourage further use of evaluation as a management tool, both to monitor implementation and to identify effective ways of addressing agricultural development problems. In my remarks now I will focus on Chapter Three of the Review, the Assessment of Field Projects. The United States delegation will defer its comments on the sustainable development portion of the Review until the agenda item on environment and sustainable development. We would also like to discuss the operational activities for development in the second round of interventions.

We are pleased that the proportion of evaluation reports rated "good" or "satisfactory", on the basis of criteria set out in the FAO guidelines, has increased from the 1985-86 biennium to the 1989-90 biennium. We are surprised, however, by the statement that projects subject to evaluations tend to be those that need corrective action, either due to operational difficulties or as a basis for follow-up measures. We understand that it is UNDP policy, for example, to clearly separate project management considerations, such as whether to redesign or extend a project, from the planning of evaluations, which are required for all projects over US\$1 million.

We are also concerned that the analysis of project design and the assessment of project effects are still inadequate. It is essential that an individual skilled in project design and evaluation participate in major evaluations of large or complex projects, whether it be a UNDP or FAO officer, or an outside consultant. There is also a need for more ex post evaluation of the development impact of FAO projects.

We believe that both the quality and sustainability of FAO projects would improve if they were identified and formulated in the context of an overall programme strategy for achieving sectoral and subsectoral objectives. This would make it possible to integrate both those projects aimed at providing production inputs, services or physical facilities, on the one hand, and projects primarily aimed at institution-building, policy formulation or organizational improvement, on the other. It is no accident that UNDP projects, developed within a country programme framework, however imperfect, has a much higher percentage of satisfactory ratings than trust fund projects with respect to project design.

Turning now to the Technical Cooperation Programme, we believe that TCP projects also would benefit from integration within a broader programme framework. Such a programme orientation would assure greater complementarity to other development activities, a more effective catalytic role, and more systematic follow-up by recipient governments and FAO.

We have noted with interest the results of the desk study of 58 completed TCP projects. The study confirms our view that, in the absence of more specific guidelines, TCP criteria do not provide an adequate framework for the selection of TCP activities.

We have noted, in particular, that TCP managers appear to be unclear as to whether every TCP project should meet all the TCP criteria. How else to explain that half of the projects reviewed did not meet the requirement that TCP place emphasis on small-scale producers? Arguing that this requirement is unduly stringent only calls attention to the fact that other criteria are subject to similarly broad and flexible interpretation.

For instance, the requirements that projects should be assigned a high priority, and be assured of the fullest possible participation by the Government, apply to all projects - TCP as well as UNDP, and trust fund projects. The desk study provides no indication that TCP projects address higher priority needs and receive more effective support from governments than other projects.

We are surprised that all of the 58 projects reviewed were found to have adhered to the requirement that TCP projects should address only urgent problems. Of the twelve TCP projects described in the four boxes and Annex 3 of Chapter Three, urgency was evident in only three of the projects. These projects were related, in part, to an emergency situation.

Even these three emergency-related projects had questionable aspects. The first tried to link the rehabilitation of a water network damaged by an earthquake with surveys of the agricultural sector which apparently were not completed. The second, approved in response to extensive hurricane damage, financed the continuation of expertise provided under an earlier non-emergency TCP project. The third project - on regional coordination of locust control activities - clearly could, and should, have been part of a long-term preventive control programme.

In the case of the remaining nine projects, there was no indication of the urgency of the problem being addressed. We are concerned that there appear to be no concrete guidelines to define "urgency" in non-emergency situations.

In the case of two of these projects, however, FAO could have argued that lives were saved by quick action on a tsetse control strategy, and that reductions in massive post-harvest losses in fruit and vegetables had a quick "pay-off" in terms of increased income for small producers. The United States suggests that perhaps one justification for TCP funding of non-emergency activities, therefore, might be that they are expected to have an immediate impact on the health and welfare of the target beneficiaries.

A similar justification, however, could not be given in the case of four other projects which aimed to improve pasture and forage crops, to develop new soil conservation measures, to plan forestry development, and to strengthen agricultural extension services through media development. These projects do not appear to be "urgent" relative to other development needs, or to have had an immediate impact on target beneficiaries.

It appears to us that these four TCP projects were approved simply because they fell within one of the six broad functional categories defined in paragraph 3.76 of Chapter Three, namely that of "mobilizing or paving the way for larger external technical assistance". As a matter of fact, we see a risk that the TCP project may inadvertently predetermine the structure of

the longer-term follow-on project before adequate study of the development problem being addressed, and of alternative approaches to its solution, has been completed.

Thus we believe that clear guidelines should be developed for determining when it is appropriate for a TCP project to pave the way for a longer-term technical assistance project, and when it would be more effective for TCP to finance instead an in-depth study of the problem. The factors to be considered should include the "urgency" of the problem at hand, whether it can be solved without addressing complex policy, institutional or managerial issues, and the extent to which a TCP project might short-circuit the process of designing a follow-on UNDP technical assistance project.

Similar guidelines should be developed for projects falling within the other functional categories. Two of the twelve projects described in Chapter Three fall in the category of "bridging between two externally-financed technical assistance projects". One project was designed to facilitate the transfer of a rice hulk gasification technology, which itself was developed under a previous TCP project. The other project, designed to improve farming practices, continued work started under a prior TCP project and an earlier Italian-funded project. In both instances, it appears that the projects were intended to "bridge" between an earlier TCP project and a yet-to-be identified follow-on project.

This brings us to the desk study finding that the duration of activities is unsatisfactory in up to 30 percent of the projects reviewed. This was the case of the previously mentioned pasture and forage development project, as it failed to anticipate the need for seed trials over a number of years. The lesson to be drawn is not that the time limit on the duration of TCP projects should be extended but, rather, that such projects with a long gestation period should not be financed by TCP in the first place. Similarly, "bridging" projects should not be undertaken unless a follow-on project is already in the planning stage.

To conclude, the desk study clearly demonstrates the need for the Conference and the Secretariat to rethink what should be the role of TCP, outside of meeting clear-cut emergency needs. A number of questions should be raised, including what should be the catalytic or gap-filling role of TCP, within or outside the context of a programme-based approach? Which TCP criteria should apply to all projects, and in which instances should projects meet only one of a set of alternative criteria? The outcome of such a review should be a consistent set of criteria and implementing guidelines for the selection of TCP projects.

Again, the United States delegation appreciates this opportunity for a candid and constructive discussion on the Field Programme. The comprehensive document which the Secretariat has prepared deserves no less.

**Ms C. SEYMOUR-SMITH (United Kingdom):** I would first like to thank the Secretariat for the production of this very useful document C 91/4 and to thank Mr Rinville for his very clear introduction.

We have on many occasions said that Britain considers the Field Programme as the cutting-edge of FAO's work and that it is the area where FAO can make its greatest impact on the problems of developing countries. We have

also stressed the need for the Field Programme to be cost-effective and that expenditure should give maximum developmental value for money. These were the themes of the United Kingdom intervention at the FAO Conference in 1989. Those same themes remain relevant today.

Paragraphs 1.9, 1.39, 1.40 and others touch on the progress towards implementing a number of the recommendations made in the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations and themes evoked in recent United Nations General Assembly Resolutions - including Resolution 44/211. However, this progress has been hindered by the severe financial constraints faced by the Organization. My delegation appreciates the difficulties involved in managing change at a time of constant or declining financial resources. However, prioritization is about reducing resources to some activities and increasing them for others. We are therefore disappointed by the slow pace in responding to some of the recommendations. We would like to have seen more rapid progress towards decentralization - including increased delegation of responsibility - to regional and country offices, and on moves towards a programme-related approach. Such a shift to fewer, larger projects links in fully with the view expressed at COAG, that the quality of projects could be improved by limiting their number. This is brought out in paragraph 2.121 of the paper.

My delegation has long advocated that FAO should concentrate on activities which fall within its comparative advantage. One such area lies in the coordination of regional activities which cross geographical and political boundaries. In this context, we wish to congratulate FAO for the crucial role it played in eradicating the screwworm from North Africa. This was a task which fell naturally to FAO and we consider that the Organization responded extremely well.

We are also very pleased to note the emphasis given by FAO to integrating environment and conservation activities within the overall Field Programme. "Environment" and "development" are integral components of a broad strategic objective - sustainable development - and cannot be regarded as separate entities. We also welcome paragraph 4.2 and FAO's shift in emphasis towards addressing sustainability issues, not just at the project level but also at policy formulation and strategic programme and planning levels. However, paragraph 4.16, in referring to environmental projects, appears to dilute the argument that FAO is moving towards a fully integrated approach to the environment.

We also noted with interest Table 3.6 in Chapter 3, in which lack of project sustainability is more frequently related to a poor institutional setting than to physical or ecological factors. We hope that FAO will, in future, give greater emphasis to the institutional aspects of its Field Programme.

We do, however, have one question about the environment and sustainability. We would like to know how many recommendations of the Task Force on Strengthening the Aspects Related to Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection in FAO's Programmes have been accepted by FAO and will be implemented.

We note that funding for livestock activities fell to 9 percent of field activities in the 1988-89 biennium, but recovered somewhat to 11 percent in 1990 as shown in Table 2.4. My delegation would like to underline the

concern expressed by COAG at the sharp decline in support for the livestock sub-sector during the second half of the 1980s. This trend is clearly seen in the activities of a range of institutions and donors, not just FAO, but in our opinion has gone too far.

If I may, I would now like to turn to evaluation aspects.

We remain somewhat cautious of the reliance which can be placed on some of the evaluation findings in view of the high level of self-assessment. Table 3.2 shows encouraging figures on the key evaluation elements and the quality of assessments. We cannot however tie this up with the statement at paragraph 3.19. This paragraph highlights weaknesses in the evaluation work, such as inadequate project monitoring data, particularly for assessing development effects; insufficient time allowed for missions to carry out their field investigations and report writing; and inadequate familiarity of mission members, especially team leaders. May we suggest, in the light of the weaknesses identified, that FAO undertake a more rigorous procedure for evaluations by first ensuring the availability of good project data; secondly, by building a sufficient time-scale around the terms of reference; and thirdly, by employing independent consultants trained in the techniques of ex post impact evaluation and preferably familiar with the geographic region concerned. With good impact evaluations providing feedback, such as lessons learned and recommendations to country programme managers, the weaknesses in project design and implementation could be more effectively and more quickly strengthened. FAO should ensure that the lessons learned and recommendations are taken into account during future project appraisal.

The difficulties highlighted in paragraphs 3.23, 3.24 and 3.26 of the paper suggest that greater resources need to be directed to improving the project design and implementation. Steps need to be taken to redirect resources and - dare I mention - prioritization.

I mentioned at the start of my intervention the need for the Field Programme to be cost-effective. As we see it, the weakness of Chapter III Part I of the Review is the absence of any information about impact effectiveness in relation to costs. No indication is given of whether the programmes can be considered cost-effective, as distinct from achieving narrow technical objectives. Recipients have no indication whether they have received value for money from FAO assistance or whether the results have been worth the costs. Without such judgements we are not going to learn the lessons of experience. We consider that this is an area that FAO should address.

My delegation would find it extremely useful if FAO could make the evaluation reports generally available, or at least distribute summaries which include the lessons learned, together with recommendations. These summaries could then be considered by the relevant Technical Committees, enabling them to tackle questions such as impact on a technical level.

We welcome the evaluation of three projects within the TC Programme, having earlier expressed concern at COAG that only one TCP project had been evaluated out of 160 evaluation studies between 1988 and 1990. This is a step in the right direction. We are, however, less impressed by the desk study of 58 TCP projects selected. But our overall concern is that such a



study, largely based on documents placed on file by interested parties during the implementation phase, cannot hope to be as objective as a full evaluation carried out by evaluators with no previous interest in the project.

We fully acknowledge that the two previous external evaluations carried out in 1978 and in 1985 proved useful in setting up and implementing new procedures of guidelines. They did not however pay any great attention to what we see as a very important issue; that is, the issue of the impact the TCP projects have. What we have had since 1986 is a small coordinating unit within the Field Programme Development Division which processes the TC requests and recommends projects for approval by the Director-General. It also has responsibility to monitor the overall implementation and effectiveness of the programme. The effectiveness is based on checking that the criteria established, based on the 1983 guidelines, have been adhered to. Similarly the Desk Review mentioned earlier does not cover any ex post impact of the TCP input. In our view it is essential, in order to assess the impact and the value for money to the recipients, that it does. We learn lessons from such impact evaluation which should be fed back and taken account of before any further projects of the same ilk are undertaken. In our view, the identification of impact, effectiveness, value for money to recipients, and lessons to be learned for the future, can only be achieved if FAO directs resources into independent evaluating the TCP. Independent evaluation will ensure that its effectiveness is brought to light and, be the results good or not, this the only way forward.

I have one final comment: this concerns support costs arrangements. We will have the chance to address this as a separate agenda item so I will not rehearse the arguments here.

That said, the new arrangements for reimbursement of UNDP support costs will have a profound and lasting impact on the way in which FAO approaches the Field Programme. Also under consideration is the system of support costs for other Trust Fund Projects and these are addressed in document C 91/4-Sup.2. We have been concerned for some time that the growth in Trust Funds and the associated cost of support for these Trust Funds has diverted money from the Regular Programme and hence from FAO's "core activities". We will be addressing this issue in more depth when we come to discuss paper C 91/4-Sup.1 and 2, upon which we will make a separate intervention.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** The Canadian delegation would like to thank M. Rinvile for his introduction, and welcomes the documents prepared by the Secretariat on the Field Programme. Our delegation commends the Secretariat on its attempts to improve the format of the document and make it more useful for all concerned. We particularly appreciate the increased level of analysis over past years, and look forward to further strengthening of the analytical component in future Field Programme reports.

The Canadian delegation strongly supports the effort made to address sustainable development in the document. While this is ultimately the kind of theme which should be reflected throughout the document, rather than in one particular section, my delegation feels that in view of the effort which the Organization will be undertaking to incorporate sustainable development into its programming in the next biennium it would be useful to have a similar section in the Field Programmes Report for 1992-93.

We also very much welcome the increased attention to evaluation in this report, and we continue to encourage the Secretariat further to strengthen its evaluation and monitoring capacity for the Field Programme.

We would suggest, however, that in our opinion the methodology employed by the Secretariat may not fully support many of the conclusions made in the report about the success of its evaluations. In our view, the 88 percent success rate for evaluations highlighted in paragraph 3.14 is not entirely supported by the information given. In our own experience, which is similar to that of other donors, the success rate is closer to 60 percent.

The 88 percent rate claimed is somewhat surprising to us in view of contrasting comments made in the report itself that (a) the analysis of project design was judged to be inadequate in 20 percent of the evaluation reports (paragraph 3.16); (b) in almost one-third of the reports (32 percent) the recommendations were not fully operational or practical (paragraph 3.18); (c) mission members, especially team leaders, were inadequately familiar with evaluation concepts, techniques and technology on 31 percent of the missions (paragraph 3.19); and (d) insufficient time in relation to the terms of reference was noted in 32 percent of field missions (paragraph 3.19). Given these factors, we suspect that the FAO's proportion of successful evaluations is actually somewhat less than claimed and possibly fairly close to our own levels. My delegation generally supports the points just made by the delegation of the United Kingdom on evaluation. We should also like to take this occasion to thank the Danish delegation for the DANIDA studies on FAO Field Programmes which our International Development Agency, CIDA, has found extremely useful.

The Canadian delegation appreciates the section on assessment of the TCP in document C 91/4. Our delegation encourages the Secretariat to continue any cost-effective evaluation measures which could further contribute to the financial and programme transparency of the TCP.

We would like to comment briefly on the section assessing the TCP. The Secretariat has stated in document C 91/4 that project implementation and expertise provided by FAO for TCP were positively assessed in 80 percent of the cases reviewed. However, in 18 of the 58 projects assessed, about 30 percent, the outputs were less than fully satisfactory. Furthermore, follow-up information was available for only 9 of the 58 cases. Like the delegation of the United Kingdom and others who have spoken before, in general we consider this assessment information to appear to be lacking sufficient critical effectiveness indicators. Furthermore, we would note that the source for the assessments was not external evaluations but TCP terminal statements put forward by FAO staff directly associated with the projects. We would submit that the assessment of TCP projects contained in this report is not as conclusive as our delegation would have hoped.

The Canadian delegation especially welcomes the references to the integration of women in development in document C 91/4. We would like to see additional emphasis on the efforts of the Secretariat systematically to integrate women in development into the Field Programme in future reports. We appreciate that there will be a separate document submitted to the Conference on the integration of women in development. However, my delegation encourages the Organization to move in a concerted fashion towards mainstreaming discussion of women in development throughout the

documentation submitted to the governing bodies to better reflect the Organization's attempts to integrate women and women's concerns throughout its programmes and activities.

We also note that the document pays increased attention to the actual and potential role of NGOs in the Field Programme, and would welcome further strengthening in this area in future particularly, as my delegation hopes, if the peoples' participation programme is approved by the Conference.

Finally, at the institutional level, we would highlight the important contribution made to the Field Programme through the useful process of reviewing Field Programmes at the Technical Committee level. While the treatment of the subject throughout the four committees was somewhat uneven, we feel that review of Field Programmes by the Technical Committees was a helpful process which should continue. We also commend the Secretariat on the introduction of its helpful annual compendium, or yearbook of field projects.

The Canadian delegation will comment on the UNDP successor support costs issue under the separate agenda item allotted for this subject.

**Jean-Pierre POLY (France):** La délégation française se félicite de l'ampleur et de la couverture du Programme de terrain de la FAO, en croissance ininterrompue depuis six ans. Elle se réjouit du capital de confiance dont continue à bénéficier notre Organisation auprès de l'ensemble des bailleurs de fonds, comme en atteste le niveau des participations des fonds fiduciaires et, dans une moindre mesure, du PNUD. Cette croissance continue du Programme de terrain, même si elle est susceptible de marquer le pas en 1991, tranche singulièrement avec la "croissance zéro" du Programme ordinaire, dans laquelle s'installe notre organisation, et elle contribue à permettre à la FAO d'apporter une réponse concrète aux requêtes des Gouvernements.

Pour ma délégation, la période biennale écoulée se caractérise à la fois par la réussite spectaculaire de certains projets qui ne doit pas éclipser toutefois les difficultés de quelques programmes, par l'évolution des principes d'action du Programme de terrain, selon les conclusions de l'Examen et le résultat des négociations consacrées aux arrangements liés à l'exécution des projets du PNUD, par l'étroitesse enfin des liens entre le Programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire de l'Organisation.

Ce Programme de terrain est en effet un vaste programme avec des réussites spectaculaires et des faiblesses préoccupantes, comme en témoignent les considérations suivantes.

Concernant les résultats du Programme de terrain, comment ne pas saluer tout d'abord la rapidité et l'efficacité avec lesquelles la FAO a su faire face à la menaçante flambée de la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord dans le cadre d'un programme qui a à la fois consacré l'intérêt d'une coopération renforcée entre les institutions (la FAO, le FIDA, l'AIEA) dans le cas d'espèce et suscité un élan de solidarité internationale auquel mon pays se félicite d'avoir participé de façon substantielle.

Depuis 1989, la FAO, grâce à son Centre d'intervention anti-acridienne d'urgence (CIAV) et, aidée, il est vrai, par des conditions climatiques favorables, a su également faire reculer le péril que font courir les

sautereaux et les criquets aux récoltes des pays d'Afrique du Nord-Ouest, de l'Ouest, et du Moyen-Orient. Ces succès incontestables ne doivent pas nous empêcher de nous interroger sur les faiblesses de certains programmes importants dont la mise en oeuvre reste attendue, je pense là par exemple au Programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire (PASA) ou dont la restructuration a fait l'objet de longs débats dans cette enceinte - je cite à ce niveau le Plan d'action forestier tropical (PAFT). Il semble en effet que l'Organisation éprouve quelques difficultés à se départir de ses missions traditionnelles d'appui technique pour se hisser au rang du conseil en politique agricole et alimentaire des Gouvernements, selon une recommandation maintes fois réitérée.

Considérons maintenant l'évolution des principes d'action du Programme de terrain.

Ma délégation se félicite des dispositions prises d'ores et déjà par le Secrétariat pour mettre en oeuvre les conclusions de l'Examen de la FAO.

Notre Conférence dispose en effet désormais du répertoire complet des activités opérationnelles de l'Organisation, outil qui facilite la coordination des programmes de coopération bilatérale et multilatérale.

D'autre part, la gestion informatisée du Programme de terrain de l'Organisation se met enfin en place (avec d'ailleurs le concours extrabudgétaire de la France).

Il n'en demeure pas moins que d'autres progrès sont attendus: tout d'abord, le renforcement du rôle et des moyens des bureaux de la FAO dans les pays est plus nécessaire que jamais dans le contexte de l'exécution nationale des projets.

L'approche par programmes, déjà citée par plusieurs délégations, et recommandée par l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, doit être encouragée et préférée à une approche par projets, même s'il est vrai que l'Organisation reste tributaire des requêtes des Gouvernements.

Pour faciliter cette évolution souhaitable du Programme de terrain, la FAO doit être en mesure (et nous partageons l'avis du Secrétariat) de participer pleinement et systématiquement aux exercices de programmation par pays patronnés par le PNUD, aux tables rondes et aux travaux préparatoires du Groupe consultatif organisés par la Banque mondiale.

Sans épiloguer à ce stade - nous y reviendrons - sur la décision du Conseil d'Administration du PNUD relative aux arrangements futurs concernant les dépenses d'appui, arrangements dont ma délégation relève la complexité certaine et dont notre Conférence ne pourra guère évaluer l'impact avant sa prochaine session, la délégation française rappelle qu'elle y trouve une raison supplémentaire pour inviter notre Organisation, là encore, à évoluer vers un rôle d'avis et de conseil en politiques et stratégies de développement, dans le contexte de l'exécution nationale des projets.

Ma troisième remarque ira aux relations étroites entre le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain.

La délégation française a déjà souligné la complémentarité nécessaire entre le Programme de terrain et le Programme ordinaire et le rôle important du Comité du Programme, gardien de la cohérence des activités de l'Organisation.

De plus, en raison des difficultés financières de la FAO ces dernières années, force est de constater que les capacités opérationnelles du Programme de terrain ont été obérées pour colmater les brèches d'un Programme ordinaire dont l'assise budgétaire restait fragile. Par son programme de fonds fiduciaires, mon pays et d'autres pays ont largement participé à cette consolidation des services de l'Organisation dans des secteurs susceptibles de connaître d'utiles prolongements au plan opérationnel. En ce qui concerne la France par exemple la nutrition intégrée des plantes, (stockage-conditionnement) ou dans le domaine de la gestion informatisée des projets dont j'ai parlé tout à l'heure.

Cet appui extrabudgétaire au Programme ordinaire ne peut être indéfiniment poursuivi et le Budget de l'Organisation doit prendre de nouveau en charge, dans la limite des moyens disponibles, les activités qui lui incombent permettant ainsi le redéploiement des fonds fiduciaires afin d'aider notre Organisation à développer de nouvelles activités.

En conclusion, la délégation française souhaite que les services de l'Organisation, dont les moyens au Budget ordinaire doivent être restaurés et dont le concours doit faciliter la mise en oeuvre de l'exécution nationale des projets, permettent à la FAO de répondre à une demande d'assistance croissante et évolutive.

**Gerard P. KHOJANE (Lesotho):** It is gratifying that, after a long time, during the 1990-91 biennium FAO's Field Programme expenditures were near record levels in spite of the fact that they could have been higher according to the high demands of the developing countries in recent years.

While FAO/UNDP and TCP deliveries cannot be under-rated and continue to enjoy our usual support, we, however, wish to highlight the increasing importance of Trust Funds; particularly at the time when FAO is facing unprecedented problems in collecting assessed contributions from Member States for its Regular Programmes. As long as due attention is paid to priority considerations of FAO, as laid down by the appropriate Governing Bodies, and as long as a fair distribution is accorded to all developing countries in need, the use of more Trust Funds should be encouraged. We therefore once more call upon all donor countries who have not yet done so to favourably consider active participation in the Trust Fund Programmes.

We wish to congratulate FAO's Secretariat for having successfully coordinated the generous support of the bilateral and international donors in the fight against the dangerous outbreak of the New World Screwworm in North Africa. The value of coordination in the New World Screwworm Operation in North Africa was truly recognized by all who were involved, as testified to by their highly favourable individual and joint reports. It is also pertinent to compliment the 13 donor countries and six international agencies, listed in paragraph 2.32 in document C 91/4, which contributed the required funds to make the Programme the success it was.

In another related matter, we naturally feel delighted that the threat and damage done by the desert locust plague which had affected most North-West, West, and Eastern Africa and parts of the Near East has diminished. Thanks to FAO's assistance, through its now dissolved Centre for Locust Operations (ECLO) after its successful mission against desert locusts and grasshoppers, we remain confident that should a need arise FAO's standby arrangements will enable it to quickly respond to any future threat of locusts and/or other migratory pests.

We believe it is about time - perhaps after a long time - to recognize the immense potential role of FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development (WFHC/AD) as an important channel to reach out to small scale farmers of the rural communities through non-governmental organizations. This role should be even more strengthened after the proposed merger of Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development with the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs (IAA) to form a consolidated Office for External Relations (OER). Indeed, we should admit that international non-governmental organizations are in many ways becoming active protagonists on the development scene and FAO's increased cooperation with them is a desired goal.

The 1990-91 biennium's encouraging performance of FAO's Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development (WFHC/AD) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) reflected in paragraph 2.41 of document C 91/4, modest as it may appear, could herald a promising future. It could be particularly so if the proposed merger of Freedom from Hunger Campaign/Action for Development with the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs into the Office for External Relations could promote agricultural cooperatives with the purpose of offering alternative participatory arrangements for the provision of inputs and services to small scale farmers and for alleviation of poverty. Our feeling is that FAO and the majority of non-governmental organizations have a common purpose on this issue and their joint and coordinated efforts could guarantee success.

Mr Chairman, permit me now to address the important question of the Review of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme during the period 1986-90. We beg to be allowed to do so, perhaps taking a little more of the Commission's valuable time. We are unable to resist this temptation mainly because FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme is one of the Programmes very close to our hearts. Another reason is that a Lesotho project was included among the 58 FAO TCP projects which were selected for review to assess the relevance and usefulness of the TCP arrangement to the developing countries.

While we are grateful for having been included in this important exercise, we nevertheless regret that there are statements which place the Government of Lesotho out of context for the apparent failure of project TCP/LES/8956(D). Paragraph 3.97 read with Box 2 on page 98 and 3.101 read with the footnote on page 101 of document C 91/4 are a case in point. Reference to this question should by no means be interpreted as lack of appreciation for the Secretariat's understanding and effort to correct the impressions which might have been created in reading the paragraphs referred to. It should rather be seen as a further attempt to place things in their proper perspective.

On the bright side, positive conclusions of the systematic and scientific Reviews of the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme in 1978, 1985 and 1990 should dispel any doubts about the relevance and effectiveness of the

Programme in meeting unforeseen and urgent requirements of the developing Member Countries which could not be adequately met by other means. In any case, we continue to believe that the best judges are still the beneficiaries of the Programme and the beneficiary developing Member Countries have consistently expressed satisfaction with the TCP and the manner in which it is being operated.

In our attempt to set the record straight concerning Project TCP/LES/8956(D) we have the following to say; soil erosion in Lesotho is one of the major national enemies. As a result, soil and water conservation works are very high on national priorities and, of course, is one of the Government of Lesotho's priorities. In line with the Government's policy, specific plans to develop comprehensive watershed management programmes in order to integrate soil and water conservation activities are in place. They, in fact, have been in place for quite a while. The idea is to minimise any further washing away of soil and to rehabilitate the already eroded areas. The request for TCP/LES/8956(D) project from FAO in itself was the expression of this policy. There are other bilateral and multilateral projects on soil and water conservation in Lesotho. We are still looking for more in view of the magnitude of the problem.

However, the Lesotho Government, like many other governments of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, suffer from an acute shortage of manpower and the required expertise to meet all its commitments of personnel inputs into even higher priority projects despite all its good intentions. In our opinion, this is one of the needs which must seriously be addressed when formulating a project for Lesotho in order to obtain any meaningful results. We believe it is one of the considerations again in formulating other projects relating to many other developing countries. I thank you, Mr Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN:** This is the last speaker this morning but please two minutes more. I have on the list for the afternoon meeting first the Netherlands, then Ethiopia and then Malaysia, and I would like to have an indication of who wants to speak in the afternoon. The second point is that I have noted four delegations who want to speak on the successor arrangements but I will come to that later. We adjourn now and meet at 2.30 this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 13.00.

La séance est levée à 13 h.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 91/II/PV/8

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE  
OCTAVA SESION

(15 November 1991)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la  
Commission II

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de  
la Comisión II



**CHAIRMAN:** I would like very briefly to report on the situation of the budget level. I said yesterday that there was a need for consultation outside the room. This morning the General Committee discussed the situation, including the added problems which were discussed in Commission III on the Special Reserve Account and on the Working Capital Fund. As a result of this meeting, which was attended by me, by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and the Chairman of the OECD Group, the General Committee submitted a report which was read out by Mr Shah in Plenary. This report is available now. It is C 91/LIM/39. It is a LIM document. I would advise those delegates who have not got this paper to hand - it is a very important one - to get it from the girls outside. I am not going to do anything more about it now but around 4.00 p.m. We will temporarily adjourn the list of speakers outstanding and take up this matter. I hope that is understood.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

17. Review of Field Programmes 1990-91 (continued)

17. Examen des Programmes de terrain 1990-91 (suite)

17. Examen de los Programas de Campo 1990-91 (continuación)

17.1 Operational Activities for Development (continued)

17.1 Activités opérationnelles de développement (suite)

17.1 Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo (continuación)

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** The document before us analyses trends in expenses for the Field Programme and gives the description on the evaluation programmes and special action programmes. Special emphasis is being placed on the evaluation of the TCP and an overview was given on the attention paid by FAO to aspects of environment and sustainable development in its projects.

FAO's Field Programme is being financed by UNDP funds for approximately 43 percent in absolute figures on the increase but, when we look at total UNDP funds, a relative reduction took place over the years from 30 percent in 1975 to 17 percent in 1990. This can be explained partly only by the more diverse attention UNDP pays to various development subsectors of the economy. Another development however is increasing involvement of OPS, the Office for Project Services of UNDP, also in agricultural development projects. We imagine that concern exists about this development. With the latest developments as a result of the adoption of the principle of national execution, a change and possible reduction of UNDP funds used by FAO for agricultural development projects is to be expected. The only answer, and we think the most constructive one, is that FAO should concentrate on further development of activities in fields where FAO has a comparative advantage.

A result of the FAO review was that separate items on field activities were to be put on the agendas of the Technical Committees. Where as in some Committees, as for instance the Committee on World Food Security, the field activities were reasonably dealt with, the experience in other Committees was not really positive. However, to judge on the experience of only one meeting of the various Committees would not be completely fair. The

Secretariat of course is not to blame for it. The situation also reflects that we as the Member Nations have to get used to dealing with these new procedures. Therefore, we are of the opinion that we should gain further experience with the new situation. That is the reason why we will not immediately propose again the genesis of a Field Programme Committee which we advocated earlier.

New processes of developing the Programme of Work and Budget also give an opportunity for better Field Programme activities and reflections on them.

Now I come to the TCP review. It concludes that the overall trends such as good criterial orientation and proper distribution over subjects and regions have not changed substantially as compared with the 1985 evaluation, the only exception being the strong increase of allocation in the Advisory Services category. We appreciate the frankness of the STCP study by which we can obtain an insight into the less positive points as reflected in the evaluation chapter. One such point is that hardly any information is given on the follow-up to projects. As one of the important functions of the TCP project is the initiation of bridging functions, this lack of information on follow-up gives rise to concern. We hope in future more emphasis will be laid on the collection of data relating to the results of follow-up of TCP projects.

This also applies to all the projects mentioned by Denmark when they spoke on ex post evaluation. It was striking that, at a time when everyone is concerned about sustainability, no aspects of these important subjects have been included in the TCP review. We wondered whether it would be a good idea for TCP funds to be made available for seeking out bottle-necks in projects or programmes, especially in the field of environment and sustainability, thus reflecting and emphasizing the structurally increased attention paid by the Organization to these subjects.

Another point I would like to touch upon is that the contribution by UNEP for joint FAO/UNEP projects has been reduced gradually to one or two or maybe even zero over the last 15 years. We support the new efforts resulting from Den Bosch in the negotiations between FAO and UNEP to intensify their cooperation. The international cooperative programme framework for sustainable agricultural development which will be dealt with under Item 7 offers good opportunities for this intensified collaboration.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** The review of the Field Programme as contained in document C 91/4 and its supplements is clear and exhaustive in its presentation, contents and coverage. The Ethiopian delegation would therefore like to thank the Secretariat for the documentation and Mr Rinville for his clear introduction this morning. The review of the Field Programme was examined by the Programme Committee and also the Joint Session of the Finance and Programme Committees. The recommendations of these deliberations are contained in document CL 100/4. This matter is again endorsed in the Hundredth Session of the Council. At this stage our delegation feels enough deliberation has been made on this item and would like to endorse those recommendations. We would, however, like to make some specific remarks in relation to this item.

Looking at the document, it was particularly gratifying to note that an increase in the volume of Field Programme expenditures and positive outlook for future prospects based on the current level of approval was clearly

indicated. The area of agriculture, food production and rural development being a major sector of economic development in all the developing countries, our delegation welcomes all technical support given by the Organization and would like to encourage it in supporting the development I indicated earlier. It is, however, worrying to observe that FAO's share of UNDP's programme is continually declining in spite of the fact that this Field Programme and its support is a useful component in the development of the food and agricultural sectors. Our delegation would therefore like to express its hope of seeing this declining trend being averted so that this important support can develop further.

Our delegation was not happy about the slow implementation of the recommendation of the Twenty-fifth Conference in relation to the strengthening of the Country Office and sharpened focus on TCDC and integration of the NGOs. We do, however, understand that implementation was hindered because of financial difficulties. We hope that all Member Nations will do what they can to improve the financial position of the Organization.

In paragraph 27 of the Supplement document we understand the Director-General anticipates that the UNDP support cost arrangement will cause further financial difficulties. We sympathize with that situation. The request indicated in this paragraph is therefore a move towards solving the financial difficulty as a short-term measure. We endorse the request because of the need to manage establishments for field operations.

Last, but not least, is the operation of the TCP. The operation of the TCP and its implementation has always been seen in the light of its objective to meet operations of an emergency nature and its bridging role in the unbudgeted essential development activities. Though our delegation feels that its present operation and modality fits in very well, that there is room for improvement to facilitate its implementation cannot be questioned. Our delegation, however, is worried about additional guidelines that will increase bureaucratic red tape and evaluation that will delay implementation. Our worry emerges from the fact that some of the proposals coming out of the discussion might hinder it from meeting emergency needs, which is stated to be one of its objectives.

Therefore, we should like to indicate that the recommendation on evaluation, and also the additional guidelines that are requested, should be kept to a minimum so that the implementation would not be affected.

**Mohd. Fadzil AKRAM (Malaysia):** The Malaysian delegation would like, first of all, to congratulate Mr Rinville for his lucid introduction to this Agenda Item. My delegation would also like to pay tribute to the FAO Secretariat for preparing a comprehensive and informative review document, C 91/4.

My delegation has studied the report and found that the contents reflect a balanced picture of the programme and activities prepared and undertaken for the biennium 1990-91 and I would like to compliment the FAO on having executed such a vast-range of Field Programmes for the benefit of Member Nations, particularly developing countries. My delegation would like also to welcome in particular the introduction of the new chapter containing a selective review of key policy issues which are likely to have an influence on the Organization's field activities in the future.

My delegation notes with interest that some 2 325 field projects with a total value of about US\$2.2 billion were being implemented by FAO in almost 140 countries and territories. We note that, of this total, the share of the field activities in Asia was 25 percent, in terms of project implemented. We note also that for the first time, total expenditure for technical cooperation in 1990 exceeded US\$400 million in current terms. The growth between 1989 and 1990 amounted to almost 14 percent.

The last two years has witnessed the prevailing financial constraints faced by the Organization. Nevertheless, FAO had managed to honour its commitments in the interest of Member Nations which urgently require the Organization's expert advice and assistance. We notice the effects of programme reduction would have an impact on the effectiveness of the FAO's Field Programmes. Therefore, it is fair, at this stage, that we should once again appeal to Member Nations to honour their obligations to assist the FAO to correct this adverse financial situation.

The Malaysian delegation would like also to associate itself with the concerns expressed on the relative decline of FAO's participation in UNDP programmes. We note that UNDP-funded programmes presently account for around 43 percent of the FAO's Field Programme delivery. It is in this respect that we underline the importance of continued close collaboration between FAO and UNDP. My delegation also agrees that the comparative advantage and accumulated experience of the Organization should be fully utilized in the UNDP-funded activities.

My delegation notes the Review of FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme as mentioned in Part II of the Report.

Malaysia attaches great importance to this programme. Under Item 16 of the Programme of Work and Budget 1991-93, my delegation has already intervened on this matter. We therefore do not wish to repeat ourselves.

Turning to the issue on the UNDP Support Cost Successor Arrangements, Malaysia would like to emphasize that in introducing the new system, the tripartite relationship between recipient countries, UNDP, and specialized agencies should be upheld and maintained. We consider this relationship is important because it represents a significant and valuable element in the UN development assistance programmes.

The Malaysian delegation supports the concept of national execution but, at the same time, governments should also be given assistance to build national capacity to implement and sustain any development programmes being executed in the recipient countries.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to end by expressing our wholehearted and relentless support for FAO's indisputable and critical role in the Field Programme.

**Elias REYES BRAVO (México):** Gracias, señor Presidente, y gracias a la Secretaria por este documento C 91/4.

El examen que se hace en este documento nos presenta elementos interesantes sobre el Programa de Campo, que determinan su eficiencia operativa y su viabilidad financiera.

Coincidimos con la importancia que la Secretaría atribuye a las cuestiones operacionales, particularmente en lo que respecta a la evaluación continua y un mayor seguimiento de las actividades de campo. Asimismo, consideramos de carácter trascendente la vinculación ágil y eficiente del PNUD con los Proyectos de Campo de la Organización.

El componente nacional en los proyectos es un factor importante en la viabilidad de los mismos. El Examen de los Programas de Campo realizado por los órganos de la FAO, que ha caracterizado el presente bienio, es un paso importante que ofrece una conexión cada vez más eficiente entre el Programa Ordinario y el Programa de Campo. Tomamos nota de lo apuntado en el examen, en el sentido de que los Programas de Campo de la FAO han incorporado recientemente una orientación mayor en los ámbitos del desarrollo sostenible y la protección ambiental.

Del examen que se hace del Programa de Cooperación Técnica en el periodo 1986-90, consideramos que dicho programa se ha constituido en un instrumento fundamental de la Organización para darle viabilidad al Programa Ordinario, y para actualizar procesos de desarrollo en los países.

En el bienio que está por transcurrir, México ejecutó algunos proyectos de campo en ámbitos variados que estuvieron enmarcados en el capítulo de los Programas técnicos y económicos de la FAO. En el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se destacaron algunos proyectos sobre protección y desarrollo de especies menores, diseño de políticas y programas, pesca, protección y aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos naturales, particularmente bosques. En el Programa de Campo y particularmente el correspondiente a Fondos fiduciarios, se realizaron proyectos directamente vinculados con el proceso de desarrollo rural a partir del desarrollo de los sistemas de comunicación, con los que se pretende una protección y un aprovechamiento eficiente de recursos naturales como el agua y los bosques.

Se avanzó, y está por concluir, el proceso de elaboración del Programa de Acción Forestal Tropical de México, en cuya elaboración se contó con el apoyo de diversas misiones externas. Asimismo, en la vertiente internacional del Programa de Campo se estableció un mecanismo formal de cooperación y asistencia técnica para colaborar en la erradicación del gusano barrenador del ganado en el norte de África, a través de la Comisión México-Americana que en esa materia opera en México.

En relación a la evaluación preliminar de las disposiciones del PNUD sobre los gastos de apoyo, se considera que los déficit financieros que la FAO ha tenido durante los últimos bienios, y la incertidumbre en cuanto a los recursos disponibles para el Plan de Labores y Presupuesto 1992-93, comprometen la capacidad de la Organización para alcanzar sus metas.

Sería conveniente que los ajustes se realizasen de manera gradual indicando que se conceda a la FAO un período de transición y flexibilidad a efectos de adaptarse a la reducción de recursos.

Mi delegación considera finalmente que hay una clara necesidad de seguir teniendo en cuenta la Resolución 44/211 de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, ya que dicha Resolución ofrece un cuadro de aspectos a considerar para mejorar las operaciones de cooperación internacional, tanto en lo que respecta a los Estados como a los organismos internacionales.

**XU NAN-SHAN (China) (Original language Chinese):** I should like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared document C 91/4. I should also like to express my thanks to Mr Rinvile for his presentation of this document.

I should like to make a few comments with respect to the item under discussion, first of all in relation to the recommendation made to the Twenty-fifth Session of the General Conference by review of the Field Programmes, with the resumé and review of the policies. Therefore, the document is rich and exhaustive, and we certainly welcome that. The subjects which are reviewed are basically the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations with respect to the operational activities in the UN system and the decisions taken in the UNDP with respect to the new arrangements for support costs.

These new changes will have an impact on the activities of FAO's Field Programmes. We would hope that these problems can be solved satisfactorily on the basis of the principle of tripartite cooperation which is in force within the UN system. We feel that beneficiary governments should be encouraged to carry out the projects themselves because that would contribute to strengthening their capacity for implementation. But in this process one should work according to the specific conditions of the beneficiary countries to ensure that FAO can fully contemplate their role.

Secondly, we note that the funds for the Field Programmes have increased continuously over the past two years, to reach a record of US\$407 million in 1990.

We also note an increase in credit made available by the UNDP and the Trust Funds. Of the funds made available by the UNDP, the FAO share is going down. Nonetheless, FAO continues to be one of the major executive agencies of the UNDP.

One could, therefore, hope that, with the arrival of the fifth planning cycle, funds made available in this way will be increased. That would be very encouraging for developing countries who are facing serious problems in the food and agriculture sectors.

Thirdly, we feel that FAO is acting quite rightly in its regional distribution of credit priorities given to Africa, with 46 percent with respect to investment and food security.

It is also acting, quite rightly, in continuing to consider as a priority the development of crops and particularly food crops. In 1990 this already took up some 50 percent. We also note the implementation of Field Programmes, the policies to increase the number of beneficiary countries and increase their ability to use their own strength. Experts from developing countries continue to represent some 50 percent of those recruited, and we also welcome the fact that the number of experts and national project directors is increasing.

With respect to the expenditure breakdown, we note that share of staff costs has increased considerably, going from 50 percent to 57 percent in 1990, whereas equipment costs dropped from 28 percent to 20 percent. Of course, equipment assistance is of great usefulness to developing countries which, while on the one hand being technically backward also do not have funds available. Insofar as possible we should like to have an increased share of equipment costs for the benefit of developing countries.

Fourthly, Chapter Three of document C 91/4 assesses in detail the design, implementation and efficiency of field projects, as well as the results obtained, and it stresses the problems which continue to exist.

We have noted that clear results have been achieved in improving the activities of Field Programmes. In the UNDP projects and Trust Fund activities, the well-designed projects have gone beyond 80 percent, and in implementation this has, in fact, achieved 82 percent. In implementation of TCP programmes and projects, 80 percent of the projects have been satisfactorily implemented, and clear results have been seen in improvement of efficiency. We do hope that the FAO will continue to strengthen and reinforce its work in this sector, particularly by improving coordination with beneficiary countries in order to accelerate the procurement of equipment. Direct or indirect assistance programmes of the FAO have given good results for the most part, and have played a positive role in food production and agriculture in my country.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the FAO, to international organizations and friendly countries, and to the experts who have come to work in my country.

**François ROHNER (Suisse):** J'aimerais à mon tour remercier M. Rinvile et ses collaborateurs du rapport qu'ils nous ont préparé. C'est avec un très grand intérêt que nous avons examiné ce rapport sur les Programmes de terrain de la FAO, et pris connaissance des commentaires qu'ont eu à faire les délégations qui sont intervenues dans ce débat jusqu'à présent.

Le rapport donne un bon aperçu sur ce que l'Organisation cherche à faire et fait effectivement en matière d'activités opérationnelles. Le document reflète, croyons-nous, assez bien les réalités de ces programmes et projets. Les activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies traversent, nous le savons, une phase difficile. Tandis que les besoins d'appui financier et technique extérieur ne cessent d'augmenter dans de nombreux pays en développement, des pays donateurs traditionnels sont, eux, confrontés à de sérieux problèmes budgétaires. Il est donc absolument indispensable que nous fassions le meilleur usage possible des ressources concessionnaires telles que celles mises à la disposition de la FAO sous forme de contributions ordinaires tout autant que de contributions extrabudgétaires.

Les études menées par les pays Scandinaves ont montré très clairement que le système des Nations Unies n'a pas de place réservée ou fixe dans le concert de la coopération au développement international. Il doit sans arrêt démontrer qu'il a d'importants avantages comparatifs par rapport à d'autres canaux de coopération, et qu'il est capable de les exploiter pleinement.

Avec d'autres, nous sommes d'avis que ces avantages comparatifs du système, et donc aussi de la FAO, se trouvent plutôt au niveau du Conseil en matière de politique sectorielle et sous-sectorielle du renforcement des capacités nationales plutôt qu'au niveau de l'exécution de projets isolés. Des efforts sont faits qui vont dans ce sens; nous souhaiterions qu'ils soient mis plus clairement en évidence dans le rapport qui sera préparé dans deux ans. J'aimerais même proposer que quelque chapitre spécial du Rapport soit consacré aux activités de la FAO relatives à l'analyse sectorielle et sous-sectorielle de la formulation des politiques et de la coordination.

Nous partageons en outre l'avis que la FAO doit renforcer le lien entre les priorités du programme à moyen terme, le Programme ordinaire et l'activité de terrain. Les programmes d'action spéciales sont un instrument qui peut servir à cet effet et que nous continuerons de soutenir par nos contributions extrabudgétaires.

J'ajouterai ici que nous ne sommes pas sûrs qu'un amalgame du Programme ordinaire et du Programme de terrain dans un seul rapport soit véritablement utile et nous facilite la tâche.

Nous souhaitons par ailleurs que des progrès puissent être faits encore en vue de remplacer graduellement l'approche classique de projet par une approche par programme qui, je l'espère, permettra d'arriver en même temps à un concept plus réaliste de l'exécution nationale.

Concernant les activités d'évaluation de la FAO, je me limiterai à deux commentaires. Deux constatations du rapport nous ont quelque peu irrités.

Le premier, le fait que 50 pour cent seulement des projets évalués ou examinés par la FAO auraient des chances de survie, voire un effet soutenable, et deuxièmement, le fait que la qualité des rapports d'évaluation soient insuffisante dans un tel débat, ceci étant dû en partie à la qualification des consultants.

Ces constatations nous paraissent à tel point inquiétantes que nous saurions gré à M. Rinvile de nous préciser les mesures qu'il entend prendre pour surmonter ces faiblesses.

Un autre point: j'ai été étonné, et ceci après huit ans d'absence de ce Comité, qu'après une si longue période d'existence du Programme de coopération technique il n'y ait toujours pas de véritable consensus sur les priorités et les objectifs de ce programme. Ne serait-il pas utile ou nécessaire d'organiser une sorte d'atelier pour débattre de façon plus ouverte, plus informelle aussi, de l'avenir de ce programme en vue de trouver enfin un common understanding pour ce qui est des dépenses d'appui? Je reviendrai à un stade ultérieur.

**Winston R. RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago):** We intervene on this Agenda Item in the name of our 13-member CARICOM colleagues to reflect in particular some concerns that we have relating to the way the debate has proceeded for the most part this morning in respect of observations with regard to the TCP.

Might I point out first of all, however, before I get to that point that the Review of the Field Programme has been disarmingly frank and very clear. It has revealed to us that the Secretariat has a clear understanding of what is happening out there in the field, and there are procedures within the Organization that allow for the flow of information. The question we would wish to pose, as many have, concerns the extent to which all the information that comes in from the evaluation in particular might be used to make the kind of corrections that are desirable so that the Field Programmes might have even greater impact than they do at present.



We have noted, too, that the Organization has been haunted by the spectre of financial constraints. In that regard some of the implementation activity expected arising out of the FAO review of a few years ago could not be effected. In particular, we note that the decentralization of the outreach activities of FAO through the Field Offices has been restricted.

We are concerned about the trend with respect to the declining share of the UNDP funding that might become available to the Organization - an organization which in our view has been at the forefront of the process of poverty abatement, alleviation of hunger and malnutrition, and which has generally assisted in agricultural development in our countries, and of which we are very well aware. We endorse the observations and congratulate the Organization with respect to its thrust in the area of sustainability and environmental development. We are particularly happy over the fact that the consideration not only relates to projects but in the area of policy formation, integrating the environmental dimension more fully into the whole policy dimension.

I come now to the TCP. Our own experience in the Caribbean so far has been the TCP as indicated in paragraphs 3.47 and 3.48, provides tremendous assistance with respect to investment, training and emergencies. In fact, we have a particular situation in the Caribbean now which is likely, unless effective action is taken, to escalate again. And FAO has been the Organization to come to our assistance in this regard, and I am referring now to the amblyoma tick, a particularly important and potentially devastating infestation likely to over run the bovine population. It has been found in a certain number of our islands and is spreading southwards and is likely to affect my particular country. If it comes to my country, the South American Continent is merely five or six miles away. We understand, as we did in respect of the screwworm, how the FAO has operated in a particular way and we understand in respect of the Amblyoma tick and FAO's activity through the TCP that is going to link us, as a result of current discussions, to further investment. This demonstrates how important the TCP is as a vehicle for emergencies, as a vehicle for investment and a vehicle for training. Part of what is happening also constitutes a form of training activity and we know how important it is and what an impact it has. Accordingly, we have a particular difficulty with any argument or any discussion which seeks to give the impression that the resources of the TCP are dissipated in a way that is unaccountable, without impact and not useful.

The question is for whom is it not useful? These resources are useful for our countries which are in the process of agricultural development, which are still underdeveloped, which are still developing, and which are afflicted by a number of situations with respect to diseases and other ills which require increased capacity for dealing with matters such as human resource development training. We have the experience of the usefulness of the TCP so that I am very pleased and endorse the supportive observations that have been made. That is not to say, Chairman, that much more cannot be done in terms of being effective and so on. The point I am making is that the TCP is an extremely important vehicle as an instrument for development.

We are satisfied with the current modalities. We understand how it works. We know that projects for the TCP cannot be prepared on the single sheet of paper and then you will get funds. It has to go through a certain process. The process is transparent and it has to be examined. It has to be

appraised in a certain way before we can get the monies. In fact, some of our countries wonder whether the extent to which this rapid response very often is not as rapid as we would like. That is our position, Mr Chairman, and I thank you very much.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** M. le Président, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat d'avoir préparé ce document concernant l'Examen des Programmes de terrain de 1990-91, et je voudrais aussi remercier le représentant du Secrétariat de son exposé concernant ce document. Nous ne pouvons qu'adopter l'ensemble de ce document.

Cependant, ce qui a attiré notre attention à cet égard, c'est la demande de certains pays concernant l'évaluation des Programmes de terrain, l'évaluation du Programme de coopération technique. Ce programme apporte beaucoup de services et beaucoup d'activités très importantes pour nos pays. C'est pour cela que nous pensons qu'il n'est pas du tout nécessaire d'évaluer ce programme, car nous en tirons tous profit, et nous pouvons considérer que ses activités sont bonnes. L'Organisation a déjà évalué les résultats de ces projets, et ces résultats étaient conformes à tous les principes et aux résultats escomptés, et tous les pays ont remercié l'Organisation pour cela.

C'est pour cette raison que nous voudrions réitérer notre appui au PCT, en demandant l'augmentation des crédits alloués à ce programme, conformément à la résolution de la Conférence précédente.

**Ms Maria Luisa GAVINO (Philippines):** I will be brief, Mr Chairman, and I want to confine myself only to the TCP. I would like to record that the basic mandate given to FAO in Article XIII of its Constitution is to furnish technical assistance as governments make requests.

One of the reasons why the Philippines has been consistent in the support of the TCP is that it enables the Organization to adequately respond promptly to the urgent needs of developing countries for technical assistance, policy advice, training, mobilization of investment resources, including project identification and preparation, and emergency cases. TCP is also an essential operational tool of the Organization to provide appropriate and rapid technical assistance to Member Governments.

Without TCP it would be difficult for FAO to respond to requests of needy countries, for example, in my country the rehabilitation of devastated areas like the eruption of the volcano, the earthquake and the typhoon. My delegation would like to express its gratitude for the help FAO has extended in connection with the eruption of the volcano particularly and which was carried out through TCP resources.

Creating additional guidelines and criteria for the implementation of TCP projects would only add rigidity to the programme and would not be in the interests of countries like ours. Thank you very much for giving me the floor.

**Marcus I. NIETO LARA (Cuba):** Señor Presidente, ante todo discúlpeme por haberme llamado al uso de la palabra y no encontrarme momentáneamente en la Sala a causa de razones ajenas a mi voluntad.

Sr. Presidente, mi delegación desea poner de manifiesto su apoyo al presente documento por considerarlo muy completo y porque responde a las sugerencias y recomendaciones de los países miembros en la pasada Conferencia.

Asimismo, queremos agradecer al Sr. Rinvile por su clara presentación, a la cual ya nos tiene acostumbrados.

Este documento, Sr. Presidente, lo encontramos muy mejorado, particularmente, porque presenta un enfoque estrechamente vinculado con el examen del Programa Ordinario. Tal como se señala, nos alegra ver que durante el bienio que termina, se ha prestado una mayor atención a las actividades de campo y que se ha llegado a la cifra récord de más de 400 millones de dólares anualmente y, sobre todo, llama la atención que ello se ha hecho en más de 140 países.

Por otra parte, destaca el reforzamiento de la representación en los países que son una vía eficaz para asistir a los gobiernos en el terreno, de manera que éstos tengan un mayor apoyo en su aplicación de políticas y estrategias de desarrollo.

Sr. Presidente, la delegación cubana desea destacar la evaluación realizada del Programa de Cooperación Técnica que pone de manifiesto la transparencia con la que ha operado este programa. Además, aquí se refuerza el criterio de la viabilidad del PTC, en particular en su relación costo-beneficio. Por otro lado, la dinámica que ha caracterizado este programa para atender con oportunidad las necesidades de los Estados Miembros, lo que le convierte en un elemento insustituible para la función de la Organización.

Debemos agregar en su favor y en favor de todas las actividades de campo de la FAO, que el PCT ha sido uno de los principales vehículos para catalizar la corriente de fondos extrapresupuestarios.

Dicho esto, Sr. Presidente, reiteramos nuestro criterio de que el PCT debe mantener su metodología de trabajo como hasta el presente pues, la introducción de cambios, podría traer consigo contratiempos para un programa que, categóricamente, afirmamos ha funcionado bien.

En otro orden de cosas Sr. Presidente, mi delegación desea simplificar su complacencia con el aumento y reforzamiento de las Redes de Cooperación Técnica, reconociendo en ellas una forma muy viable de llevar adelante la CTPD.

Para finalizar, señalamos con satisfacción el aumento del trabajo con las organizaciones no gubernamentales como un forma de acrecentar las actividades de campo, especialmente aquéllas dirigidas a los sectores y comunidades más pobres de los Estados Miembros.

**Mansur Mabruk SEGHAHER (Libya) : (Original language Arabic) :** I will be very brief, Sir. The delegation of my country is very satisfied with the results of the efforts of the Organization and would like to reiterate its trust and confidence in the Organization's capacity and in the work of its Secretariat. We would also like to applaud the way in which it executes its role in coping with the challenges of the future.

Mr Chairman, the delegation of my country considers that the Technical Cooperation Programme has proved its effectiveness, its value and its worth and has enabled the Organization to assist a very large number of countries in coping with natural catastrophes and emergencies.

We feel, on that basis that it is important to increase the resources allocated to the TCP as mentioned in the specific resolution of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference.

**CHAIRMAN:** Is there any other delegate wanting to speak now on this item? I will come back to the question of Support Costs later.

**S. Najmus SAQIB (Pakistan):** We were not wishing to take the floor on this item. However, after carefully following the interventions of delegates the Pakistan delegation would like to make a very brief intervention on the review of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

My delegation shares the views expressed by a number of countries from the developing world indicating that the TCP has proved to be a most viable programme; and has responded most appropriately and promptly to the needs of the developing countries, including our own. Pakistan's experience in this respect has been positive in the fields of cotton grading and marine fishery management.

We share the feeling that the flexibility and present manner of allocations for TCP implementation have distinct advantages, and this should be maintained. My delegation, however, considers that the present levels of TCP investments are inadequate and should be increased at minimum to be in line with the recommendations outlined in Conference Resolution 9/89. We therefore urge that in the coming biennium, it would be appropriately increased.

Mr Chairman, my delegation also endorses the comments made by several delegates from the developing countries, in particular as expounded by those of Ethiopia and Malaysia on the decline in FAO resources owing to the drop in UNDP Fund activities, and as a consequence of the new UNDP Successor Support Costs Mechanism.

**Neil PIERRE (Guyana):** I shall try to be very brief, and in so doing I wish only to confirm my intervention to a very specific aspect of this debate, and that is to register my comment once again on the question of the TCP. Mr Chairman, my country is one of those that have benefited from the effectiveness of this programme. In particular, one of the areas where we have received benefit is in the very important area of emergency sea defences, which accounts for very vast quantities of our coastal farm lands, both large and small. I submit, therefore, that it was only as a result of the effectiveness and the basic character and intent of the TCP, which is meant to be able to respond rapidly and effectively to situations of emergency, that Guyana has been able to benefit in that particular instance from the TCP.

Furthermore, I wish to submit that the resources in question, in the opinion of my delegation, are not of a hugely substantial quantum. We would, as in the case, I am sure, of most of the delegations, wish to see

it increased substantially in order to meet the previous targets of 14 percent and what has been established also as a target of 17 percent. Considering the number of countries that benefit from this programme we wish to state that it has proved its effectiveness and its worth.

We all know that there are specific modalities within which the TCP operates and therefore while we have been hearing questions of creating or injecting greater transparency in the operations of the TCP, my delegation wishes to submit that these modalities and the framework by which the TCP is governed have proved to be adequate, to be effective, to be transparent. Any changes in those modalities, therefore, will only result in greater rigidities and the dilution of the effectiveness of the TCP.

These are the views of my delegation.

**Mamode Fareed MOSAHEB (Mauritius):** My intervention will be directly proportionate to the size of my country. Since it is the first time I am taking the floor and since I was not in a position to take the floor yesterday, please, Mr Chairman, let me congratulate you on your being elected Chairman and also congratulate Mr Shah for his very clear and brief exposé yesterday. I also congratulate Mr Rinvile for his briefing.

May I say that the document presented has been very well prepared and gives the actual situation of FAO as regards projects being implemented and its financial situation. My delegation is in agreement with the Secretariat regarding all its activities.

I will fail in my duty if I do not congratulate FAO for its good works, particularly in successfully eradicating the screwworm in some of the African countries, namely Libya.

Much has been said about TCP, and I am not therefore going to intervene, but I assure you, Mr Chairman, that my delegation fully endorses FAO and my delegation is fully aware that FAO is au courant with all activities going on in the field.

I will plead with Member States, Member delegates, that if they want FAO to succeed in implementing various projects, FAO has got to have financial means and therefore Member States should regularly subscribe to FAO. I hope that this advice, coming from one of the biggest small islands in the Indian Ocean, will be followed by one and all.

**CHAIRMAN:** The Secretary has received a written statement from the delegation of Angola. Unless there is any objection, it could be included in the Verbatim. No objections? Good.

I said before that we would give time to the question of the budget level at 4 o'clock. I think the practical way of conducting this is now to break for five minutes and then take up the budget level, so that people not in the room are warned about it, and then after that we come back to the question of successor arrangements. We start at 4 o'clock.

The meeting was suspended from 15.50 to 16.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 50 à 16 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.50 a las 16.00 horas.

INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION  
INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE  
INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

Fourth Report of the General Committee  
Quatrième rapport du Bureau  
Cuarto informe del Comité General

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

16. Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 (continued)

16. Programme de travail et budget 1992-93 (suite)

16. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1992-93 (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** Ladies and Gentlemen, as I said before, we are moving back now to Item 16 on the question of the level of the budget. I also said that you have before you document C 91/LIM/39, which is the Fourth Report of the General Committee. This report has been submitted to Plenary and if you look at the paper in paragraph 12 it says; "the General Committee invites the Plenary to take note of the present report and make it available to Commission II so as to permit conclusion of its work on the Programme of Work and Budget 1992-93 and transmission of its report for eventual adoption by Plenary, as scheduled, on 20 November". This is the situation. If I may give my own opinion, I attended the General Committee, and this is an honest attempt at finding a solution to a very difficult problem. I hope you have also read carefully through the draft resolution and noted that there are two main parts to it. On the one hand, it proposes an approval of the Programme of Work in the order of US\$672 million for the next biennium. On the other hand the draft says "Decides on the following appropriations for financial period" and there the figure is US\$645.5 million. There is in the paper an explanation of this difference. It is for this Commission to react to this proposal. The substantive part of the report is paragraph 11 and if you look at the first sentence, it says, "the General Committee expects that the Conference receive a specific commitment from the USA regarding the amounts and timing of its payments relating to current assessments and arrears".

Before giving the floor to any other delegate to comment on the situation, I give the floor to the delegation of the United States.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** The United States, as the major contributor to FAO's Regular Programmes for over 46 years, strongly supports the work of our Organization. Despite the climate of budget austerity we are facing, the United States has not failed to recognize the increasingly important and constructive role that the United Nations through its specialized agencies has played and must play in the coming years. May I assure all of you that President Bush is committed to restoring financial stability to international organizations, including FAO. As evidence of his strong commitment, the United States paid FAO US\$13.7 million toward our arrears in October. We also paid over US\$34.9 million of the amount the United States Congress appropriated for our calendar year 1991 assessment to FAO at the same time. If the

United States can join consensus in supporting FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992-93 period, we will make every effort to pay an additional US\$9 million, the remaining amount of our calendar year 1991 assessment, to FAO before the end of the year.

We recognize that many of you in this august body have expressed interest in the scheduled payment of our arrears. Let me assure you that President Bush is firmly and unequivocally committed to pay the arrears to international organizations, including FAO. For fiscal year 1992 some US\$92.7 million was appropriated to international organizations to pay arrears. Of this, US\$22.6 million was programmed as available for FAO. However, we can make no guarantees at this time that all of these funds, that is, US\$22.6 million, will be provided, since our first priority will be to pay our assessed contributions in full to international organizations. With a budget adopted by consensus, let me assure you, however, that we will make every effort to provide FAO as close to the US\$22.6 million as is possible. Our appropriations process is extremely difficult to forecast and much too complex to go into here but, assuming the Budget Summit Agreement of 1990 holds for the fiscal year 1993, the United States would meet its regular assessment and, assuming full appropriations, would pay a similar amount on arrears as in fiscal year 1992, which I explained was roughly US\$22 million. At this stage it is much too early to forecast specifically what these amounts might be, nor is it possible to judge what the shape of our fiscal year 1994 budget will be, but the commitment is firm. It is a clear priority of the present Administration, and we will proceed as quickly as possible to seek appropriations and pay these monies to international organizations as we receive the funds.

The United States has long sought a budget in the FAO that reflected no programme growth and maximum absorption of non-discretionary costs. We have sought budgets of the same standard across the UN system. The budget resolution before us meets all these criteria. It is a product of much hard work and negotiations among Member Nations, with the very strong support and constructive leadership of the Director-General and his Secretariat. Mr Chairman, the United States is particularly appreciative of these efforts and very encouraged by the emerging spirit of consensus. We believe a strong consensus on this budget, which is supported by all Member Nations, will strengthen the financial situation of FAO for this biennium and the rest of the decade. This is a period in which the UN system will be faced with many challenges. Many of these challenges must be met with declining resources, just as many of our governments are facing these challenges as well. Although these challenges are difficult, they are not insurmountable. The first thing these challenges will require is a spirit of close mutual cooperation among Member Nations. The United States believes we are developing a strong cooperative spirit in FAO. We hope we have answered as many questions as you have and we look forward to continued work with this body, the Secretariat and the Director-General as we implement this Programme of Work.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the delegate for the United States most sincerely for her statement. That was very helpful. May I ask the Commission if there are any further comments on the situation as presented in this paper?

**Sra. Hilda GABARDINI (Argentina):** Es una intervención preliminar de mi delegación, y por favor es para pedirle una clarificación. Quisiéramos saber, por favor, en qué lugar están descritas y estipuladas las funciones del Comité General; y en cumplimiento de qué normas se formula esta propuesta.

Quisiera aclararle, Sr. Presidente, que no tenemos nada en contra en principio de este documento, ya que no hemos tenido tiempo de examinarlo a fondo; pero sería importante para nosotros, le insisto, saber en función de qué norma el Comité elaboró este documento.

**CHAIRMAN:** In a way, I could answer that myself, but I think, to be quite correct, we have to have Legal Counsel or somebody from the Secretariat to answer the question.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, if any member of this Commission requests you for a formal legal opinion, I am not competent to give one and we will request the presence of Legal Counsel. However, I believe Legal Counsel is very tied up with other proceedings of the Conference. If you wish, I can attempt to answer this question.

**CHAIRMAN:** Yes please.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** The functions of the General Committee are laid down in Rule X of the General Rules of the Organization. I will not read the entire Rule, which is about 2 pages long, but since one of the functions of the General Committee is to supervise and facilitate the work of the Conference, it is within the authority of the General Committee, firstly to request any Chairman of any of the Commissions to inform it of the status of the work in that Commission on any item; secondly, to consider what steps or what measures might be considered which would facilitate that work of the Commission and hence the work of the Conference; and, thirdly, in the sense that the General Committee submit its report to the Plenary, I should like to clarify that this Report as usual was submitted to the Plenary of the Conference this morning with one distinction: normally the reports of the General Committee, as distinguished members are aware, are submitted to Plenary for adoption. However, in this case, as the Report of the General Committee includes a Draft Resolution which was not ready for adoption by Plenary since the report of your Commission has not yet gone to Plenary, the General Committee, in its wisdom, chose the procedure which is given in paragraph 12 of its Report: that is to say, it invited the Plenary to take note of this Report, which the Plenary did, and to make it available to Commission II which has been done in accordance with that Report.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think I should read out Rule X, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (d): "meet periodically throughout each session to review the progress of the Conference, to coordinate the work of all commissions and committees, and to make recommendations for furthering such progress...". I think that is the basic part, and that the situation is absolutely clear. I hope everybody agrees with that.



Are there any further comments?

The situation is that we, as a Commission, should send the draft Resolution on to Plenary with the Report, and of course the Report is not here now. It is still to be drafted. Therefore we will now return to Tuesday afternoon's matter, but, for the time being, I note that there is no disagreement here with the Resolution. That completes Item 16, except for the Report. Is that clear? It is agreed.

17. Review of Field Programmes 1990-91 (continued)

17. Examen des Programmes de terrain 1990-91 (suite)

17. Examen de los Programas de Campo 1990-91 (continuación)

17.1 Operational Activities for Development (continued)

17.1 Activités opérationnelles de développement (suite)

17.1 Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** We return now to the second part of Item 17.

**Inge NORDANG (Norway):** I can be brief, Mr Chairman. Let me start by saying that my delegation can associate itself with what was said by the delegates from the other Nordic countries in the discussion this morning.

Norway is, like the other Nordic countries, a strong supporter of the UN system and its development activities, both politically and financially. Norway intends also next year to use close to 1.2 percent of the GNP for development assistance, nearly half of which will be channelled through multilateral organizations. To maintain the support of the UN system it is necessary to strengthen the quality and impact of UN development activities and ameliorate the governance and efficiency of the UN organizations.

In our view the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211 on a comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system constitutes an important part of the process to strengthen the UN system and its agencies, including FAO. We therefore find it disappointing that document C 91/4- Sup.1 does not appear fully to recognize the positive and challenging possibilities the implementation of this important Resolution and the following UNDP Resolution 91/32 represents. The new facilities under the UNDP arrangements are, after all, also aimed at contributing to a larger involvement of agencies like FAO in sectoral programme advice as well as in technical monitoring and evaluation of nationally implemented projects.

My delegation considers national execution to be the ultimate modality for development assistance. Through this type of execution, recipient Governments will have the responsibility for both coordination and optimal use of external assistance. We see national execution also as an important mechanism to promote utilization of national capacities and to reduce dependency of external assistance.

Let me underline that the governments must be the principal agent in determining the speed and manner of programme and project implementation, in cooperation with the UN system. Consequently, the introduction of national execution must be seen as a gradual process, dependent on the

recipient countries' capacities, needs and priorities. If national execution is to fulfil its objectives, there must be a genuine transfer of responsibility for programme and project execution to recipient countries. Assistance to recipient governments to build up their programme and administrative capacity for national execution must, therefore, be integrated in development assistance programmes. FAO and the other agencies will have a challenging role to play in this process.

We also believe that a rapid adjustment to the new support cost modality is necessary in order to prevent negative costs effects for FAO, taking into account the fact that it will start to be implemented from 1 January 1992. We fear, which was also said in the Programme Committee, that a delay in the adjustment could represent a financial burden to FAO which could withdraw resources from other parts of the Programme of Work and Budget in 1992-93.

My delegation has also received document C 91/4-Sup.2. We could agree that there might be a need for studying the support cost arrangements for Trust Fund projects in more detail. But we would not, as a donor to Trust Funds in various organizations, like to see different systems in each agency. Neither would we like to see different systems and costs applied to different donors. I would also like to point to the need to liaise closely with donors, not to jeopardize continued support to the Trust Funds.

Most fruitful approach would be to take the discussion in the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992 into account before deciding on a study.

When conducting the study, UNGA Resolution 44/211 needs to be borne in mind. The study should, therefore, seek to benefit from the work already done by the UNDP consultants. Promotion of the modality of national execution should be an important aim of the study.

**Ms Robin MEYER (United States of America):** The United States delegation is pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the reforms of the development system called for in UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989, including the 1990 and 1991 UNDP Governing Council's decisions on agency support costs and national execution.

These decisions should strengthen the analytical and technical support role of the major sector agencies. Much remains to be accomplished however, and continued progress will require close cooperation among the organizations which participate in the operational activities for development of the UN system.

Again, we should like to emphasize the convergence between the central operational themes of the 1989 Review of FAO Headquarters and field activities, and the major themes of Resolution 44/211.

The progress achieved by FAO in implementing the 1989 Review Recommendations - for instance, to strengthen both the policy advice function within FAO and FAO's Country Offices - also contributes to progress in the implementation of Resolution 44/211. We strongly support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the UN system's Country Representatives to work as a team under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

This coordination would provide recipient governments with integrated technical advice and support. We are pleased that FAO has supported the establishment of special training programmes for the system's country teams at the ILO Training Centre in Turin, and we strongly encourage FAO to support the broadening of these training programmes to include other field staff as well as their extension to the sub-regional and country levels.

We also continue to support efforts to establish common premises and facilities for the UN system's country teams whenever administratively and financially feasible. This should result in improved coordination by the resident coordinator and closer cooperation within the UN system. We agree that there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of FAO Country Offices to provide sectoral and sub-sectoral policy advice and programme support, as well as to contribute effectively to the provision of multi -sectoral or cross-sectoral advice and support under the leadership of the resident coordinator. This should be achieved through redeployment of staff and resources. Only experienced, qualified policy-oriented agricultural development officers should be selected for staff Country Offices.

The United States supports the concept of a government-led programme approach to technical cooperation rather than a donor-led project-by-project approach. This programme approach should provide an analytical and operational framework for long-term sectoral and sub-sectoral policy and technical advice. It should also provide for the design and implementation of specific technical cooperation activities.

Since it would shift the focus of technical assistance from the delivery of externally funded inputs to the achievement of development programme objectives, it should be accompanied by a strengthening of the recipient government's capacity to plan and manage development programmes and to account for programme results. Therefore, we strongly believe that FAO and other major sectoral agencies should participate in UNDP-led efforts to strengthen the capacity of recipient governments to plan, design and manage the implementation of development programmes and projects.

We fully support those provisions of the recent UNDP Governing Council decision on national execution which call for the effective use of the UN system's expertise in support of national capacity building and of nationally executed programmes and projects.

Furthermore, we have opposed in the past and will continue firmly to oppose any UNDP move to expand the role of its field offices or that of its office of project services. This expansion would displace the agencies under the guide of national execution and national capacity building. In that respect we are gratified that the agencies will soon collaborate with UNDP in the drafting of interim guidelines to Field Offices on the subject of national execution.

We also share FAO's expectation that there will be an intensive and comprehensive consultation process between UNDP and its partner agencies, both at the Headquarters and country level, in the drafting of permanent guidelines on national execution. These guidelines would be submitted to the UNDP Governing Council in May 1992, and in the related implementation of the successor agreements on agency support costs.

We believe that this consultation process should focus in particular on the provision of integrated policy advice and related analytical support to governments on national capacity building assistance at the programme level. This would include the introduction of programme-based approaches to technical advice and support, and on restructuring the tripartite system of cooperation to make it more effective in supporting nationally executed projects. We recognize the fact that the new support cost arrangements constitute a radical break with the past practice of reimbursing agencies at a flat rate.

The old regime did serve its purely financial purpose well while keeping the administrative burden to a minimum. It had, however, unintended adverse effects on the effectiveness of UNDP-funded operational activities since it placed excessive emphasis on project inputs rather than outputs and deprived nationally executed projects of agency technical support.

The new support cost regime has addressed this problem by encouraging the major sectoral partners of the UNDP to shift away from the provision of administrative and operational support and focused more on project execution and toward greater and more effective analytical and technical support at the programme and project level.

The greater complexity of the new support cost regime is the price of incorporating these incentives into the new UNDP payment structure.

We are concerned, therefore, by the statement in paragraph 5 of the supplement to the Review of Field Programmes which implies that the implementation of the new UNDP support cost regime might detract from the effectiveness and efficiency with which FAO carries out long-standing and well-proven arrangements for the servicing of its Field Programmes. This statement seems to reflect a lack of understanding of the very purpose of the new support cost regime, which is to improve the effectiveness of agency support for UNDP-funded operational activities. It also stands in sharp contrast to the earlier statement in the Review of Field Programmes that UNDP support cost successor arrangements relate to some of the major orientations reflected in both the FAO review and in UNGA Resolution 44/211 and might be viewed as the operational arm of these policy aims.

We endorse that view as well as the view expressed by the ILO to its Governing Body that both the new support cost system and the increase in national implementation "should not be seen as a constraint but as an opportunity for the ILO to change and adapt itself to the new dimensions and modalities of operational activities". We expect FAO to demonstrate a similar positive attitude in its implementation of the new support cost regime.

In the case of TSS-I funding for programme level services we fully agree that "the use of this facility will have to be closely integrated with the existing and improved framework for such activities already established within FAO", and that the availability of additional funds and the procedures for handling these, if properly applied, can be complementary to and further enhance the overall impact of such work.

We also agree that the amount of TSS-II funds for technical support to projects is rather limited relative to expected needs, and therefore that the provision of complementary resources from FAO's Regular Budget will be critical. However, we expect that the availability of UNDP funds for that

purpose will increase in the future if current funds are used effectively and that additional budget resources will be freed by the gradual reduction in FAO's provision of administrative and operational support services.

On that subject, we call attention to the preliminary results of the cost survey conducted by a reputable consulting firm for UNDP which indicates that the actual cost of administrative and operational support provided by the FAO to field projects averaged almost 18 percent during the 1990-91 biennium whereas reimbursement from UNDP under the new support cost regime will average only 10 percent. Thus the expected steady decline in administrative and operational support services provided by FAO to UNDP-funded projects should have a beneficial impact on the Regular Budget as long as FAO is able to reduce its administrative and operational staff at the same pace.

Of course we shall carefully monitor the shift from agency execution to national execution of UNDP financed projects to ensure that the process is gradual, as envisaged by the UNDP Governing Council. We note that FAO plans to offset the decline in support costs earnings from the provision of administrative and operational support services to UNDP projects with an increase in earnings from the execution of projects funded by Trust Funds. We would remind FAO, however, that a number of multilateral/bilateral donors have called on the specialized agencies to phase out their participation in the execution of projects at the national level while possibly increasing their involvement in the execution of regional and global projects. We would expect these donors to modify their multilateral/bilateral policies accordingly. In any event, we will expect Trust Funds to be charged the full cost of multilateral and bilateral project execution and not benefit from Regular Budget subsidies. We note particularly the recommendation in paragraph 27 with regard to support costs, and urge that FAO consult the Finance Committee before decisions are taken which would have significant cost implications for the Programme of Work.

In conclusion, we call on FAO and the other major sectoral agencies to continue their open dialogue with the UNDP with the firm expectation that they will reach agreement with UNDP on procedures and reimbursement modalities which minimize administrative costs, avoid cumbersome project-by-project negotiations and optimize the involvement of the agencies in all aspects of the UNDP project cycle.

**John MACHIN (United Kingdom):** In this intervention I should like to comment on two issues, first the support cost successor arrangements, and secondly the arrangements for Trust Fund projects, but perhaps I could start with a few general remarks on the support costs arrangements.

Those of us who have been intimately involved with it are only too well aware that the negotiations on support costs have been extremely long and difficult. The United Kingdom - I hope it is not too immodest to say - went out of its way to seek arrangements which were fair to the agencies and which allowed a gradual and relatively smooth transition. In this respect a major feature of the new arrangements to which I want to draw particular attention is the scope for review and amendment if the arrangement proves not to be working. We think this is absolutely crucial, and it was with this in mind that we strongly supported the UNDP Decision 91/31.

I now turn to the papers before us. We welcome FAO's analysis of the implications of the successor arrangements for this Organization. This appears to show a reasonably good understanding of the intentions behind UNDP Decision 91/31, particularly the recognition that the agencies must concentrate more on technical assistance and less on administration. It also recognizes importantly the move toward national execution, which we very strongly support.

At the same time, the papers we have before us do hint at some problems ahead. I am thinking particularly of paragraph 5 in document C 91/4-Sup.1. There are also repeated implications elsewhere in the document that support costs appear to occupy a relatively small role in terms of FAO's overall operations.

I said at the outset that we recognize the difficulties of moving to new arrangements - one reason why they feature a review mechanism - but it must also be recognized that it is actually not optional for the agencies to implement the new arrangement.

They are in effect required not least by UN Resolution 44/211 to change their way of working. Like my American colleague, I can appreciate the Director-General's request for flexibility in implementing the new arrangements; paragraph 27 of C 91/4- Sup.1 refers to this. Nevertheless it is, in our view, a subject of crucial importance to FAO and one on which its Governing Bodies should be consulted as the Secretariat formulates its work in this continuing process, I therefore strongly agree that we too would like to see any future proposals put to the Finance Committee and thence to our Council for consideration.

As the documentation also recognizes it is very difficult at this stage to judge precisely the level of remuneration the agencies will receive under the new arrangements. However, I think there are some general points that we can actually make now. The first one is that the UNDP decision is intended to provide for a net increase in technical support. Secondly, the concomitant decrease in administrative work (AOS) will require some restructuring by FAO over the course of UNDP's Fifth Cycle and, thirdly, we will certainly keep under very close review the respective levels of remuneration.

I would now like to turn to the all-important area of technical support programmes (TSS-I) and projects (TSS-II). As I said earlier, the new arrangements are to provide agencies with less funding for administrative and operational services but more for technical support, both at the programme and project levels. Thus, it is the intention that TSS-I and TSS-II should augment and not replace the existing sources of funds for these activities. There should therefore be a net increase in the amounts available for technical support.

In the case of TSS-II it seems from paragraph 1.90 of document C 91/4 that FAO envisages a strong and continuing control over all main projects in its field, even those nationally executed. If this really is the position, Mr Chairman, then I do not think it is in keeping with the intentions of the new arrangements and I am afraid that, as such, this would not be acceptable to my delegation.

The point at issue here I think is that instead of having agency-executed projects where agencies administer and operate projects, the new arrangements envisage a move to nationally-executed projects with the agencies offering more selective assistance but in well-defined areas of technical expertise. Perhaps I have misunderstood the intentions in the paper but I think it would be very helpful if the Secretariat could clarify FAO's intentions on this point.

The other main comment I have relates to the trigger levels at which additional funds for project support would be released to the agencies during UNDP's Fifth Cycle. I recall that at the UNDP Council in June the FAO Representative was seriously concerned about the possible delay in releasing these funds as intended under the UNDP decision. We have looked into this in considerable detail and have concluded that the funds would be released in good time. Indeed, judging from FAO's own estimate of national execution by 1996, 40 percent I think was the figure as stated in paragraph 22 of C 91/4-Sup.I, the additional funds will be available in good time.

Two final comments; our long discussion in UNDP on Support Costs reveal that the agencies were already spending considerable resources on TSS-I and TSS-II areas of activity. One important implication of the UNDP decision is that we must also see significant improvement in the effectiveness of the use of these funds. Secondly, we very much welcome the progress that is being made on the common training systems being developed between UNDP and the agencies. This, as the Secretariat rightly pointed out this morning, should be started as soon as possible. Nevertheless, Mr Chairman, I share the concerns of my Finnish colleague about the potentially high costs that have been postulated. My delegation very much hopes that these can be contained as much as possible and instead emphasis put on on-the-job training. That concludes my remarks on Support Costs.

I would now like to turn briefly to speak on Trust Fund arrangements. We fully agree with the Director-General's assessment in the paper that the time has come to review the arrangements for Trust Fund projects. The revision of the concepts and the modalities for UN Support Cost reimbursement offers in our view an excellent opportunity for this. The Secretariat will, of course, be familiar with my delegation's views on Trust Fund Support Costs, particularly those funded bilaterally. In our view, the full cost of implementation of such projects should be borne by the relevant bilateral donor so as to avoid the need for a subsidy from the Regular Programme for such bilateral Trust Funds.

This current practice, as my American colleague commented on, reduces much needed Regular Programme funds particularly at a time when FAO, as we all know, is in the middle of a financial crisis. We therefore welcome and endorse the Director-General's proposals to initiate a study. Again, Mr Chairman, like the new agency Support Cost arrangement, we regard this as a crucially important area of the Organization's activities on which the membership needs to be consulted. We are therefore of the view that the Council at its meeting in November 1992 should study any proposals put forward by the Programme and Finance Committees before they are implemented.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** The Canadian delegation would like to comment on document C 91/4-Sup.1 and C 91/4-Sup.2 concerning Support Cost arrangements for Trust Fund Programmes. To begin with I would like to express the general position of my country by quoting what we have been saying on Successor Support Costs in New York and I quote "In our view the main objectives of the UNDP Successor Support Costs Arrangements are twofold. First, and most important, is to improve the sustainability, effectiveness and impact of UNDP assisted programmes, partly by enhancing national responsibility for key aspects of the project cycle. Call it national execution if you will but our concern is to enhance national ownership for the efforts we make and thus ensure that they are relevant to and integrated into national circumstances. Second, is the desire to provide appropriate incentive for agencies to sharpen their technical capacities parallel to a lesser emphasis on the operational aspects of projects. While the Support Costs regime can help do this, it is essential always to recall that the target of UNDP programmes is the developing countries."

My delegation would like to highlight the Decision 91/32 made by the UNDP Governing Council in June, and recently before the Second Committee in New York, was reached by consensus and all major UN agencies, including FAO, participated fully in the process which led to the Decision. Donor and beneficiary countries alike are united about the urgent need to increase the efficiency of the UN operational activities, inter-UN coordination, and make gradual but concerted progress appropriate to each nation towards national execution for the greater benefit of the developing nations. Like the delegate of Norway, our delegation therefore urges FAO to begin implementing the new Support Costs Arrangements in earnest and requests the Secretariat to report to FAO's Governing Bodies periodically to inform them of progress.

With respect to paragraph 27 of document 91/4-Sup.1, it is our view that the Finance Committee and Council should be consulted before decisions are taken which would have significant cost implications for the Programme of Work and Budget. Here my delegation supports the positions just expressed by the delegations of the United States and the United Kingdom.

Finally, with regard to a proposed new Support Costs Scheme for Trust Fund Projects, my delegation would like to express its concern that Trust Fund activities of any type, including those derived from the UNDP, should not over-burden the regular budget of the FAO. Furthermore, the Canadian delegation favours a unified approach to Trust Fund Support costs for all donors. In view of the importance of the issue to the financial health of the Organization, my delegation would agree with the point put forward by the Nordic delegation, and just now by the UK delegation, that it is important that FAO's Governing Bodies take account of the deliberations on this issue at the May 1992 session of the UNDP Council before deciding on any Support Costs Scheme for Trust Fund Activities.

**Jean-Pierre POLY (France):** Ma délégation s'est déjà exprimée à plusieurs reprises dans différentes enceintes, notamment ici même ce matin sur la question des coûts d'appui du PNUD. Je n'y reviendrai donc pas.

A ce stade, elle intervient simplement sur un point concernant les dépenses d'appui des projets financés par des Fonds fiduciaires. Ma délégation souhaite indiquer une certaine perplexité devant ce document. Il nous semble en effet qu'il y a une contradiction entre ce document et le



document 91/4, Programme de terrain, qui indique dans des termes très nets combien le nouveau système concernant les dépenses d'appui du PNUD représentera, je cite, "une rupture radicale" et un système, je cite encore, "à l'évidence beaucoup plus complexe que le système actuel" dont le caractère forfaitaire est apprécié pour sa commodité.

Toutefois, ma délégation acceptera le principe d'une étude sur ce sujet compte tenu de la place importante et croissante des Fonds fiduciaires dans le financement des Programmes de terrain. Elle estime nécessaire que les résultats de cette étude, lorsqu'elle aura été effectuée, fassent l'objet, après avis des Comité financier et du Comité du Programme, d'un examen par les instances compétentes de la FAO, c'est-à-dire le Conseil et la Conférence, et que le Calendrier prévisionnel de mise en application d'éventuelles décisions soit révisé en conséquence.

**François ROHNER (Suisse):** Je ne prolongerai pas la discussion ici, nous en avons longuement débattu dans d'autres fora, sur ces fameuses dépenses d'appui. Je n'ai que deux commentaires à faire.

Le premier est que nous sommes tous conscients du fait que ce nouveau système ne sera pas facile à appliquer et qu'il nécessitera de la bonne volonté de la part de tous. Nous sommes heureux à cet égard d'apprendre que les consultations en cours avec le PNUD et les agences se déroulent dans de bonnes conditions et une bonne atmosphère de travail. Il y a donc un espoir que des solutions praticables puissent être trouvées.

Concernant le paragraphe 27 du document Sup.I, ma délégation rejoint la position du Royaume-Uni, des Etats-Unis et du Canada. Concernant l'étude prévue pour les dépenses d'appui en relation avec les Fonds fiduciaires, ma position est celle qui vient d'être exposée par la délégation française.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** As I am possibly the last speaker on this Agenda Item and I did not intervene earlier during the discussions on other aspects of the Agenda, Review of Field Programmes, I crave indulgence for briefly covering during my intervention not only the subject of the cost arrangements but also some aspects of the TCP and other field activities. Let me therefore proceed with the document C 91/4 in the first instance before I come to the new arrangements for support cost for the UNDP and other Trust Fund projects.

It is a matter of considerable satisfaction that FAO's Field Programme expenditure reached a record level during the current biennium with a total delivery of US\$407 million in 1990. The FAO/UNDP level increased to US\$176 million while Trust Fund delivery reached US\$195 million and TCP US\$36 million. It is also heartening to note that the outlook for the coming years is very encouraging.

We appreciate the response of FAO in giving due recognition to the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/211 with regard to the promotion of national execution of new UNDP projects. Similarly, we also welcome the greater emphasis being given to TCP projects and incorporation of women-in-development concerns in the Field Programmes, and also on closer association with the work of NGOs and similar grass-roots and other community level organizations in all its programmes.

While we commend FAO for assessment of about 200 Evaluation Reports we look forward to FAO taking corrective measures to eliminate the deficiencies pointed out in the evaluation.

In the context of the greater emphasis on sustainable development, the finding that just over half of the evaluated projects only was sustainable also calls for effective reorientation of Field Programmes. The improvement in project design therefore should take increasingly into account such factors as sustainability both in the context of policy and the institutional environment in which the projects are placed.

We welcome the range of mechanisms which have been introduced in FAO to ensure that environmental and sustainable considerations are built into all FAO Major Field Programmes. We also welcome the introduction of procedures for environmental impact assessment for building environmental and sustainable elements into the field projects.

The 52 projects for desk review constitute a good example of TCP activities. It is good to know that these projects were found to reflect FAO priorities and to generally adhere to TCP criteria. A positive assessment of over 80 percent of TCP projects is indicative of the better design of TCP projects. We also are encouraged by the fact that the projects follow upwards satisfactorily in over 90 percent of the cases. In general the Review confirms that the TCP is fulfilling its intended functions in close links with other regular Field Programme activities. We are sure FAO will be initiating the necessary efforts for wider dissemination of information, improved work planning, and clarification of project categories in relation to criteria and functions. FAO may consider commissioning outside agencies to get objective evaluation reports from the user beneficiary angle.

Now, Mr Chairman, I come to document C 91/4-Sup.I, concerning follow-up to the UNDP Governing Council decision on support costs successor arrangements. India has been a supporter of national educational projects. However, we would suggest that the new arrangements for the UNDP need to be worked out expeditiously and in such a way that FAO's family role in agricultural activity is enhanced. We agree with the views expressed in the document that the new arrangements represent a marked departure from past practice relating to support cost reimbursements, and would have a far-reaching impact on FAO activities in the field much beyond the financial and budgetary aspects. We are happy to note that the Director-General of FAO intends to ensure that FAO capabilities to deal with support cost arrangements be preserved and continue to apply effectively to Field Programmes and the Organization's valuable in-built capital and expertise.

We agree with the assessment that in order to implement the decisions with the minimum delay and obstruction, staff training and guidelines in conjunction with UNDP need to be organized. While we are concerned at the loss of up to US\$11 million revenue to FAO from UNDP by 1996 on account of this change-over, we share the optimism of the Secretariat that most of this will be compensated by the reimbursement received from the UNDP under the new arrangements for programme projects and the TSS-I and TSS-II.

In the context of the imponderables and uncertainties regarding the possible level of UNDP reimbursements as a sequel to the new cost arrangements, it is for consideration whether FAO should initiate action to also reopen the question of support cost arrangements for Trust Fund

projects at this juncture. As the documentation suggests, the full extent of the implications of the FAO/UNDP new arrangements will only become evident in future and much after the Thirty-ninth UNDP Governing Council meeting considers this matter in May 1992. It may be true that the current flat rate system of reimbursement currently applied to Trust Fund projects, regardless of their operational complexities, volume and funding sources, may also not respond to the needs of a programme. There may also be a case for eliminating the regular subsidy for Trust Fund projects. It is, however, pertinent to note that the UNDP, while approving the successor support cost arrangements, did not make a call for applying the same standards to other cooperation activities financed from other extra-budgetary forces including the Trust Fund. It may be recalled that the Council had made such a request in June 1980 while reducing the standard rate of reimbursement from 14 percent of the delivery to 13 percent in respect of UNDP programmes. While not contesting the probable need for a revised system of Trust Fund project support cost reimbursement, it may perhaps be feasible for FAO to stabilize the new arrangements with the UNDP before calling for a system-wide review of support costs in regard to all technical cooperation activities funded by the Trust Fund, etc.

Extension of the uncertainties brought in by the FAO/UNDP interface to the FAO Trust Fund donors is likely to needlessly complicate the implementation of all Field Programmes, particularly the ones funded by the Trust Fund. The evolution of the new reimbursement methodology and the overall cost apportionments, as indicated in the proposed approach for developing a revised system, would require extensive discussion between FAO donors and recipient governments, which is liable to further compound uncertainties with regard to the resources available for Field Programmes. We feel that the suggested deadline of January 1993 for introducing the new arrangements with regard to the support costs for Trust Fund projects will prove to be ambitious and inopportune at this point of time, particularly in the context of the current FAO/UNDP consultation.

**CHAIRMAN:** My mistake - I had forgotten the delegate of the Netherlands. You have the floor.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Coming from such a low situated country, it is not unusual that we are overlooked sometimes, so I'm used to it! Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor anyway. I will be very brief.

The Netherlands delegation does not oppose the proposed study on Trust Fund support costs by FAO. However, in line with the remarks by Norway, my delegation is not in favour of the provisional implementation of the results of the study. We would welcome submission of the study to the Programme and Finance Commissions in May 1992 in order to enable an in-depth discussion to take place on this important issue during the Hundred-and-second Session of the FAO Council in November 1992.

The additional advantage of this procedure is that by that time more information about the consequences of the new support cost arrangements with FAO/UNDP will be available and a more detailed evaluation of the new experiences with the system will be possible.

Allow me a last remark, more a reaction, Mr Chairman, to what the United States and the United Kingdom said on the full support costs for the Trust

Funds to be reimbursed by donors. We may have a more advanced view. Proper interaction of the Regular Programme of Field Programme activities produces also a mutual benefit, and to put the financial burden only on the shoulders of the Trust Fund donors seem to be not very receptive to their efforts.

**CHAIRMAN:** We have had 29 speakers, several of them twice over, and I think we have had a good discussion. There is one other point: the Secretary on written statements.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. We have received a written statement from the delegation of Kenya to be inserted in the Verbatim report.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** M. le Président, en premier lieu, nous félicitons le Secrétariat des efforts déployés pour nous présenter un tableau complet des Programmes de terrain de la FAO.

Le document C 91/4 est plein d'informations et comporte une évaluation exhaustive et objective des résultats des projets de terrain et répond effectivement aux recommandations de la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence.

Il est regrettable que certaines activités de la FAO ne pouvaient pas être exécutées par le biais de son Programme ordinaire suite aux difficultés financières que traverse l'Organisation.

Malgré cette situation, nous avons assisté à une augmentation de ses activités de terrain et nous ne pouvons que vous féliciter.

Nous nous félicitons aussi, en ce qui concerne les accroissements des programmes financés par le PNUD, par les Fonds fiduciaires et le PCT.

Nous félicitons la FAO de la manière très efficace dont elle a pu réagir à l'élimination à la lucilie bouchère en Afrique du Nord ainsi que des sauterelles et des criquets pèlerins.

Bien que n'étant pas affectés, nos remerciements s'adressent aux pays donateurs qui ont bien voulu apporter leur aide pour venir à bout de ces fléaux.

Nous félicitons la FAO de l'aide accrue apportée à la CTPD, l'inclusion à chaque Programme de terrain de la participation des femmes au développement, et encourageons la collaboration étroite avec les ONG et d'autres organisations régionales, subrégionales et nationales.

M. le Président, il est bien dit dans ce document que les dépenses du PTC au titre des Programmes de terrain ont fortement augmentés et que tous les projets ont été jugés conformes aux priorités de la FAO et de manière générale aux critères du PCT, que son examen confirme qu'il remplit ses fonctions en liaison étroite avec d'autres activités de la FAO relevant du Programme ordinaire, que ses opérations sont efficaces et que les gouvernements bénéficiaires l'apprécient au plus haut point.

Avant de terminer, ma délégation appuie la proposition du Secrétariat en ce qui concerne la fonction du Programme ordinaire avec le Programme de terrain.<sup>1</sup>

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA** (Kenya): My delegation supports fully the on-going review of the Organization's operational objectives and goals in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 44/211 and Resolution of the Twenty-fifth Session of the FAO Conference in 1989.

Any institution that fails to respond effectively to evolving challenges and to the main stream of changing needs of the membership it risks becoming irrelevant, a master of itself and a servant of none. Today even the United Nations General Assembly is being called into question by its member states as to its effectiveness in responding to the emerging generation of global challenges. It is for these reasons that we welcome the changes, but only toward a stronger and more responsive organization (to the needs of the poor and the hungry of the world), more effective and a more efficient organization. We shall not support change for the sake of change; neither shall we support change that is designed to strip bare FAO of its necessary capacity built over the years to fulfil its mandate to its members, effectively and efficiently. In this regard we have examined the evolution of the FAO review process so far, as elaborated in document C 91/4 and wish to give my delegation's views.

Mr Chairman, Kenya is privileged to host the Regional and Headquarters offices of a number of international agencies including FAO, UNDP, UNEP among others. The need identified by the United General Assembly for UN agencies to coordinate their activities at country level between themselves and with the Host Government is logical and highly supported.

The Kenya delegation would also like to give its unqualified support to the provision of the Support Costs Successor Arrangements and in particular the provision of national execution of UNDP-funded projects. The responsibility for determining development priorities and implementing should be placed on the beneficiary. This, besides ultimately reducing costs to the project enhances deep commitment on the national government and beneficiaries to ensuring success of the project. The resultant self-reliance in expertise generated by the approach builds a permanent domestic pool of expertise that enhances national capacities of governments to generate and management their own development programmes. Further, the transfer of this responsibility to the national government releases FAO to concentrate on other more specialized areas of operations.

Many developing countries today have the institutional capacities and expertise to assume such responsibility; but admittedly several others will need time to build the needed expertise. These and other concerns raised against the immediate full practical implementation of the provisions, while valid, we believe, can and should be reviewed realistically believing the UNDP Governing Council and FAO Council and operational guidelines developed soon to put into effect the reforms. It is necessary for the new policy measures to be monitored and evaluated interimly and progress reported to the Conference and valid adjustments made.

<sup>1</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

Mr Chairman, we see this approach as a tripartite relationship between the Technical Agency, the Financier (donor/UNDP) and the national Government in which the national Government should assume the prime not the subordinate role.<sup>1</sup>

**CHAIRMAN:** Now for the answers. It is 5.15 p.m. and I doubt if we can finish, but I think we should get as far as possible.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I will respond only to a limited number of questions because the subject is, of course, within the responsibility of my colleagues and they are fully competent, ready and willing to answer your questions. I must address, however, those questions which refer to my responsibilities and that is with regard to the budgetary aspects, support cost income, the use of that income and the problems relating to that.

There are four points I would like to make. They will be very brief. Firstly, adjusting to change. I think that Member Nations need have no fear about the Secretariat being reluctant to adjust to change. I think you know us well enough. I think we can give you evidence of our capacity for change: to give you one example (and these are facts which are regularly submitted to the Finance Committee and appear in the Finance Committee Report to the Council), take the staffing under support cost funds: under UNDP support costs the number of posts in 1986 was 544. In 1991 the number was down to 440. Trust Fund Support Costs in 1986, 386 posts; in 1991, 341. We are aware that we will have to adjust quite a bit further, and that is why we draw the matter to your attention and invite you to share our concern and be aware of our problems. Let me relate that to my second point about increasing effectiveness. Every report we submit to you, to the Council, and to the Programme and Finance Committees tries to emphasize the ways in which the operations of the Field Programme are progressively made more effective and more efficient. Perhaps it is useful to bear in mind the figures I gave of the posts, and the declining number of posts, over the same period and look at the delivery of the Field Programme over the same period. For UNDP, while we had this decline in posts over the same period, from 1986 to 1990, the delivery went up from US\$116 million to US\$176 million. So I hope there will be some satisfaction at the aspect of cost-effectiveness. For Trust Funds, the delivery went up from US\$151 million in 1986 to US\$195 million in 1990, but I must caution that that figure of US\$195 million includes commitments, so it is not exactly comparable to the 1986 figure.

This brings me to my third point, the need for flexibility. Let me give you again what I consider one rather telling factor. At the moment the number of support cost funded posts is about 700. If I use the costs that we expect in 1992-93 as we have provided to you in the Programme of Work and Budget, at those higher costs we will not be able to support the current establishment. We will not even be able to support an establishment of 600 posts. It will be a figure considerably below 600. The Director-General has no intention, to our knowledge, of doing anything drastic to staff, of having any reduction in force, of getting rid of people by force. All this

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

is not only undesirable from a human point of view, but it is also undesirable from a financial and resource point of view because, if we had to terminate staff, it would be at considerable expense. A professional staff member, let us say a P-4, taking an average profile, would cost just under US\$100 000 to terminate, and a general service staff member, a G-5, again taking an average profile, would cost about US\$112 000 to terminate. So, Mr Chairman, these are the sort of factors which make us very alive to the need to be careful, to be cautious, to be ready and, if flexibility is needed in arriving at this process of change, certainly it will be by observing the Financial Rules and Regulations and the staff regulations, and consulting and reporting to the Programme and Finance Committees. We gave this assurance to the Committees themselves and I repeat it here.

My final point is about the need for a review of Trust Fund support-cost arrangements. I recognize very well, as do all my colleagues, that there are different views among Member Nations about the principle of the extent of reimbursement for the cost of Trust Fund project delivery. We respect all of you, and there are respectable, eminent countries which say that, as a matter of principle, they are not prepared to accept a subsidy from the Regular Programme for Trust Fund project delivery, and there are equally eminent and respectable countries which say it is part of the functions of FAO and they expect a subsidy. This is a matter between you; we have to deal with all of you. So let me give you the facts. What is the subsidy and where are we going with it? On the Trust Funds the difference between the reimbursement received and the actual support costs is growing ever wider. In 1987 the total support costs for Trusts Funds were US\$25.6 million, the reimbursement received was US\$14.1 million, so the variance was US\$11.5 million; in 1988, US\$10.4 million; in 1989, US\$12.5 million; in 1990, US\$12.7 million; in 1991 I expect even higher. We report this to you in the Finance Committee and the Council, and this is a matter of concern to the Director-General. To what extent do you wish to go on with this? That is why he has proposed the study, and I would emphasize that its motive is not to deal only with a financial matter and an accounting matter; the thrust of the study, as explained in the Supplement 2 document in paragraph 11, is to consider very well the substantive aspects of delivering and supporting the Trust Fund Programme, how to improve our technical support, how to make these Trust Funds more effective in their impact for the recipient countries and more effective in the utilization of resources provided by Trust Fund donors. I will stop here, Sir, because I know my colleagues have a lot to reply to.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is 5.25 p.m. I am going to adjourn at 5.45 p.m. I think we should get as far as possible within that period but, to the extent we cannot cover everything, we will take it up tomorrow morning.

**F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement):** J'aimerais bien que mes collègues et moi-même puissions aller dîner ce soir, toutefois je ne voudrais pas décevoir ceux qui ont posé des questions et qui aimeraient bien avoir des réponses.

Cela dit, il ne peut être dans notre propos, à la suite d'un débat aussi riche et de tant de remarques faites ou de questions posées, de prétendre placer à chaque question soulevée, à chaque problème soulevé, une réponse.

Je vais d'abord dire que ce débat sera un outil de travail pour nous, que nous en étudierons soigneusement toutes les données et que nous incorporerons les remarques qui nous ont été faites, les suggestions, les interrogations, les inquiétudes, dans les préoccupations de notre activité de tous les jours, et que nous nous efforcerons, dans le document ultérieur, lors des prochaines réunions lors desquelles nous devons faire rapport à vous-mêmes, de donner les bonnes réponses.

Notre document qui relate l'Examen des Programmes de terrain est en fait, comme d'autres documents, une sorte de compromis. Un compromis parce qu'il veut avoir une dimension je dirais humaine qui soit lisible; c'est-à-dire que nous sommes amenés à faire des choix dans ce que nous écrivons, car sans cela nous vous donnerions des documents illisibles et impossibles à travailler, ajoutés à tous ceux qui sont soumis à votre examen pour une période telle que la Conférence.

Nous ne voulons pas répéter des débats très longs qui ont eu lieu au Conseil d'administration du PNUD et dont vous êtes bien avertis, qui ont eu lieu à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et dont vous êtes bien avertis lorsqu'ils relatent l'un, les nouvelles modalités de remboursement des dépenses d'appui aux projets financés par le PNUD, et l'autre, lorsqu'il parle des activités opérationnelles dans le système des Nations Unies. Ce document ne prétend pas discuter de ces décisions.

Ce document est peut-être quelquefois maladroit; dans certains de ses paragraphes il ne reflète pas exactement notre pensée, ou il n'est pas bien traduit (car vous avez ces documents en plusieurs langues); il ne prétend pas mettre en cause des décisions que nous devons appliquer dans les meilleures conditions possibles mais, éventuellement, il doit vous faire part des difficultés qui peuvent apparaître entre ce qu'à pu être une décision et ce que sont, lorsque l'on va dans l'application, les difficultés réelles rencontrées.

Je crois que personne ne pense, par exemple, que dans des changements tels que ceux qui vont être provoqués par les récentes décisions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD il n'y ait pas à faire des ajustements dans les prochaines années qui permettent de bien adapter ce qui était l'intention politique de ceux qui ont pris les décisions, avec ce que sont les possibilités réelles de les appliquer dans leur esprit.

Il n'est pas sûr par exemple que les crédits qui ont été affectés à certaines catégories de prestations soient capables de couvrir le coût de ces prestations au niveau de la qualité que chacun en attend. Nous n'en sommes pas sûrs et nous le verrons.

Personne ne pense que le problème est de faire des économies sur les projets; il l'est beaucoup plus de faire de bons projets, bien formulés, bien dessinés, bien exécutés, bien suivis, et qui s'inscrivent durablement dans les perspectives du pays au service duquel ils ont été faits.

Je crois que ce débat devra continuer à être ouvert, et qu'il sera légitime que nous fassions part de toutes nos inquiétudes sur le sujet. C'est aussi un compromis parce que l'Examen du Programme de terrain décrit un passé. En réalité il s'applique, en ce qui nous concerne, plus encore que l'Examen du Programme ordinaire sur les années de fait 1989-90. Des projets qui ont tous été formulés avant le débat de 1989 à l'Assemblée des Nations Unies, avant aussi le débat conclusif de l'examen de la FAO. Selon les nouvelles



tendances, les nouvelles politiques, les nouvelles priorités que vous avez décidé de nous demander de suivre, peuvent être présentes dans ces projets mais n'ont peut-être pas été formulées explicitement comme elles le seront demain. Je pense en particulier à des préoccupations qui sont incluses probablement depuis 25 ou 40 ans (pas plus de temps que la vie de la FAO mais en tout cas au moins 40 ans). Le bon usage des ressources naturelles, les précautions pour les utiliser et la volonté qu'elles soient capables de durer dans les pays qui les exploitent sont certainement dans la préoccupation, mais peut-être que pour nous comme ailleurs la formulation n'était pas aussi claire de ces soucis autrefois qu'elle va l'être demain.

Dans ce domaine, je dois dire aussi que pas plus que ce document ne prétend reprendre des débats qui ont eu lieu dans d'autres enceintes, car il abuserait de votre temps et il abuserait de nos capacités de présentation, pas plus il ne prétend présenter les priorités d'action qui sont discutées dans le cadre de la préparation du Programme ordinaire. En réalité, dans les projets dont nous sommes chargés, nous nous efforçons d'introduire les priorités qui ont été décidées pour les activités ordinaires de la FAO. Elles ne sont donc pas présentées ici; elles sont discutées ailleurs. L'environnement est discuté dans les documents de l'environnement, le développement durable, la protection et la pérennité des ressources naturelles sont discutés dans le document C 91/30 dans le Programme ordinaire. Ici nous nous contentons d'essayer de montrer comment ces préoccupations sont prises en compte, mais pas de décrire la politique de leur prise en compte qui paraît très clairement établie ailleurs. De même, pour les projets qui nous sont confiés, il faut bien voir que nous ne sommes pas l'unique décideur.

Comme il est souvent dit dans cette enceinte, il est essentiel, pour une approche adaptée au pays, de l'aborder dans un esprit de grande décentralisation. Ce sont les gouvernements des pays qui décident de leurs programmes de développement, et nous nous efforçons d'apporter l'assistance technique qu'ils nous demandent et dont ils ont besoin, mais nous ne nous substituons pas à leur souveraineté.

En réalité donc, les projets de terrain, c'est un ensemble de décisions prises, en ce qui nous concerne, dans autant de pays où nous avons des activités (ce chiffre oscille entre 100 et 130), avec autant de partenaires qu'il y en a puisque nous, nous sommes un partenaire, mais qu'il y a aussi celui qui apporte les fonds, que ce soit le Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, ou que ce soit des bailleurs de fonds. Ce qui donne un aspect relatif à notre capacité (et ce qui n'est probablement pas souhaité) de tout orienter à partir d'un ensemble, d'un complexe, qui est très lourd, de guides, de directives, de contrôles, qui enlèverait à la fois toute souplesse à ce programme, toute adaptabilité aux vrais problèmes de terrain, et qui renoncerait à reconnaître que chaque pays a des problèmes à traiter qui sont divers. Et chaque pays est à un niveau de moyens, a une ressource humaine, est dans des conditions qui font que cette approche doit être par pays.

Cette introduction pour donner (parce que nous en avons bien conscience) les limites d'un ouvrage qui prétend (je dirais) résumer les actions de la FAO au profit de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le monde entier. L'ambition ne peut être que limitée à des moyens humains.

Je me permettrai de donner peut-être quelques éléments de réponse, ou quelques éléments de réflexion et, comme je le dis, plus des éléments de réflexion que des réponses. Je crois que cela ne peut pas être notre ambition. Dans les domaines qui touchent au chapitre 4, cette introduction au domaine des problèmes de l'environnement, et surtout du développement durable, il est clair (et je l'ai dit) que c'est en conjonction avec la préparation du Programme ordinaire et les grandes priorités qui sont assises, avec l'examen du document C 91/30, avec toutes les activités qui ont été menées sous l'autorité de mon collègue M. Mahler (qui pourrait effectivement répondre mieux que cela ici, mais nous essayons de résumer un peu le débat), qui donc sont traités par ailleurs. Cela ne peut pas prétendre ici être la réponse à tout. C'est une certaine vue. Je pense toutefois qu'un jugement peut-être sévère a été porté par certains délégués sur le caractère académique de nos réflexions dans l'Environnement, dans la mesure où on peut le trouver déjà dans bien des projets. Ce sont des projets qui prennent en compte l'environnement qui ont été remarqués, et qui font l'objet d'une certaine satisfaction exprimée de votre part. J'en citerai un ou deux. Je pourrais citer celui de l'éradication de la lucilie bouchère, qui est quand même un projet exemplaire en matière d'appel à des moyens modernes de lutte contre les maladies et contre les insectes.

Je pourrais faire appel aussi à ce projet que l'on considère comme vraiment remarquable, et qui a fait l'objet d'une distinction particulière en la récompense de celui qui en assume la responsabilité, M. Moore, qui a reçu la récompense sur le projet de lutte intégrée, de contrôle intégré, des maladies dans les cultures (en ce moment) du riz.

Et cela, je dois dire que ce sont des approches bien réelles, bien concrètes, et que nous menons dans ces domaines-là depuis des années.

Je pourrais aussi intervenir sur les problèmes évoqués par certains délégués sur les insatisfactions qu'ils ont ressenties à l'égard des évaluations. C'est là aussi un problème de choix. Nous devons vivre avec nos contraintes, et les contraintes financières en sont.

Il faut savoir quelle part de crédit il faut affecter à l'évaluation des projets, quelle part il faut affecter aux projets eux-mêmes, et quel est le point efficace que l'on doit rencontrer.

D'abord dire que les évaluations de projets sont des évaluations, parce que cela paraît peut-être ne pas avoir été clairement exposé par nous, ou clairement compris. Ce sont des missions indépendantes à caractère tripartite; le pays dans lequel le projet est évalué, la source de financement, Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, où le donateur est la FAO. Et chacun nomme son expert, a un chef de mission, et délégué. Donc ces missions ne sont pas spécifiquement sous l'entière responsabilité de la FAO. C'est un partage de tâches et de responsabilités. C'est à prendre aussi dans le cadre de cet aspect coopératif de tous nos travaux. Il est aussi vrai que l'on fixe, tout en (contrairement à ce qui aurait pu aussi être estimé) gardant les critères d'évaluation fixés par le PNUD. C'est vrai que ce sont plutôt des projets à problèmes, méritant des révisions, qui font le choix de ces évaluations, qui coûtent en fait cher, et que c'est plutôt donc les projets qui auraient le degré de moindre satisfaction.

Cela dit, nous ne prétendons pas que tout ce que nous pouvons en dire a une valeur absolue. Et nous avons voulu (et c'est peut-être là notre fragilité) livrer les résultats de nos évaluations, les résultats des difficultés rencontrées, tels quels, avec beaucoup de transparence.

Peut-être que cela montre (mais nous le préférons) nos faiblesses, au risque au moins de dire: eh bien, les voilà. Peut-être aussi que, certes, l'on pourrait nous accuser (et c'est un problème d'expression probablement) d'un certain optimisme dans le compte rendu de résultats qui mériterait peut-être un peu plus de réserve. Mais vous avez à la fois les chiffres, notre commentaire, et nous sommes vraiment prêts à reconnaître sur ce domaine ce que sont nos faiblesses, et le goût en fait de les reprendre.

Cela étant dit, l'évaluation qui serait faite par des experts, des équipes entièrement expertes, nous séduirait fort. Ce sont souvent des problèmes de coûts de ces évaluations qui peuvent nous arrêter, je l'ai dit au début. Le problème est, si tout ne se réduit pas à des problèmes financiers.

La qualité que vous attendez des projets qui sont réalisés, exécutés par la FAO, dépend aussi de la qualité des moyens que l'on peut y affecter. L'évaluation qui peut-être, effectivement, présente le plus de défauts à sa cuirasse, c'est l'évaluation que j'appellerai sur table qui a été faite de 57 projets du Programme de coopération technique. Nous pouvions vous la présenter comme un élément de réflexion et de travail au titre de cet examen du Programme de terrain. Nous pouvons garder cela, comme c'est le cas quand nous le faisons, en tant que document interne qui nous permet vraiment d'utiliser un résultat brut, cela pour les projets à venir et dans le cadre de l'expérience interne que nous acquérons. Nous vous l'avons livrée. Là aussi c'est un type d'évaluation qu'il est souhaitable de faire, qu'il est souhaitable que nous fassions, et que nous faisons effectivement avec des moyens modestes parce que nous ne pouvons pas, dans les choix que nous sommes amenés à faire, à la fois agir et nous juger. Nous faisons un choix médian.

Je ne peux pas aborder en profondeur toutes les remarques qui ont été faites sur le Programme de coopération technique. D'abord, j'ai remarqué - et cela a été dit - que la meilleure évaluation de la qualité du Programme de coopération technique est, lorsqu'un projet a été exécuté, la satisfaction qu'en a et les services qu'en estime avoir reçu le pays lui-même. Je crois que de ce côté-là de nombreux délégués ont fait part de la satisfaction continue et reconnue que leur apportent les résultats des projets du Programme de coopération technique.

Aussi, lorsque nous les plaçons par catégorie, nous plaçons un projet dans une catégorie et pas dans une autre s'il relève de deux catégories, de façon à arriver à un total de 100 pour cent en bas de la colonne de répartition. Si nous utilisions plusieurs critères pour chaque projet, vous auriez des variations fortes dans ces évaluations et vous verriez apparaître par exemple bien des projets classés dans le domaine forestier, classés aussi dans le domaine de conseils en matière de politique, dans des domaines d'urgence, dans des domaines de formation, apparaissant en réaction à des situations d'urgence. Je prends l'exemple de ces Programmes de coopération technique affectés à la formation rapide de personnes pour l'identification de la lucilie bouchère et de ses ravages dans les pays voisins de la Libye; donc, en cela aussi, appréciation peut-être difficile!

S'agissant d'une remarque particulière faite dans le domaine du Programme de coopération technique et que j'aurais dû faire dans la présentation de l'examen, car cela relève des erreurs d'expression, l'encadré N° 2 qui se trouve après le paragraphe 396 dans l'évaluation dudit programme, et qui parle d'un projet qui s'est développé au Lesotho, fait part, dans son dernier paragraphe, dans les reproches qui lui ont été faits, de la faible priorité qu'accorde un gouvernement à un Programme de coopération technique, interdisant tout simplement la mise en route de ce programme puisque nous ne signons pas de Programmes de coopération technique s'ils ne sont pas affirmés, parmi d'autres critères, comme grandes priorités d'action pour les gouvernements qui ont fait la requête. Donc, les deux sont totalement incompatibles et, en fait, ce sont les ressources, insuffisantes à ce moment-là, que pouvait mettre en contrepartie, pour des raisons tout à fait objectives, le gouvernement, qui ont causé les difficultés de ce projet, mais pas la faible priorité qu'il y accordait.

M. le Président, si vous le voulez bien, je demanderai à mon collègue M. Forbes Watt, ainsi qu'à M. Regnier, d'évoquer certains problèmes.

**CHAIRMAN:** I said before that we would finish at 17.45. I think you will have ample time in which to answer the various matters. I think we should stop now and take this up Monday morning.

We will adjourn now and meet on Monday morning at 9.30 hours. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/9

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE  
NOVENA SESION

(18 November 1991)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de  
la Commission II

Se abre la novena sesión a las 9.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente  
de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

17. Review of Field Programmes 1990 91 (continued 91 (suite)

17. Examen des Programmes de terrain 1990

17. Examen de los Programas de Campo 199091 (continuación)

17.1 Operational Activities for Development (continued)

17.1 Activités opérationnelles de développement (suite)

17.1 Actividades operacionales para el desarrollo (continuación)

**CHAIRMAN:** Good-morning, the Ninth Session of Commission I is called to order. When we finished on Friday afternoon there were still some answers to be given from the Secretariat. We were still on Item 17 so Mr Regnier please will now speak.

**A. REGNIER (Directeur, Division du développement des Programmes de terrain):** Le débat que nous avons tenu vendredi dernier a été riche et pour le Secrétariat fournit des indications fort utiles pour les orientations futures du Programme de terrain. A ce stade, je voudrais me permettre de répondre à un certain nombre de questions et de commentaires des distingués délégués, évitant d'aborder les sujets qui ont déjà fait l'objet de réponses la semaine passée de la part de M. Shah - par exemple sur les fonds fiduciaires - et de M. Rinvile sur le PCT, l'évaluation et l'environnement.

Tout en restant ultérieurement à votre disposition pour des questions que j'aurais négligées, pour des raisons de commodité, je voudrais grouper mes réponses autour de quatre sujets principaux: le rôle de conseiller en matière de politique et, plus généralement, le rôle en amont des projets; l'approche-programme ; la coordination au niveau des pays; les nouveaux arrangements pour les dépenses d'appui du PNUD.

Conseil en matière de politique et analyse en amont des projets: De nombreuses délégations s'y sont référés, en général appréciant l'intensification récente de nos travaux dans ce secteur. La délégation de la Finlande a cependant demandé comment nous comptons intégrer davantage cet effort dans le Programme de terrain, et celle de la Suède a relevé au graphique 2.5 (page 43) que la part de l'analyse des politiques était seulement de l'ordre de 8 pour cent.

Ces 8 pour cent se réfèrent à la catégorie de conseil en matière de politiques agricoles stricto sensu et, en réalité, sous-évaluent l'ampleur des tâches accomplies car de nombreuses activités en matière d'analyse des politiques ou d'examen sectoriel sont comptabilisées directement dans des secteurs comme forêts, pêches ou développement rural qui apparaissent séparément.

En réalité, ces activités en "amont" des projets sont en accroissement notable comme le montre la section correspondante du document C 91/21 sur la mise en oeuvre de la revue des paragraphes 35 à 64. Ces projets sont maintenant en cours ou dans la filière pour quelque 140 millions de dollars, sans parler des études entreprises par le Centre d'investissement. Ces projets couvrent les examens sectoriels et sous-sectoriels, la

préparation des réunions de donateurs ou de négociations de programmes d'ajustement structurel, et la mise en place ou le renforcement dans les pays de moyens d'analyse des politiques par la création d'institutions et/ou la formation.

Un effort intensifié dans cette direction est donc en cours et un rapport plus détaillé à ce sujet pourra être inclus dans le prochain Examen du Programme de terrain.

Bien entendu, notre travail à ce sujet présuppose qu'il y ait une requête de la part des récipiendaires: il n'est pas question d'imposer nos vues, mais de les exprimer lorsque nous en sommes sollicités; présuppose que nous soyons associés aux mécanismes de programmation et coordination des aides extérieures. A ce sujet, nous sommes "demandeurs" mais loin d'être souvent satisfaits. Le distingué Représentant de la France a exprimé le souhait de voir la FAO participer aux GC de la BIRD et aux TR du PNUD. Mais il sait, également, que nous n'y sommes généralement pas invités, n'étant pas une agence de financement et que nous ne pouvons y contribuer qu'à travers l'assistance aux gouvernements pour la préparation des documents - s'ils le souhaitent évidemment - et aux revues sectorielles - ce qui limite notre champ d'intervention; enfin, ce travail présuppose aussi les ressources nécessaires. Le PR permet certaines actions et le PCT a assuré ainsi le financement de près de 40 pour cent des projets terminés ou en cours; enfin, nous cherchons également à mobiliser des ressources extérieures, en particulier le PNUD, et la nouvelle facilité dite TSS-I, service d'appui technique au niveau des programmes, devrait nous permettre d'amplifier nos activités en amont - j'y reviendrai.

Entre-temps, en tout cas, le Secrétariat tente de s'organiser au mieux: en approfondissant ses données de base sur les pays; par l'institution d'un Comité directeur et d'une équipe spéciale chargée d'assurer la coordination du travail d'analyse et de conseil; en renforçant les Représentations de la FAO, hélas dans la mesure limitée de nos moyens.

L'approche par programme: L'approche-programme préconisée par la Résolution 44/211 de l'AG recueille notre assentiment et le PWB le souligne à suffisance. Ne serait-ce que du point de vue de la gestion et pour assurer le degré nécessaire de multidisciplinarité, il est préférable de se concentrer sur des projets atteignant une masse critique suffisante pour résoudre un problème spécifique ou sur des secteurs bien délimités.

Mais la définition de ces programmes est une responsabilité des pays eux-mêmes. Nos interventions ne peuvent être que tributaires de la demande de service.

Le dialogue avec les autorités doit être continu et les cycles de programmation du PNUD permettent un tel dialogue sur les programmes. A l'inverse, cependant, et parce que c'est une obligation constitutionnelle de la FAO, nous ne pouvons ignorer les requêtes *ad hoc*, individuelles, qui nous sont adressées - si elles sont techniquement valables évidemment - et qui s'intègrent bien souvent dans des priorités sectorielles et sous-sectorielles bien définies des gouvernements eux-mêmes. Voilà le sens du paragraphe 1.40 qui a été relevé par le distingué Représentant de la Suède. De même d'ailleurs, et pour les mêmes raisons, l'Organisation ne pourrait se limiter, comme il y a été fait allusion, aux seuls projets régionaux et

globaux. Pour assurer la pertinence des conseils qu'elle peut être amenée à fournir, la FAO doit garder le contact opérationnel avec les réalités concrètes au niveau local.

D'autre part, l'Organisation est tributaire des ressources extrabudgétaires dont elle dispose. Dans cette optique d'une approche programmatique, il est encourageant de constater que plus des 2/3 des fonds fiduciaires sont alloués au soutien des Programmes d'action spéciaux spécifiquement définis comme prioritaires par les organes directeurs.

On peut donc constater que vos messages passent en souplesse, sans dogmatisme, dans la réalité de nos activités de terrain, assurant la synergie entre Programme régulier et Programme de terrain.

La coordination au niveau des pays: Comme je l'ai dit, l'initiative de l'approche-programme revient aux gouvernements. Il n'empêche que le dialogue au niveau local entre les partenaires des Nations Unies est aussi fort important à ce sujet. La FAO, qui reconnaît le rôle de primus inter pares du Représentant coordonnateur, répète qu'elle est disponible pour ce dialogue sur les politiques et les programmes, en particulier en ce moment crucial pour la préparation du prochain cycle.

A cet égard, nous apprécions les Représentants résidents - qui ont également le rôle de coordonnateurs du système des Nations Unies - qui nous ont associés à la discussion de la "Note consultative" qui sert de document de base pour le programme du prochain cycle. Là où nous ne l'avons pas été - et nous ne savons pas pourquoi, car tous nos Représentants ont reçu l'instruction de se mettre à la disposition du PNUD - notre rôle dans la définition du programme devient plus difficile, voire aléatoire.

Voilà, en réponse à un distingué Représentant, ce que signifie la référence à "l'environnement institutionnel" au paragraphe 1.24, c'est-à-dire que les agences doivent être systématiquement consultées, tenant compte de leur rôle-pilote dans leur secteur de compétence et leur avis recherché sur le rôle des différents intervenants.

Ainsi, par exemple, la tendance parfois observée du PNUD de renforcer les capacités nationales au niveau des institutions centrales (Ministères des finances ou du plan), au détriment des ministères techniques, comme l'agriculture, qui est notre interlocuteur naturel, nous inquiète, car c'est précisément la capacité des ministères techniques qu'il s'agit de renforcer si on veut faciliter l'exécution nationale.

Les nouveaux arrangements pour les dépenses d'appui du PNUD: Ceux-ci représentent une novation importante - pas seulement quantitative (le niveau de remboursement), mais aussi qualitative (la nature des services à rendre).

Le distingué Représentant du Royaume-Uni nous a dit que ces arrangements n'étaient pas "optionnels" pour les cinq agences visées, mais qu'il s'agissait de les mettre en oeuvre.

Le Directeur général en est tout à fait conscient et nous nous organisons au mieux pour y faire face. Le paragraphe 5 du Supplément 1 - que certains délégués ont mentionné - ne cherche pas à prendre des distances. Il signifie seulement que les ajustements doivent se faire dans l'ordre, compte tenu aussi des postes en jeu comme l'a rappelé M. Shah, en



équilibrant recettes et dépenses. A cet égard, nous aurions sans doute préféré une transition plus longue, car le maintien du régime forfaitaire actuel de 13 pour cent pour 500 millions de dollars de projet perdra déjà sans doute l'essentiel de ses effets avant la fin de 1993.

D'autre part, les ajustements à effectuer seront difficiles à quantifier avec précision aussi longtemps que la charge de travail selon le nouveau régime ne pourra pas être évaluée. C'est donc à la lueur de l'expérience qu'il faudra moduler le rythme et la profondeur des ajustements à appliquer - d'où cette flexibilité requise par le Directeur général et dont la nécessité, me semble-t-il, a été reconnue.

Ceci dit, les décisions ayant été prises, il faut aborder maintenant le sujet comme un défi à relever, une opportunité, pour en tirer le meilleur parti possible. Nous y sommes déterminés et je peux assurer les délégués que nous continuerons à collaborer aussi étroitement que possible avec le PNUD.

Vous me permettez donc de dire quelques mots sur comment nous voyons notre rôle en fonction de l'exécution nationale et des nouvelles modalités TSS-I/TSS-II/AOS et comment nous nous y préparons.

L'exécution nationale: Je voudrais tout d'abord rassurer le distingué Représentant du Canada concernant la propriété (ownership) des projets. Pour nous, depuis toujours, il n'y a pas de projets FAO, mais des projets du gouvernement assistés par la FAO.

Le distingué Représentant de la Suède a dit que sur cette question de l'exécution nationale, la FAO était à la fois à l'avant-garde tout en étant réticente devant le processus.

A l'avant-garde sûrement: Plus de 400 projets sont dirigés par des directeurs nationaux; dans certains pays nous n'avons pas un seul expatrié dans nos projets; le renforcement des institutions est inscrit dans presque tous nos projets; enfin, nous organisons ici au Siège des séminaires pour former des équipes nationales à la formulation de la gestion des projets.

Nous pensons cependant que les décisions quant aux modalités d'exécution doivent être prises au cas par cas après les consultations nécessaires avec comme principal souci la bonne fin des opérations.

Nous pensons aussi que l'exécution nationale, quand elle est décidée, doit être authentique et non se muer en exécution par le Bureau local du PNUD ou le Bureau des services d'appui du PNUD (OPS). Or, nous avons pu constater que le plus gros des dépenses au titre des projets exécutés au niveau national se fait, en fait, à travers ces mécanismes et que l'OPS a pratiquement doublé ses approbations en un an et est en passe de devenir le principal agent d'exécution des projets du PNUD.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la FAO est disposée à offrir son soutien et ses services techniques aux pays qui opèrent eux-mêmes leur projet à titre d'agence coopérante. Elle est aussi prête à participer avec le PNUD à la formulation intérimaire, et ensuite définitive, des directives qui doivent gouverner l'exécution nationale, ainsi que la décision du PNUD le requiert.

Les nouveaux services: La FAO est consciente qu'à l'avenir elle aura moins à intervenir dans la gestion administrative et financière des projets et davantage pour les activités en amont et le support technique des programmes et des projets (AOS vis-à-vis du TSS-I et TSS-II).

Reste à voir si l'un compensera l'autre puisque pour TSS-I et TSS-II il n'y a pas de préallocation par agence - comme l'a rappelé le distingué Représentant du Danemark - ce sera le jeu de la demande et de la compétition. Nous vous avons donné nos premières estimations dans le document Supplément 1 - à réévaluer en permanence cependant du fait des incertitudes présentes.

Pour TSS-I, nous avons déjà mis en place un mécanisme interne pour contribuer à la préparation du programme de travail pour les deux premières années, ainsi que prévu par la décision du Conseil d'administration.

En ce qui concerne TSS-II, je voudrais assurer le distingué Représentant du Royaume-Uni que le paragraphe 1.90 ne sous-entend pas un moindre intérêt de la FAO pour les services envisagés par TSS-II, mais souligne l'importance qu'il y aurait pour la FAO d'être associée dès le début du cycle des projets, même lorsque l'exécution sera nationale, de manière à être mieux à même d'assurer à moindre frais les services en question.

Nous partageons par ailleurs l'avis du distingué délégué des Etats-Unis quant au niveau insuffisant des ressources affectées au TSS-II.

Enfin, pour ce qui est de AOS, le choix des modalités d'exécution est dans les mains des gouvernements; nous sommes cependant prêts à contribuer soit directement comme agence d'exécution, soit indirectement comme agence coopérante.

Pour ces différents services, les modalités de rétribution sont toujours à l'examen. La FAO y joue un rôle actif et nous espérons que sous peu des solutions concertées pourront être arrêtées. Sur ces discussions entre les agences et le PNUD, ainsi que sur le programme de formation, M. Forbes Watt, ici à mes côtés, qui préside le Groupe des agences, pourra vous en dire davantage.

Pour ma part, je voudrais conclure en m'excusant d'avoir été si long - mais le débat avait été si riche - et en rappelant notre volonté de coopérer au mieux avec le PNUD dans la mise en place de ces nouveaux arrangements. Nous sommes aussi conscients, comme l'a rappelé le distingué Représentant du Royaume-Uni, des dispositions qui ont été prévues pour l'examen périodique de ces mécanismes permettant les ajustements qui se révéleraient nécessaires, car on ne peut oublier que ceux-ci sont complexes et qu'on ne pourra évaluer leur efficacité qu'à l'expérience.

**F. RINVILLE (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement):** Je voudrais maintenant que M. Forbes Watt puisse compléter sur les problèmes de formation qui ont été effectivement évoqués par certains délégués, et une évaluation qui avait paru forte du coût nécessaire; de même qu'il pourrait donner des indications sommaires sur l'échéancier des travaux en cours entre la FAO, ses agences soeurs, et surtout la coordination avec le PNUD qui donnera une idée des comptes rendus que nous pourrions fournir dans l'année qui vient lorsque ces travaux seront venus à échéance sur les modalités réellement adoptées et mises en oeuvre.

**D. FORBES WATT (Adviser, Special Development Subjects, Development Department):** Mr Chairman, delegates may be aware that the process of preparing successor support cost arrangements has been quite a lengthy one and has been going on intensively in consultations between the five principal agencies concerned in this decision: FAO; ILO, Unesco, UNIDO, UNCTD and UNDP. The process has been on the whole quite a constructive one, very frank and open. Several delegates here, I know have participated in it from the point of view of the Governing Council, and it has been very much tripartite between governments, UNDP and the agencies and the result, the decision, is a complex one, as a number of delegates have mentioned, but complex because of its intentions and the motivations which it wishes to provide to induce shifts and changes in the way technical cooperation proceeds with UNDP funding. We as agencies, and certainly as FAO, have participated very fully in the decision, in the lead-up and in the preparations; we are certainly participants and accept its thrust and its contents and do not view it as in any way optional. It is something that we are taking very seriously and we have already been moving on within the Organization in terms of preparations and adjustments.

The costs of training were mentioned by Germany and several other delegates as seemingly very high. A figure of US\$1.5 million for FAO alone is mentioned in the Review of Field Programmes. The overall training effort at national, sub-regional, regional and Headquarters level, involving five major agencies, UNDP, and a lot of concerned government officials, as you can well imagine, cannot be underestimated, and the fact that the decision is admittedly complex should signal to us that the training efforts will need to be intense if they are to be effective and ensure as smooth and as timely an implementation of the new arrangements as possible. To increase efficiency and to contain the cost to the maximum extent, the agencies involved in UNDP are pursuing joint approaches to training at the various levels I mentioned and the detailed training schedule, which will cover 1992, will be available in the first week of December. It will be finalized between the agencies and UNDP at the IACM meeting in New York in the first week of December.

The estimate of US\$1.5 million for FAO has to be seen in perspective against the large needs - we are, after all, the largest operating agency of the five - and it would mainly comprise senior staff time, travel, and the use of training facilities at Headquarters and around the world, where seminars, briefing and training will be organized. This training programme will take account of the early experience of incorporating the new modalities as we move through 1992. We can only hope that the estimate we have shown you will be contained and we will certainly be providing details of the actual costs incurred to the Finance Committee as these arise, so this will be something we will be very careful about.

We do see the inter-agency task force and UNDP meeting constantly during 1992 to monitor the implementation of the new procedures, and in this connection I would like to comment for a moment on a point raised by Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom, and that is on the monitoring arrangements for these successor support costs, the new framework to be introduced. Every year, beginning in May 1992 at the Thirty-ninth UNDP Governing Council, there will be a review of experience with the successor support cost arrangements in view of their radical compared with what we have been used to and the fact that, in many ways, they are going on a basis which may need some revisions. This we do not know, but it will be monitored by the Governing Council, which will also be considering

transitional arrangements in May 1991. They will be monitored again in 1993 and there will be a major review of the implementation of the new arrangements to take place in 1994. So I think that the agencies, UNDP and the countries concerned in the Governing Council are taking this very seriously and it will be something that we will follow and be reporting to you as progress is achieved.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you Mr Forbes Watt. I take it this concludes the replies from the Secretariat. Are there any further comments from the floor?

**François ROHNER (Suisse):** Je tiens ici à remercier les intervenants de ce matin pour les explications qu'ils nous ont données, des explications détaillées qui, je crois, nous ont permis de mieux comprendre la situation effective.

Nous avons, avec ces nouveaux arrangements, effectivement un grand défi devant nous, la FAO, le PNUD et tout le reste de la famille des Nations Unies. Il sera très important d'arriver à un arrangement qui fonctionne, qui soit applicable, avec un coût raisonnable.

Nous avons passé deux ans très intenses sur ces nouveaux arrangements et je dirai qu'il est bientôt temps de revenir à des préoccupations qui me paraissent au moins aussi importantes et qui ne devraient pas disparaître à l'arrière-plan. C'est en effet l'efficacité et l'impact des opérations financées par le système des Nations Unies. J'ai regretté que, dans ce débat, nous n'ayons pas entendu la voix du PNUD qui a pourtant été cité à de nombreuses occasions.

De petits commentaires pour finir. Nous avons beaucoup parlé de TSS-I et TSS-II AOS; je ne suis pas sûr que beaucoup de gens aient compris en détail de quoi il s'agissait. Pour ce qui me concerne, j'aimerais ajouter à cela une remarque, c'est que le TSS-I et le TSS-II sont des ressources très limitées. J'espère beaucoup pour ma part que l'utilisation des services techniques de la compétence, de l'expérience de la FAO et des autres institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies ne se limitera pas à ces deux rubriques TSS-I et TSS-II, mais que les ressources des CIP, qui représentent le reste des ressources, à savoir 93 pour cent de la totalité des ressources mises à disposition des programmes par pays, serviront également à faire plein usage de cette compétence technique des institutions. C'est dans l'utilisation de ces compétences que nous voyons l'avantage comparatif de l'aide fournie par le système des Nations Unies.

Je me limiterai donc à ces quelques remarques, en remerciant encore une fois M. Rinvile, M. Reigner, M. Forbes Watt des compléments qu'ils nous ont donnés ce matin.

**CHAIRMAN:** Are there any further comments? I think the time has come when I should sum up. As I have said before, this is not an attempt to cover everything. The Drafting Group has the good assistance of the Secretariat and has its own agenda to find out what is right in the draft. However, let me try.

I think it was agreed that this report is a very valuable one. I further note what Mr Régnier said about the next issue of the Report which is probably going to be more comprehensive and better.

My second point is on the question of national directors. This was discussed quite a bit and the Secretariat gave us some answers. I think we should understand what some delegates say, but this development is a gradual one, or should be a gradual one. We cannot suddenly change over the whole system in a very brief period of time. So I think that is a very important point. I could give my third point as the text role of country officers. I think it is worthwhile noting that some delegates felt that, in practice, there was a need for more progress in this sense, more progress towards decentralization which is the main part of the whole exercise.

My fourth point is on TCP where there have been a lot of comments, generally very satisfactory comments as seen from the Secretariat's point of view. But I think it should also be stressed in the report that some delegates asked for better criteria on these projects.

My next point is the programme approach, where Mr Regnier made some very valuable comments on the actual developments with Trust Funds and Special Action Programmes. I think I can permit myself to mention that the DANIDA Study which has been commented on by number of countries should be brought up.

Then we come to the most difficult point of all, the successor arrangements. This is a very important point. Some delegates made some very precise remarks on this. As is obvious from the remarks and also from the answers, especially from Mr Shah, FAO should be flexible in this. This is a development which is not optional. Mr Regnier mentioned that too.

Therefore it is important that FAO should draw the necessary conclusions from this new arrangement. I have noted in the report that so far no real evaluation for personnel has been made. It should be made quickly. I think that was the sense of the meeting, and the report should be presented to the Finance Committee at a very early stage.

In this context, there was also a discussion about the supplementary paper on Trust Funds activities. We look forward to seeing an analysis of this so that it can be properly studied.

I have noted in this particular context that there were rather divergent views on whether it was a good idea to use Regular Fund money for this purpose, partly or not. I think the views should come out.

In listening to Mr Regnier this morning, I noted also what he said about Policy Analysis Study. I think it should be made quite clear, how much FAO goes into this business. Some delegates were critical about the small figure given, but you gave an answer which was broader. I think it should be made in reasonably precise terms in the report.

I think those were the main points. There may be others which I may have forgotten. But I think we can conclude Item 17 and forward it to the Drafting Group.

Our next item will be Item 18. On this, my second Vice-Chairman from Sri Lanka, Mr Nilaweera, has promised to take the Chair.

D. Nilaweera. Vice-Chairman of Commission II, took the Chair

D. Nilaweera. Vice-Président de la Commission II. assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia D. Nilaweera, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

18. Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development: Progress Report

18. Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches: Rapport intérimaire

18. Estrategia para la ordenación y el desarrollo de la pesca: Inform parcial

**CHAIRMAN:** Distinguished delegates, before I move to the substantive item for discussion, let me take this opportunity to thank all the delegates who supported my nomination to the post of Second Vice-Chairman. I am sure it will help me to do my job better, and of course the Secretariat.

The document before us this morning, C 91/25, is Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development. I give the floor now to Mr Lindquist, Assistant Director-General to introduce this item.

**A.H. LINDQUIST (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department):** As you are aware, the FAO Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, convened in Rome in 1984, was a landmark in Fisheries.

Apart from reviewing the practicalities of implementing the new legal Regime of the Ocean as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Conference endorsed by consensus the Strategy for fisheries management and development which consisted of principles and guidelines to be taken into account when planning and executing steps to improve the contribution of fisheries to social, economic and nutritional goals. You will recall that the Director-General had presented a preliminary Progress Report to the session of the FAO Governing Bodies held in 1987 which had recommended that further Progress Reports should be prepared at four-year intervals.

A second Progress Report was, therefore, submitted to the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries held in April this year and to the FAO Council in June this year.

The preparation of the reports which is in document C 91/25 has been made possible through the replies received from governments and organizations. The contributions received there, I am pleased to say, were substantial and many of the most comprehensive contributions received were from developing countries. The replies received clearly demonstrate that the Strategy has provided, and continues to provide, guidance to the best approaches to fisheries management and development both for countries and for donor agencies. They also indicate the manner in which the international consensus on these matters at the World Fisheries Conference helped to raise the image of the fisheries sector at the highest level of Government.

The replies show that the Strategy has been of value and use in preparing or reviewing national plans and programmes. The Committee on Fisheries, at its session in April, noted that encouraging progress had been made. A number of countries observed that governments had been confronted with extreme difficulties during the period following the World Fisheries Conference, while adequate international assistance had not been forthcoming to meet their needs.

It was also noted that environment and sustainability in fisheries, coastal area management, appropriate fishery management systems, removal of trade barriers and increasing national research capacity be given increased emphasis in this Strategy.

Other issues of interest stressed by the Committee on Fisheries included training and transfer of technologies so as to improve the self-reliance of developing countries in planning and implementing fisheries development and management programmes, strengthening of national capabilities in stock assessment, and socio-economic data collection and compilation, inland fisheries and aquaculture, and private sector involvement in fisheries development.

The Committee recommended that FAO should prepare a special publication summarizing all national reports and debates, and highlighting the benefits derived, as well as the proposals for a more rapid and streamlined implementation of the Strategy, particularly in developing countries.

The second Progress Report was expected to deal not only with the continued utility of the Strategy itself but also to examine the expectations and experiences of countries as they had sought to develop and manage their fisheries within the context of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

From the responses made by some governments in this respect, it was clear that experiences have varied. In some cases there have been very positive and beneficial results, while in others the results have not been as expected. Meanwhile, the Secretariat has taken steps to prepare a study on this subject to be published in a special chapter of FAO's annual publication *The State of Food and Agriculture 1992*, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of UNCLOS.

In June 1991 the FAO Council noted with satisfaction that considerable progress had been achieved in implementing the World Fisheries Conference Strategy.

Please allow me, Mr Chairman, to draw attention to two major events that have taken place since the sessions of the Committee on Fisheries and the Council, and which are relevant to the implementation of the Strategy.

The first one was the Second Session of the Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean, which took place in Dakar, Senegal, from 1-5 July 1991. That Conference adopted a regional convention on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean and endorsed a regional cooperation programme. It also adopted two resolutions dealing with monitoring control and surveillance of foreign fishing activities in the EEZ and the follow-up to the UNGA Resolution 45/185 concerning fisheries cooperation in Africa.

Secondly, the Second Ministerial Conference on Fisheries also referred to as the World Conference of Ministers of Fisheries organized by the Government of Spain was held in La Toja, Spain, from 8-12 September 1991. That Conference stressed the urgent need for consideration of fishery resources and protection of the environment, pointing out that sustainable development of fisheries is not only a matter of rational management and utilization of aquatic resources, but also that of harmonization with the aquatic environment and ecosystem.

The importance of international cooperation on fisheries management development was stressed by those two Conferences. The promotion of joint ventures, investment, free access to markets, research and strengthening of the regional fishery bodies and commissions were some of the specific areas underlined.

The Strategy endorsed by the World Fisheries Conference thus provides a sound and integrated basis for FAO and other technical assistance and financial agencies to aid and advise countries as they seek to enhance their own capacities for fisheries management and development.

The Conference is invited to review the report and offer guidance and comments on future courses of action required to promote the management and sustainable development of fisheries.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Lindquist for presenting this document so lucidly and capturing all the salient points. The discussion is now open.

**Mrs Malgorzata PIOTROWSKA (Poland):** It is very appropriate that the FAO Conference is reviewing the follow-up actions required to the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It means that the impetus provided by that important and historic Conference has not been lost. The remarkable consensus achieved at that Conference, clearly recognizing the varied situations and special policies of individual nations, must continue to seek to work together within the framework of FAO to secure a new and improved basis for the better management and use of the world's fishery resources.

My delegation is grateful to the Director-General for the document before us on the subject, and extends our congratulations for a paper which is not only informative and constructive but also brief, as well as comprehensive. Dr Lindquist deserves special appreciation for this excellent presentation.

It is noteworthy for us that the last Progress Report was based on replies from more countries than before; secondly, that the contributions received were more substantial; thirdly, that the majority of the responding governments confirmed that the guidelines and principles contained in the Strategy had been and still are of value and use in helping to prepare or review plans and programmes for the fisheries sector; and fourthly, that greater emphasis is being placed upon fisheries in national economic and social plans, and in particular for better fisheries management and development.

We are pleased to note the concrete steps taken by the Director-General with regard to the prompt actions already taken to implement the World Fisheries Conference recommendations, as indicated in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this document.

Part IV of document C 91/25 entitled Comments and Recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries well reflects the discussions held on this subject by the last COFI session.

We support the comments by the FAO Council as contained in Part V of this document, and we fully agree with the conclusions and suggested action by the Conference as spelt out in paragraphs 88, 89 and 90.



**Eivind HOMME (Norway):** I want to start by thanking the secretariat under the leadership of Mr Lindquist for their efforts to draw attention to the importance of the area of fisheries by having produced a Progress Report on the follow-up of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, endorsed by the World Fisheries Conference in 1984.

The fisheries sector is increasingly becoming more important, both as an economic sector for providing employment in the coastal areas and for its contribution to improved nutrition. This calls for higher attention to this area both in the developing countries and among the donor community and gives FAO an important role to play as the leading international organization for conservation and utilization of living aquatic resources.

The Norwegian delegation finds that the 1984 Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development still covers the main areas and issues. The sustainability aspects and gender issues should, however, be further integrated into the guiding principles of the Strategy. We are pleased that the importance of strengthening women's role and position within the fisheries sector is becoming more recognized, and this should relate to all elements of the Strategy.

Related to development of the fisheries is an increasing need for better knowledge. The Study on International Fisheries Research, which was recently published, offers a good basis for follow-up, bilaterally as well as multilaterally. The importance placed on the development and support of national research is, in our view, certainly called for. FAO has an important task to perform in disseminating information and identifying further needs for scientific knowledge in this respect.

Norway is increasingly directing its own development support towards fisheries research and management. This includes, first and foremost, capacity building and strengthening of institutions for research and fisheries administration on a national basis. Training in fisheries biology, stock assessment and in fisheries management is given high priority in this regard, and training courses for this purpose have been developed by Norwegian institutions.

I should like to draw your attention to the Dr Fridtjof Nansen Programme, which has been going on since 1974 through considerable financial support from my country. The Norwegian government is now planning the building of a new research vessel to continue to support fisheries and environmental research in the marine waters of developing countries.

The new programme will include more follow-up activities with regard to making use of the knowledge gained, especially concerning support increased national capacity with a fisheries, research and management. A close cooperation between FAO and Norway in the implementation of this programme will be continued.

**Josaia MAIVUSAROKO (Fiji):** May I first of all thank the Secretariat for the very comprehensive and informative document which they presented to introduce the discussions on this very important subject. In this respect I would like to state briefly what my Government is doing in order to implement the strategies for fisheries development and management.

Fiji is an archipelagic nation in the South Pacific region encompassing several hundred islands and reefs, and controlling an exclusive economic zone of 1.29 million square kilometres.

Fiji's fishery resources are not particularly rich. The reef and lagoon fishery is very much a multispecies fishery with over 100 economically-significant species, none of which are found individually in high densities. The offshore fishery is south of the major Pacific skipjack tuna fishing grounds, but supports the only 100 percent locally owned tune fishing and canning industry amongst the Pacific Island Nations. The traditional subsistence fishery is still extremely important to the rural people of Fiji.

Including the estimated volume of the subsistence catch, the point-of-sale catch value of the whole Fiji fishery was worth around F\$104 million in 1990 (US\$ 73 million). At least half of this valuation came from the export of canned or chilled tuna. The reef and lagoon fishery accounts for the remainder, but around half of this remainder is the projected value of the subsistence fishery.

After a decade of steady increase in the volume of reef and lagoon catches for the domestic market, following Government development efforts, this fishery has remained on a plateau for the past three years.

Overfishing has occurred on several crustacean and mollusk species, and the reef and lagoon fin-fishery is felt to be approaching the limits of maximum economic yield around the main islands.

The offshore fishery has proved a focus of investment over the past five years, mainly in the form of Fiji-foreign joint ventures to exploit the longline fisheries for export of chilled, whole fished (both deepwater snapper and the larger tunas). In the main, these offshore fisheries are still exploited at much less than 50 percent of the estimated maximum allowable catch.

Fisheries development and management is the responsibility of the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Primary Industries and Cooperatives. Since its establishment in 1965, the Division has been very much a development-oriented body. The Division now runs a network of 20 fisheries extension and research stations around Fiji, maintains 17 ice-plants for the benefit of fisherman, and runs a subsidized small boat-building and artisanal fisherman's training scheme.

With the increasing saturation of reef and lagoon fisheries, the Fisheries Division is now trying to divert more of its resources away from inshore fisheries development and into fisheries management.

At the same time, it is attempting to divert more effort into offshore fisheries, both actively such as through the deployment of payaos for the benefit of small-scale fisherman, and indirectly through public education and the vetting of investment proposals. Aquaculture is an activity that is starting to prove its economic potential, but this is more attractive to farmers than to fishermen.

It is not proving easy to change direction. The people of Fiji, whilst strong artisanal fishermen, have always been able to supply their needs from the reef and lagoon fishery, and have never had to venture for

offshore like their small-island brethren in Polynesia and Micronesia. It is also difficult, in a country that is still developing its primary sector production (through mining and agriculture), to accept that inshore fisheries may have already reached the limit of their development potential. There are still economic gains to be made in the reef and lagoon fishery, but these will require more of a focus on quality instead of quantity. This will mean the diversion of fishing effort from main-island to outer-island fisheries, and the control of destructive fishing practices.

Given this scenario Fiji's strategies for fisheries management and development are clear:

- We must pay more attention to management-oriented law-enforcement on reef and lagoon fisheries, particularly through the facilitation of still-active traditional resource ownership and conservation methods. This would be aimed towards identifying those fishing grounds or species with problems, and strengthening institutional enforcement. Revising the domestic fisheries legislation to account for a more conservation-oriented approach is a strong priority
- We must improve commercial opportunities in the offshore fishery and encourage inshore fishermen to take advantage of those opportunities. The Fiji-foreign joint venture approach has shown many more failures than successes, and it would be preferable to develop this gradually from a local basis. Unfortunately, offshore fisheries tend to be much more capital-intensive than inshore;
- If greater economic returns to fishermen are not possible through increases in the inshore catch, there is still great scope for improving value through better handling and further processing, particularly for export
- Small-scale aquacultural techniques, primarily aimed at the local market, show great promise for increasing cost-effective protein supplies to cope with local population growth.
- .The growth of the Fiji tourism sector is providing less resource-intensive opportunities for economic benefit from fish, through sport-fishing and diving. However, the economic returns to village people are often less direct than from fishing, and some institutionalization of traditionally-owned marine reserve areas is needed.

In short, the Fiji fisheries sector is entering a period of transition, where the focus of development must shift towards the offshore fishery and management of inshore fisheries must increase. This is a transition that Fiji is not likely to be able to handle without external assistance and advice.

**Kyaw LWIN (Myanmar):** The 1984 World Fisheries Conference endorsed the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development. We have taken into account these guidelines and principles in planning and executing activities to improve management and development in the Fisheries Sectors of Myanmar.

The 2 800 kilometres coastline of Myanmar supports a vast reservoir of various fish resources and accounts for 80 percent of the total national fish production. The marine resources, however, still remain underexploited. The total harvested in 1990 amounted to only about 0.5 million metric tonnes against an estimated sustainable yield of over one million metric tonnes. Our national fishing fleet still lacks the capacity to accommodate its full potential and as an interim bridging measure, and in conformity with the United Nations convention of the Law of the Sea, such as for sharing surpluses, a number of fishing rights associated with development programmes have been granted to foreign fishing vessels. The rights are for one year with options for extensions and are meant to serve as a prelude to more economically viable joint ventures under foreign investment laws.

The inshore fisheries, however, still remain the domain of small-scale and regional fishermen who are in apparent need of further support and development. The law relating to aquaculture enacted in 1989 has accelerated the progress and large tracts of suitable areas have been identified, demarcated, and reserved for aquaculture.

Mr Chairman, we fully reaffirm our support. The vitally important issues mentioned in paragraphs 28, 32, 77 and 78 of the Progress Report, C 91/25 are fully supported by us. I would also wish to take the opportunity of assuring this Commission that the fishing operations in Myanmar will be controlled under strict legal and administrative mechanisms so as to prevent overexploitation or damage to the environment.

**José Elias LEAL (México):** Para la delegación de México el tema 18, Estrategia para la Ordenación y el Desarrollo de la Pesca, contenido en el documento C 91/125, reviste una enorme importancia y nos permitimos hacer los siguientes comentarios:

La delegación de México, desea expresar su preocupación respecto a la iniciativa de reducir las asignaciones presupuestales a las actividades que desempeña la Organización en relación a la pesca. Nuestro país, considera importante resaltar que la actividad pesquera, particularmente en los países en desarrollo, como el nuestro, juega un importante papel en los esfuerzos nacionales para elevar la alimentación, ingresos, egresos y divisas.

México ha manifestado reiteradamente en diferentes foros, lo delicado y sensible que es reducir el presupuesto de pesca. Por otra parte, México se viene preparando, conjuntamente con la FAO, en la preparación de una Conferencia Internacional sobre Pesca Responsable que estimamos podría ser en 1992. Es muy importante y debe ser analizado por la comunidad internacional. México realiza su mejor esfuerzo porque esta Conferencia tenga el éxito que amerita. Finalmente, deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría y al Dr. Lindquist los esfuerzos realizados en la preparación y la presentación de los documentos.

Por su atención, muchas gracias.

**F.A. Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh):** Let me begin by congratulating the Secretariat on producing the document C 91/25, and complimenting the ADG Fisheries for introducing the subject. The document under consideration

contains a comprehensive presentation of the progress that has been made with regard to the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development which was endorsed by the 1984 World Fisheries Conference.

Here I would like to say that FAO has done an admirable job by preparing Progress Reports at regular intervals. The fact that FAO has been asked to present such Progress Reports at four-yearly intervals underscores the importance which the Member Nations attach to such Reports. My delegation is also deeply appreciative of the useful cooperation which the FAO has extended in preparing national reports by a number of developing countries.

Mr Chairman, we have noted the eight major elements of fisheries management and development in the Strategy. All of these elements are of great importance to Bangladesh and we hope to benefit from FAO's expertise and assistance in these fields.

Mr Chairman, in Bangladesh the development of fisheries has been given a very high priority by the Government. Besides being the major source of meeting the nutritional needs of the population, fisheries is also a source of employment and export earnings. We would like to share the expertise of FAO and other Member Nations in terms of technology and management in order to endeavour to make maximum utilization of fisheries resources.

Proper management of the coastal fisheries is also very important to us. As a nation Bangladesh is often struck by cyclonic storms which cause enormous losses to the coastal fisheries. My delegation will be very keenly following the deliberations of other distinguished delegations on this subject.

**Kwang Wook AN (Korea, Republic of):** It is my great pleasure to see you chairing this important Commission.

The Korean delegation agrees with other delegations on the comments that the 1984 World Fisheries Conference established very effective strategies to guide fisheries management and development. We also recognize that the strategies have a continuing validity and usefulness in the present and future.

Strategies that drew the special attention of my delegation are the Strategy Elements 4, 7 and 8.

As is properly mentioned in the Report, the protection of small-scale fisheries has a substantial importance in providing food for domestic consumption and employment in disadvantaged areas. The Korean delegation fully supports the recognition that the described steps in the Strategy should be taken to improve not only their efficiency but also the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities.

Another issue that is as important as the small-scale fisheries is the need of international cooperation in fisheries management. In order to maintain a sustainable fishery, inter-country collaboration in fisheries management is an indispensable element.

The harmonization of joint monitoring, control and surveillance systems is one of the most important aspects in the light of long-term fishery resource management.

Mr Chairman, experiences reported to the Nineteenth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries reveal that the international community is on the right track in pursuing an optimal development of fisheries. We would like to note that the optimum level of fishing intensities should be agreed on and observed by all member countries.

The long-term purpose of the Strategies may be strengthened under the guidance of FAO if each country voluntarily regulates its own fishing and cooperates with other countries.

Concerning the large-scale driftnet fishing issue, my delegation has supported and carefully looked at development following the UN Resolution 44/225 on large-scale driftnet fishing.

Korea has implemented various voluntary activities to respond to the related countries' concern to reduce the side effects as much as possible on North Pacific high seas driftnet fishing since 1984.

On the other hand, my delegation is of the view that appropriate conservation and management measures should harmoniously go along with the proper development activities of world fisheries based on scientific evidence.

From the fishing technology point of view, the drift gillnet has rather more size-elective characteristics than other fishing gears. Moreover, the gillnet itself is a useful and economic fishing gear in the low density area of fishing. That is the reason why the gillnet has been used widely in world fishing history.

Therefore, my delegation would like to reiterate the idea that FAO is the appropriate Body to undertake the collection of more reliable and detailed statistical information on high seas catches and to report the statistical data, differentiating between national jurisdiction areas and high seas.

In this connection, my delegation re-emphasizes and requests the strengthening of the activities of WAICENT for the fisheries sector, Geographic Information Systems and Task Force on High Seas Fisheries.

**José LOIRA RUA (España):** Señor Presidente, el Comité de Pesca en su 19ª sesión que ha tenido lugar el pasado mes de abril, se planteó la relación entre el medio ambiente, y el desarrollo sostenible, en el contexto de las actividades pesqueras.

Entre las conclusiones a las que llegó, España desearía subrayar, por considerarlas de fundamental importancia, las siguientes:

En primer lugar, para poder hablar siquiera de un desarrollo sostenible pesquero, resulta imprescindible establecer, tanto a nivel nacional como multilateral o internacional, una política de gestión de recursos ictícolas, que contemple no sólo las medidas técnicas necesarias para garantizar la selectividad de los artes y su correcta utilización, sino también un eficaz esquema de control de la actividad pesquera. Ahora bien, esta política de gestión resultaría insuficiente si no se integran en ella factores tan fundamentales como la incidencia que tiene la pesca sobre el medio ambiente y, con la misma importancia, la incidencia que tiene el medio ambiente sobre la pesca.

Una gestión racional y sólida, fundamentada desde el punto de vista científico, puede evitar o paliar posibles efectos negativos sobre el medio ambiente. Para que dicho medio ambiente no repercuta negativamente sobre la actividad pesquera, resulta imprescindible una armonización del desarrollo industrial, urbano o agrícola, que tenga en cuenta, de forma recíproca, las interacciones existentes.

Esta armonización, en definitiva, forma parte de una concepción integral del desarrollo de todos los países, que no se consigue si se continúan haciendo planteamientos parciales singularizados, que si bien pueden resolver ciertas cuestiones, pueden provocar problemas mayores.

Es indudable que la utilización de prácticas inadecuadas, bien sea en la pesca, bien sea en la acuicultura, pueden resultar perjudiciales para el medio ambiente y para el aprovechamiento sostenible de los recursos marinos. Pero no es menos cierto que prácticas inadecuadas, adoptadas en otros sectores, pueden a su vez incidir negativamente en una actividad, como es la pesquera, de fundamental importancia para asegurar un nivel nutricional, adecuado para la humanidad.

Este aspecto fue resaltado en la, ya citada aquí, Segunda Conferencia de Ministros de Pesca que tuvo lugar recientemente en nuestro país, en la isla de La Toja.

Esta Segunda Conferencia marcó un importante hito en el análisis conjunto de la problemática pesquera, en el conocimiento de posiciones nacionales y en la cooperación internacional para la Estrategia de la Conferencia de Roma.

En la actualidad, disponemos ya de datos que nos permiten estimar lo que representa la actividad pesquera en cuanto a la mortalidad de los peces. Lamentablemente, no tenemos el mismo conocimiento de la repercusión que tiene la degradación por motivos industriales, urbanísticos, vertidos contaminantes u otros factores.

España, apoya firmemente, que se profundice en el estudio y conocimiento de lo anterior para poder así conocer las interacciones y la incidencia relativa de cada uno de los elementos mencionados. Este conocimiento, es requisito previo a la adopción de medidas que permitan resolver los problemas.

Ahora bien, dado que sí se dispone ya de un mejor conocimiento y una mayor capacidad de actuación sobre la incidencia de la actividad pesquera, la delegación española estima que debe actuarse con firmeza, para eliminar los efectos negativos que tienen algunas modalidades que, por su propia naturaleza, implican una pérdida de control respecto a la utilización de las mismas: me refiero concretamente a las redes de enmalle a la deriva, que tienen en sí un riesgo inherente de degradación medioambiental por el potencial de descontrol que conllevan.

Consideramos necesario igualmente, estudiar los efectos que los cambios climáticos tienen en los hábitats y recursos pesqueros y preparar planes alternativos para mitigarlos. Para todo ello, es necesaria una gran cooperación internacional y que la FAO continúe ayudando a los países a incrementar los conocimientos sobre sus recursos, mediante la identificación de proyectos y seminarios de formación.

Desearía subrayar nuevamente, que la correcta utilización de cualquier recurso, no sólo los pesqueros, es una responsabilidad ineludible para todos los países. Esta responsabilidad debe materializarse en la adopción de políticas de desarrollo que sean sostenibles, y para que así sea, que tengan en cuenta no sólo la conservación de los recursos stricto sensu, sino el contexto en que se encuentran dichos recursos. Una visión excesivamente sectorializada sería una falta de responsabilidad inaceptable.

España desea manifestar su satisfacción porque cada vez un número mayor de países, a través de sus experiencias en la aplicación de la Estrategia de la Conferencia de Roma, plasmadas en los informes remitidos al Director General de la FAO, contribuyen a profundizar en el conocimiento global de todos los aspectos que concurren en el sector pesquero.

Es necesario, por tanto, incentivar e instar a aquellos países, que aún no lo han hecho, a que colaboren en la tarea emprendida porque únicamente así, con el concurso de la comunidad internacional, se conseguirán los objetivos perseguidos.

Por ello, celebramos la solicitud realizada por el Comité de Pesca en su 19 período de sesiones, de que la FAO preparase una publicación especial que recoja un resumen de todos los informes.

En 1984, y tras un largo y fructífero debate sobre la problemática de ordenación y desarrollo pesquero, la FAO adoptó una Estrategia que incluía ocho elementos de máxima importancia, con una visión interactiva, que permitía una ordenación y desarrollo pesquero centrado sobre la conjugación de intereses a veces contrapuestos en aras de una compatibilidad de los mismos.

Es indudable, que desde 1984 hasta nuestros días, los distintos países han querido o han podido concentrar su atención y sus esfuerzos en algunos de estos elementos. Ahora bien, España considera que todos los elementos identificados resultan de la máxima importancia y que no puede juzgarse la validez de esta Estrategia por el hecho de que, tan sólo algunos de ellos, hayan sido escogidos por resultar más idóneos con la problemática específica de un país determinado. Por ello, los ocho elementos deben ser vistos de forma integrada y no excluyente.

En consecuencia, queremos expresar nuestra preocupación porque hemos observado que las posturas de algunos países se alejan del espíritu de la Conferencia de Roma, que aprobó, como primer elemento de la Estrategia para la ordenación y desarrollo pesqueros: "la contribución de la pesca a los objetivos económicos, sociales y nutricionales nacionales".

En este contexto quisiera señalar que, dado que en la pasada sesión del COFI se consideró la posibilidad de actualizar o revisar, los principios y orientaciones de la Estrategia, desearíamos que se tuviera en cuenta la introducción en la formulación del primer elemento las palabras "e internacionales". Así se considerarán también las necesidades de países en vías de desarrollo, las de aquéllos que tienen pocos recursos pesqueros y las de los no ribereños.

En cuanto al Elemento 2 de la Estrategia, consideramos que los gobiernos y las instituciones deben continuar e incrementar su colaboración, para ayudar a que los países en vías de desarrollo, adquieran la capacitación



científica y técnica necesaria para llevar a cabo la ordenación y el desarrollo de sus pesquerías, y en este sentido, concretamente España, que sigue en su línea de ayuda a la formación a través de becas, ha iniciado cooperaciones bilaterales a nivel científico con diferentes países, que irá incrementando en el futuro.

Queremos hacer especial hincapié, en que uno de los objetivos de la Estrategia es la ordenación racional para el aprovechamiento óptimo de los recursos pesqueros y observamos con preocupación, que la mayoría de los gobiernos en sus planteamientos de política pesquera, olvidan este elemento tan fundamental para conseguir este objetivo. Es necesario tener en cuenta, además de los aspectos económicos -muy importantes-, aspectos tan esenciales como los problemas sociales y de alimentación de la población mundial.

Por ello, no podemos compartir aquellas políticas nacionales restrictivas que impiden, exclusivamente por razones económicas, que sus recursos sean explotados racionalmente en su rendimiento máximo sostenible.

Por otro lado, consideramos que hay que prestar un decidido apoyo, a todos los niveles, a las pesquerías en pequeña escala, ya que generalmente corresponden a las zonas más deprimidas y carecen para su supervivencia de otras actividades alternativas. En España, existen varias zonas de estas características donde el sustento y el medio de vida de sus habitantes provienen casi exclusivamente de la pesca.

Nuestro país, es un gran demandante de productos pesqueros, por lo que nuestra balanza comercial resulta deficitaria. Ahora bien, nos sentimos satisfechos de que estos resultados sean como consecuencia, en su mayor parte, de nuestro comercio con países en vías de desarrollo. Entendemos que éste es un tipo de cooperación que debería practicarse por parte de todos los países desarrollados.

Consideramos, asimismo, que el conocimiento y la experiencia del sector pesquero están depositados en las empresas privadas; por ello sería necesario que los países, que tienen intereses en desarrollar este sector y aprovechar de manera óptima sus recursos, creen incentivos para atraer la participación de las industrias privadas mediante el establecimiento de las empresas mixtas, Joint Ventures, de asociaciones temporales y de otras fórmulas.

Finalmente, queremos manifestar una vez más, la necesidad de incrementar la cooperación tanto a nivel internacional, como bilateral, para conocer la problemática existente en cada zona e identificar los proyectos más adecuados para la misma. Nuestro país, viene dando prioridad a esta línea de cooperación, a través de bolsas de estudio, cursos de capacitación profesional en centros españoles, asistencia técnica, convenios de investigación con instituciones de terceros países.

Para acabar, valga una reflexión final: el objetivo de cualquier foro internacional es compatibilizar y conjugar su espíritu de cooperación con los legítimos intereses de cada país.

La FAO, en su larga trayectoria, ha dado buena muestra de estar a la altura en esta difícil labor. En una actividad como es la pesca, tan esencial para mejorar el nivel nutricional de la población mundial, España está segura de

que la Organización continuará fomentando el entendimiento entre los países en una línea de progreso para alcanzar los objetivos propuestos.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** La délégation malgache est aussi heureuse de travailler sous votre présidence. Elle félicite le Secrétariat pour la production du document C 91/25, document très utile pour l'examen de ce point de l'ordre du jour de cette Commission. Elle remercie M. Lindquist pour la présentation très claire du sujet.

Vous comprendrez que pour Madagascar, qui est une île avec plus de 5 000 kilomètres de côtes, la pêche joue un rôle primordial pour la relance de l'économie nationale. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Gouvernement malgache accorde au secteur des pêches un rang prioritaire, et a créé un département ministériel distinct pour s'occuper de cette discipline.

Nous nous félicitons des progrès accomplis dans l'application de la Stratégie qui demeure, à notre sens, tout à fait valable. Nous voudrions cependant, si vous le permettez, suggérer que dans le futur l'accent soit porté sur les points et actions suivants.

D'abord nous pensons que l'inventaire et l'évaluation des ressources halieutiques nationales demeurent une priorité, car sur ces données fiables devront être élaborées la planification et la programmation en matière de pêche. Ensuite la formation de tous les protagonistes et opérateurs en matière de pêche devra être poursuivie et intensifiée car, dans tous les domaines, la disponibilité de ressources humaines compétentes est garante du succès de toute réalisation.

Comme la délégation de l'Espagne qui vient de s'exprimer, nous pensons nous aussi que les pêcheurs artisanaux devraient recevoir une assistance technique et financière adéquate, car dans nos pays ils jouent un rôle déterminant entre autres sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Les organisations régionales et sous-régionales de pêche devront continuer de bénéficier de l'appui précieux de la FAO. Nous apprécions la déclaration faite par M. Lindquist sur ce que la FAO a fait et continue de faire pour assister et appuyer ces organisations régionales et sous-régionales. Ainsi les éléments 7 et 8 de la Stratégie relative à la Coopération économique et technique et à la Coopération internationale pour l'aménagement et le développement des pêches continuent d'être une priorité marquante, et nous voudrions, si vous le permettez, attirer l'attention de cette assemblée sur les dispositions contenues dans le paragraphe 27 du document concernant la Résolution du 15 novembre 1990 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies relative à la promotion de la Coopération en matière de pêche en Afrique.

Nous apprécierons et nous apprécions toute action de la FAO visant à soutenir les actions nationales en matière de promotion de l'aquaculture, toute action visant à la réduction des pertes, à la valorisation des produits secondaires de la pêche industrielle, et bien entendu au contrôle des pêches industrielles dans la zone économique exclusive.

**George Nissanka M. PELPOLA (Sri Lanka):** Mr Chairman, the Sri Lanka delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent documentation prepared for discussion this afternoon, which sets out the progress on strategies for fisheries management and development.

While the progress on a wide range of activities in this sector is satisfactory, there are still very important areas where work could be expedited by the FAO. My delegation would like to draw the attention of the Commission to the proposal to establish the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

My country has been taking a special interest in exploiting the fisheries resources surrounding our country. As a special programme, we had been systematically focusing our attention on sustainable exploitation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Indian Ocean. For this purpose, we had been taking a keen interest in setting up of an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

As a prerequisite for the setting up of a Commission of this nature, the coastal state nations of the Indian Ocean decided that it would be more appropriate to have an organization to collect the necessary information and data to provide the back-up facilities for the operation of this Commission. With this in view, the Member Nations in the Indo-Pacific Region and the distant waters fishing nations have got together and set up what is called the Indo-Pacific Tuna Programme (IPTP). This programme is UNDP/FAO collaborative programme with financial contributions from the Member Nations and since its inception in 1982 the host facilities for its activities have been provided by the Government of Sri Lanka. The main responsibilities of IPTP are stock assessment of tuna and tuna-like species, the conduct of tagging programmes and other related research activities to help in the sustainable exploitation of the resources.

By the time this programme ends it is essential that an effective organizational arrangement is in place so as not to create a vacuum and the most appropriate organization to succeed IPTP is the setting up of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. Since Sri Lanka has hosted IPTP for nearly 10 years, Sri Lanka has indicated her willingness to host the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

My delegation wishes to commend the excellent work done by the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission: several meetings were held as far back as 1987, and the preparatory work concerning the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission was finalized. Stock assessment of tuna in the Indian Ocean was done as part of an expert consultation. In fact, the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission even drafted the agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

My delegation would like to draw the attention of the Commission to the importance of the exploitation of tuna in the Indian Ocean as an integral part of the Fishery Development Programme of the Region.

My delegation strongly suggests that FAO takes steps as expeditiously as possible to resolve the legal and operational problems confronting this issue and establish the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission as recommended by the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission at its 11th session in July 1990. Sri Lanka will be very happy to host the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

**António MAGALHAES COELHO (Portugal)** : Le document C 91/25 sur la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches présente pour le Portugal un très grand intérêt. Les pêches ont une grande importance au Portugal, le poisson constituant pour les Portugais une des principales sources de protéines animales.

Comme il est bien connu, le Portugal est un des plus grands consommateurs, per capita, de poisson au niveau mondial.

Au delà des points de vue qui seront exprimés par le représentant de la Communauté européenne, dont nous faisons partie, la délégation portugaise voudrait renforcer l'affirmation faite, dans le document analysé, de l'importance de la formation de cadres techniques et de formateurs. Ceux-ci peuvent contribuer de façon très marquée à la conservation et à la gestion des ressources des pêcheries, comme indiqué aux paragraphes 22 et 23; souligner la nécessité d'améliorer les systèmes de vigilance et de contrôle des activités de la pêche dans les eaux sous la souveraineté et la juridiction des Etats côtiers (PVD); attirer l'attention sur les aspects de la pollution de la mer, ce que nous avons déjà fait lors de notre intervention sur les problèmes de l'environnement.

La délégation portugaise appuie le point de vue du Nigéria en ce qui concerne la création de Joint Ventures. Ces types d'organisations basées sur le respect des intérêts du pays receveur, sans préjudice d'un juste équilibre en termes d'avantages mutuels, peuvent être un instrument positif dans la coopération pour le développement.

**Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada):** Canada concurs that the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development that was endorsed at the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference continues to provide valid and useful guidance for the development of appropriate fisheries policies and plans. The Strategy is consistent with the objectives of Canadian fisheries management. Many of Canada's fisheries policies and programmes, especially those put in place since the extension of Fisheries Jurisdiction in 1977, embody the goals articulated in the FAO Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development.

Canada agrees, as underscored in Strategy Element 1, that the fisheries are an activity of increasing importance for food security as well as social and economic progress. This is especially valid for developing countries. There will, therefore, be a high priority for continued investment in the management and sustainable development of fisheries, as well as for international cooperation in fisheries management as identified in Strategy Elements 6, 7 and 8.

Canada also recognizes the importance of improved self-reliance in fisheries management and the importance of small-scale fisheries especially as these Strategy elements pertain to developing countries.

With respect to Strategy Element 3 - The Principles and Practices of Fisheries Management - Canada concurs that conservation and sustainable development will continue to remain a priority. UN Resolution 44/225 endorsing a moratorium on large-scale pelagic driftnets in the Pacific by June 30, 1992, is viewed as a major step forward in support of this Strategy element.

Canada agrees that international trade in fish products will become increasingly important, particularly if fisheries are to make a fundamental contribution to sustainable economic and social development in developing countries. There is, therefore, a growing need for further reductions in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff, in order to foster full development of the global fisheries resources.

On the important role of women in this sector, my delegation would like to support the comments made by the distinguished delegate of Norway.

Finally, Canada supports continuation of Progress Reports on the Strategy at four-yearly intervals. The Strategy has proven valid since its inception. Future reviews should be undertaken, not only to evaluate the Strategy's ongoing contribution, fisheries management and sustainable development, but to ensure that it continues to remain relevant.

**G. SHIMANG (Nigeria):** The Nigerian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat very much for the wonderful work they have done to assert our position in conformity with the contents of the presentation.

In line with the agreements of the 1984 World Conference on Fisheries, Nigeria's preparation for fisheries development has streamlined its activities as set out in that document. In this regard, Nigeria has embarked upon total fisheries development in the following areas of endeavour: that is, the programme on aquaculture development, the fisheries inspectorate and equipment supply, including exploratory fishing. We have a fisheries integrated development project; that is, post-harvest fish preservation and utilization, including rural women's development. We have a very large coastal land of over 800 kilometres and we, therefore, have fisheries terminal services. We also have, as the basis of our plan and management, a national fisheries statistics and information programme.

In line with that, we have a very large area of water bodies which have come about by the creation of lakes for irrigation and water development in general, and it has a total estimated surface area of about 12 million hectares. In the aquaculture programme the main objectives are the development of fish farms in different parts of the country. For sustainable development we realize the most important aspect is the establishment of an infrastructure.

So these fish farms have come about to act, first of all, as model fish farms from which Government technicians practise fish production, as well as training of the prospective private fish farm entrepreneurs.

In order to promote fish production in man-made lakes, which have a very large area of water surface, a study has been commissioned entitled "Fishery potentials of man-made lakes in Nigeria". In this it has been identified that there is a very large resource potential in these man-made lakes. However, the management of most of these man-made lakes has come under conflicting interest groups, such as the River Basin Development Authorities, Water Corporation in the States and the local administration institutions, which makes proper planning development and effective management a difficult task for the various Fisheries Departments of both Federal and State Departments.

All the water bodies, if properly managed, could produce an estimated quantity of about 170 000 metric tons of fish.

We also feel it is necessary that, with such a large potential of resources, there must be put in place inspectorate services. Therefore, fisheries inspectorate and equipment supply and integrated fisheries development projects in Nigeria today have come up with some interesting observations. There are unconfirmed reports of overfishing, underfishing

and conflicting views and opinions on the volume of seasonal fish catch, annual total catch, total fishing effort and the potential fish yields in various water bodies in the country. Speculations about the exact state of the fisheries are due to the fact that positive action to maintain the biological productivity is hampered by the lack of reliable time-series of data on time and effort and insufficient information on potential fish yields.

The activities of this project have featured the supply of outboard engines, nets of various mesh sizes, floats, fishing boats, twines, and ropes to all the other fishing communities in the country. It is believed that, when the right equipment for fishing is made available to the fishermen, bad fishing methods will be eliminated and the life of the fishery will be enhanced for appropriate and profitable productivity.

In other words, if the right equipment is in place, the rigours of law enforcement agents may be reduced.

There is still livestock for the production of fish, but we have put in place a fish preservation and utilization project, including rural women development. In this the basic work which has been done is to learn from other neighbours. Therefore, an exchange programme has been put in place through which visits have been made to fishing communities in Cotonou, Benin Republic and Ghana.

Along the fisheries terminal services, very substantial progress has been made and three fishing terminals have been constructed along the coast. These are situated at Ebugu in Akwa-Ibom State - for those who know Nigeria well - Igbokoda in Ondo State and Borikiri in River State. As I said earlier on, the basic work to be done is to put in place the necessary infrastructure which will encourage both the private and the public enterprises.

One of the fishing terminals, Borikiri, is fully functional and has, in order to encourage private participation in fisheries development, been leased out to management agent which pays money to the Government for utilization of these facilities. This helps both the public and private sectors, and improves the quality of the products.

However, there are a few problems but we feel we can overcome them. These are the prohibitive costs of automotive gas oil, the relative inaccessibility of the approach channel to both Egubu and Igbokoda, and sometimes essential services such as electricity and water. The Department has taken positive steps to arrest some of these problems.

I now come to the national statistics and information system programme. This is an aspect of the fisheries planning, development and management, because, without data on the status of the resource base, the present demand for fish, the future requirements and the total amount available to the public to meet the minimum requirements, cannot be forecasted, planned for and produced adequately.

The programme is, therefore, a continuous activity which deals mainly with the collection, collation, processing, updating and disseminating of necessary information which may give guidance to the activities of the Department in order to fulfil its statutory roles of planning, formulating policies and advising the Government on fisheries development matters.

There are other development management activities. In order to control the excesses and abuse of opportunities available to industrial fishermen in the process of legitimate marine resources, a process of regulation is put in place to achieve this major resource management objective.

The instrument is promulgation and enactment into law of the Nigerian Sea Fish Decree.

The activity of licensing fishing vessels is a continuous process and licences are issued each quarter to maintain effective control, as opposed to annual, single licensing contracts. Fishing vessels are licensed to operate in Nigerian territorial waters, the Exclusive Economic Zone, distant water, and also for direct fish importation.

Bilateral fishing rights agreements: the living resources in Nigerian marine waters are not much and not supportive of the large fishing activities. Nigeria has, therefore, looked outwards to other friendly African countries to support her fish supply to the nation. Essentially, therefore, Nigeria entered into a series of fishing rights agreements with friendly African countries in order to broaden the resources base of her industrial fishing fleet and to provide more fish protein to the Nigerian populace.

In this process, Nigeria successfully entered into fishing rights agreements with Sierra Leone, Senegal, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Guinea Conakry and the Gambia. The Nigerian fishing vessels have commenced fishing in Equatorial Guinea while finishing touches are on, so that the agreements with the other countries mentioned above can be physically implemented.

Other international assistance from international agencies is not left out in the fisheries management in Nigeria. There is an IFAD-assisted artisanal fishery development project. The facility has provided US\$15 million for the development of accelerated fisheries integrated assistance in the three States of the Federation.

These are mainly along the coast and the funds have been made available in July this year; in other words, the project is on.

We have the ECOWAS fund assisted project. This project is covered by a low interest-rate loan which has been provided by the ECOWAS fund. The project has taken off, and it aims at the provision of credit to artisanal fishermen in the five states of Edo, Delta, Ondo, Kebbi and Sokoto. Funds will be used to finance the supply of fishing inputs to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

The project will be financed by the ECOWAS fund through beneficiary states, and all the necessary institutional framework for the loan disbursement has been provided for its successful execution. The loan was declared effective in May this year.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** The 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference, in adopting the eight-element Strategy, provided the member countries with very important guidelines for sustainable development of fishery resources as an indispensable source of nutrition and income.

We note with satisfaction from this report that many countries have based their national policies in the fisheries sectors on these guidelines. The successful implementation of some of these measures, as reported in this document, justifies the validity of this very complex set of measures.

My delegation would like to thank the fisheries experts at the FAO and congratulate them on the success of these measures. The FAO Secretariat's recommendations to the countries on maintaining resources is also to be welcomed, which offers continuity to the process through Progress Reports.

For that reason my delegation supports paragraph 90 in document C 91/25, according to which the Strategy should be flexibly applied in order to address issues requiring greater focus. Of course, that involves fishing techniques which would affect fisheries resources and the environment and protect it.

Obviously, international fisheries policy matters are within the mandate of the European Community, of which Germany is a member. For that reason I should like to point out that the EEC Commission is going to make a declaration on this item in the Agenda which will, of course, be supported by my delegation.

In this brief statement my delegation would like to express its approval of this very constructive document.

**Bocar Oumar SALL (Sénégal):** M. le Président, ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour la bonne présentation qui vient de nous être faite du document 91/25 - sur la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches.

En intervenant dans les discussions sur ce document fort utile, ma délégation voudrait surtout plaider la cause de la pêche continentale. En effet, si tout le monde reconnaît que la pêche continentale contribue largement à l'autosuffisance alimentaire des populations rurales, tout le monde reconnaîtra également que cette pêche continentale continue à être traitée en parent pauvre par rapport à la pêche maritime. La preuve en est que les projets en matière de pêche continentale reçoivent difficilement des financements; les comités régionaux de pêche continentale se réunissent de façon irrégulière.

Et pour toutes ces considérations, ma délégation recommande que la pêche continentale retrouve sa place dans nos préoccupations pour le développement du secteur des pêches, et qu'on lui accorde toute l'attention qu'elle mérite.

M. le Président, ma délégation voudrait souligner également que la nécessité de trouver un réel équilibre entre la production, les ressources halieutiques et la protection de l'écosystème a été maintes fois réaffirmée par notre pays. C'est pourquoi nous sommes favorables à une approche multi-spécifique de l'aménagement de nos cours d'eau, afin de maintenir l'équilibre écologique des plans d'eau et d'assurer une exploitation rationnelle des ressources.



**Per WRAMNER (Sweden):** First, I should like to express my gratitude at having received such high quality documentation. The Progress Report of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development gives us an excellent basis for our deliberations on an issue of the greatest importance, that is the implementation of the Strategy.

It is with great satisfaction I conclude that the implementation of the Strategy has been a success in many countries. Especially, the Strategy is of great value in that it serves as a checklist for considerations which should be examined when seeking the best course for fisheries development. This applies both to developing and to industrialized countries, both to countries in the process of preparing such a plan, and both to recipients and donors like Sweden in development cooperation. It also applies to international organizations. The document in front of us clearly shows the great impact of the Strategy on fisheries development both at national and international levels. This is an impressive achievement by FAO in having brought this about.

The Strategy exemplifies one of the types of activity to which FAO should give the highest priority. However, greater attention should be paid to one aspect of the Strategy, in my opinion, that is sustainability and environment, the emphasis of which should be underlined more than it has been up to now in the implementation of the Strategy.

Therefore, I should like to underline the need for strengthening - especially compared to the last paragraphs of the document - sustainability and environment as well as integrated coastal management as a tool to conserve the environment in FAO's future work to implement the Strategy.

**Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan):** I very much appreciate having been given the floor, because sometimes one is prohibited from speaking for cooperation purposes, and I appreciate being able to speak on this Agenda Item. I should also like to pay tribute to the FAO Secretariat and Dr Lindquist for preparing the Progress Report on the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development. My delegation is fully supportive of the report, but we should like to take this opportunity to make some comments. There is a growing interest in the utilization of marine resources by all nations of the world. In particular, marine living resources have been utilized for foods from ancient times. Since 1989 the fishing industry has supplied 99 551 000 tonnes of fish to the world. Needless to say, the augmentation of the importance of fisheries to supply protein resources to satisfy the growing population will definitely be seen.

The usefulness of fishery products as basic food, healthy food and medical materials for a variety of purposes, and the fisheries themselves, have the established role of contributing to the economy and society. This is clear evidence that the management of fisheries is indispensable in achieving sustainable development for fisheries. In the past, disordered fisheries exerted adverse effects on fisheries, and this was recognized worldwide in the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference.

In the Committee on Fisheries held this year, it was confirmed that the 1984 World Strategy for Fisheries is still effective, and many nations endeavouring to develop their fisheries have expressed the need for further assistance from FAO. In this regard, the role of FAO's activities is

increasing for the future. Recently, as concerns were raised over environmental protections, the direction of environmental protections is being questioned in fisheries as the nature of fisheries is different from that of agriculture. Fisheries utilize parts of nature's ecosystems which are subject to changes in the natural environment. Accordingly, we must stress that it is of great importance that the development pay due consideration to the environment to maintain the healthy promotion of fisheries. However, we feel that it is very dangerous to see hindrance to the development of high-sea areas fisheries because of excessive environmental protection movements.

The characteristics of fisheries in each nation have been formulated and developed fitting to the regions' needs and they have contributed and formulated economic activities. Even the environmental protection movement proceeds in a disordered way, as currently, such movement destroys the local economy of each nation all over the world. This is particularly true in the developing nations. My delegation would like to stress the importance of keeping the balance between the development of fisheries and environmental protection, and that FAO should strive for the achievement of this objective.

Japan is of the view that for the management of high-seas fishery resources we must consider establishing a new high-seas international fisheries management body, or it should be conducted through the existing international fishery bodies, but do not allow high-seas fisheries operations as they are now. All nations should participate on an equal basis in the management of the high-seas fisheries. Concerning coastal fishery management FAO should assist the development of better management and development of their own fishery for the establishment of the legal framework and socio-economic structure. In this regard, Japan has committed itself to financing this through the FAO's Trust Fund to disseminate the fishery management system for coastal fisheries where, and if appropriate, and Japan will host next June an expert meeting to exchange views on the coastal fishery management. Japan is willing to reveal their own fishing management systems which have been based upon, and achieved, more than 400 years of fishing-related sectors experience. We would appreciate it if many coastal nations will participate in this meeting.

We see that more and more interest and expectation will take place in the fisheries sectors and FAO should exercise their best efforts, based upon the comments submitted by Member Nations, for the ensurance of the World Fishery Management Strategy. Japan is committed to cooperating to the maximum with FAO in this regard.

I would like to touch upon this next stage the specific issues of fisheries management concerning driftnets. We are of the view that any decision should be based upon scientific evidence rather than the political mood which is currently prevailing. I would appreciate it if any nation has evidence, to produce it, that driftnet fisheries have a negative effect.

I would now turn to the subject of bluefin tuna.

One nation filed proposition to list the Atlantic bluefin tuna in the Appendix of CITES (Convention on International Trade in 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 blue fin is being endangered. We are of the view that the fisheries resources should be managed through the fishery management organization based on the principal 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.

On whaling:

Whale stocks should be also managed on the scientific ground and we think reopening of the use of whale species, which is Minke whale, should be commenced based upon the spirit of the International Whaling Convention which is to ensure the sustainable use based on the best available scientific knowledge as far as large cetacean is concerned.

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

Finally, I would like to respond to the comment made by the distinguished delegate for Sri Lanka. We are pleased to see that Indian Ocean Tuna Management under Article XIV of FAO's Constitution may possibly be accommodated pretty shortly because in Commission III we are discussing the possible FAO Constitution amendment coupled with Article II itself. Japan itself is willing to actively participate in a diplomatic meeting if it is going to be held in the early part of next year. Thank you very much Mr Chairman.

**Peter Gary FRANKLIN (Australia):** Australia welcomes and endorses the Progress Report on Strategies of Fisheries Management and Development so ably introduced by Dr Lindquist. In response to the request for guidance and comments regarding future courses of action we would wish to make the following brief contribution: Australia strongly supports efforts to give priority to work programmes involving, in particular, the sustainable use of fishery resources (including those on the high seas) and the protection of the environment via institutional and other arrangements which will facilitate an integrated approach to the planning and delivery of fisheries programmes.

We recognize that such work should in no way detract from the fundamental role of FAO in assisting countries, particularly developing countries, in the development, management and more effective utilization of their fishery resources. Also of particular importance is the need for FAO to continue its cooperation with GATT in relation to the identification of trade barriers in fisheries products and their eventual elimination, as well as the elaboration of criteria for fair trade.

However, in the current budgetary climate there is a need to ensure that any new commitments in areas dealing with the environment and high-seas fishing, together with the ongoing programmes, are carefully managed and that priorities are rigorously determined through the medium- to long-term planning process.

If I can now briefly turn to the issue of high-seas fisheries, my delegation views as a positive and welcome development FAO's proposal to play a more prominent role in moves towards fisheries management in high-seas areas, especially in promoting international understanding on the responsible conduct of fishery operations. In particular, we welcome the intention of strengthening work in gear selectivity and in the behaviour of marine animals in relation to fishing gear for high-seas and other fisheries with a view to developing guidelines and codes of practice. This conforms with our view that it is important that changes in fish harvesting efficiency must not be permitted to proceed too far ahead of changes in fisheries management practice and that the introduction of management regimes for high-seas areas should not be postponed pending further research.

Similarly scarce research resources should not be directed towards attempting to legitimize high-seas fishing practices which have already been discredited. In this regard Australia welcomes the proposed expert and intergovernmental consultations on high-seas fisheries which are intended to lay the foundation for FAO to play its full part in the forthcoming UNCED process. Australia lends its support to the development of stronger frameworks for the management of high-seas fisheries resources. We acknowledge the close cooperation which is now evident between FAO and the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (OALOS) in dealing with legal and policy aspects of high-seas fisheries and look forward to a continuation of that cooperation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, our views on driftnet fishing are already well-known and were earlier presented under Agenda Item 6.1. For the sake of brevity I do not intend to repeat those views other than to reiterate that it is our view that large-scale driftnet fishing continues to pose a serious threat to fishing resources and the marine environment in a number of the world's oceans. The evidence which has emerged over the last two years about the impact of drift net fishing more than indicates the initial concerns embodied in UN Resolution 44/225 on driftnet fishing. It is therefore our strong view that the moratorium on high seas driftnet fishing should proceed on schedule and we call for full support from FAO members in this regard.

**Ms Charlotte SEYMOUR-SMITH (United Kingdom):** The United Kingdom delegation is grateful to the Secretariat for this detailed report on progress in implementing the World Fisheries Conference Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, and to Mr Lindquist for his clear introduction to this item. The elements of this Strategy are highly relevant to the requirements for development and management of the fisheries sector, and this is reflected in the degree of adherence and support to the Strategy by governments and organizations.

The United Kingdom is pleased to confirm that bilateral support for the fisheries sector in developing countries provided through the British Aid Programme is almost entirely focused on the strategic objectives formulated

by the World Fisheries Conference, particularly those embodied in Strategy Elements 1-4. British Aid Programmes lay emphasis on the sustainable development and management of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and incorporate training and research directed at this objective.

The effort made to monitor progress in implementation of the Strategy is worthwhile for a number of reasons. In particular, it is already possible to detect a change in emphasis as the development and management of the sector evolves. Since 1984, greater priority has been accorded to environmental sustainability, gender issues and the role of the social sciences, as well as the integration of diverse specialisms within an interdisciplinary approach to fisheries development and management. Such progress will sooner or later require that the Strategy be revised if its value is to be maintained.

It may not be too early to consider the timing of such revision and the mechanisms through which it might be undertaken.

**Benson Crispus MBOGOH** (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation would like to record its appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent Summary Report at document C 91/25 before us. We also thank Dr Lindquist for his short but concise introduction.

Mr Chairman, since the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries, which mapped out a global Strategy for the rational management of world fisheries resources, it is encouraging to note from the report that the majority of Member Nations have adopted the Strategy within their national development efforts for the improvement of their fisheries production and development.

Kenya, for her part, has doubled her efforts in a number of important aspects of the Strategy. We have taken measures to build our national capacities in fisheries planning and management by improving our statistical data collection, to strengthen our capability for evaluation and management of our coastal and inland fisheries management resources. In this regard my Government greatly appreciates the technical assistance of FAO through the Southwest Indian Ocean Programme in this effort.

A further programme for the improvement of artisanal fishing gear and vessel technology is in progress to promote small-scale fish production. We would appeal for further assistance toward the prevention of post-harvest losses, which is a major problem in small-scale fishing.

Kenya supports the principles and practice of rational management and optimum use for fisheries resources, and hence endorses the introduction of the legal instrument in 1989 that enables the continuous assessment of fisheries resources and updating of regulations to meet changing needs.

In this regard, Kenya, although by no means a deep-sea super-power, follows keenly the on-going debate on driftnet fishing or fishing on the high seas, and we wish to reiterate our concern that non-selective methods of fishing potentially lead to over-exploitation of inshore fisheries, upon which millions of artisanal fishermen and small national fishing fleets depend.

Kenya therefore objects to driftnet fishing and urges for implementation of strong measures to protect fishery resources against all forms of over-exploitation.

We also commend the intensive efforts being made by FAO in promoting aquaculture, and in this regard appreciate FAO's technical assistance to Kenya in the development of marine prawn farming along the Kenya coast. However, we call for further assistance for the exploration of other potential areas of aquaculture, such as oyster-culture and seaweed farming.

We also welcome technical cooperation with other developing countries strongly in this particular area.

Kenya shares its full commitment to rational management of fisheries resources that combine utilization with conservation of the aquatic ecosystem and that ensures sustainable production. We therefore support the concept of coastal zone management and request that this be extended to the lake basin fishing environment as well. In this regard we would call for more attention to be given to the coordinated plan for competing and conflicting uses of coastal and inland waters, such as fishing and tourist uses, with a view to optimizing benefits from aquatic resources.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we note with regret the review of the FAO World Programme for the 1990-91 biennium. and wish to express regret at the decline in extra-budgetary resources allocated to this important sector during the last three years. We strongly feel that the resultant sharp reduction in training and fisheries activities can only militate against progress in the implementation of the World Fisheries Conference strategies. We therefore urge for an improvement in the resources allocation for this sector and in particular in the programmes for national capacity-building and development.

**Mme. Seloua EJJENNANE (Maroc):** Ma délégation tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 91/25 qui est à l'étude.

Pour ce qui est du Maroc, la phase du développement des pêches est presque achevée. Les pêches entament une nouvelle phase qui est celle de leur aménagement pour faire durer justement ce développement.

En effet, un développement durable des pêches nécessite une politique de préservation des ressources halieutiques et une gestion rationnelle de ces dernières. C'est pourquoi une cellule d'étude économique chargée de l'aménagement de nos pêcheries a été créée cette année au sein de la Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture, du Ministère des pêches maritimes et de la marine marchande. Déjà, certains plans d'aménagement de nos pêcheries, notamment celui des céphalopodes et des petits pélagiques, sont en cours d'élaboration. Ces plans reprennent entre autres les recommandations de la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches approuvées par la FAO en 1984.

M. le Président, je me joins au Mexique pour exprimer notre inquiétude quant à la diminution du budget de la FAO dans le domaine des pêches.

**Ebrahim MAYGOLINEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran I would like to express my appreciation to FAO and especially to the Secretariat and Dr Lindquist for his clear and constructive document and introduction.

We fully support the Strategy of fisheries management and development endorsed in the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference. We believe the developing countries, especially at present, need more training courses and the transfer of technology work plan. Strengthening national and regional organization has a great role in self-reliance and has to be fully supported by FAO.

Strategy N° 1 also plays an important role in fishery development especially for direct consumption, exchange earning and also the generating of new employment. Strategy N° 3 is also very important. The national policy-maker and planner needs to work more closely with FAO's experts through workshops or any other type of practical activity.

Aquaculture has a great role in fisheries production, present and future. Feeding and genetics are the main subjects in this regard.

Finally, we would like to express our support to paragraph 87 of document C 91/25. Once again, I would like to express our appreciation to FAO and the Fisheries Department.

**E. Wayne DENNEY (United States of America):** We will try to be very brief. The United States has, in both its 1986 and 1990 Progress Reports, offered the view that the Strategy of fisheries management and development is most useful to developing countries. Suggestions for changes in the preparation of future reports are therefore better left to the developing countries, and we do not have any specific comments on the matter of guidance. It is our view that the Commission on Fisheries is a more appropriate forum for such guidance and comments.

The United States suggests that the draft of the FAO publication referred to in paragraphs 84 and 87, which summarizes all national Progress Reports and debates and highlights the benefits derived, and proposals for a more rapid and streamlined implementation of the Strategy, be submitted for national review before final publication and before inclusion in the 1992 edition of the State of Food and Agriculture.

Mr Chairman, following the welcome precedent set by my colleague from Australia, we will also provide just a capsule of what we said in Commission I regarding the large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing. Briefly, the impact such fisheries have on the North Pacific marine environment have proved 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 unfounded, in our view.

**CHAIRMAN:** The list of speakers in the morning session is over. The list of speakers for this afternoon's session is: Angola, Kuwait, Nepal, Chile, Cuba and India, and probably more. I will now adjourn this session. We reassemble at 2.30 hours. If you cooperate by coming back at half past two I will certainly do so.

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/II/PV/10

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE  
DECIMA SESION

(18 November 1991)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr D. Nilaweera. Vice-Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45.

sous la présidence de M. D. Nilaweera. Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la décima reunión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. D. Nilaweera. Vicepresidente de la Comisión II



II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

18. strategy for Fisheries Management and Development: Progress Report (continued)

18. stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches: Rapport intérimaire (suite)

18. Estrategia para la ordenación y el desarrollo de la pesca: Informe parcial (continuación)

**Mme. Maria Manuela KWABA (Angola):** Puisque c'est la première fois que je prends la parole, laissez-moi vous féliciter pour votre élection à la tête de cette Commission. Je suis convaincue que votre expérience et votre sagesse nous aideront à trouver des voies et moyens aux différents points prévus pour cette Commission.

Mes félicitations s'adressent également aux Vice-Présidents et au Secrétariat pour la qualité du travail qui se trouve dans le document C 91/25, plein de renseignements, objet de notre examen. M. le Président, parmi le large éventail de questions qui concernent la stratégie approuvée par la conférence mondiale sur les pêches, notre intervention va se limiter à quelques aspects des huit principaux identifiés.

Comme il est dit dans les paragraphes 11, 12, 13 et 14, l'Angola peut se joindre aux nombreux pays qui croient fermement que les idées directrices et principes contenus dans la Stratégie sont restés valables et utiles.

Dans mon pays, un plan directeur a été élaboré et s'étend jusqu'à l'an 2000. Le secteur des pêches fait annuellement une révision du plan et des programmes afin de les adapter à la Stratégie mondiale.

D'autre part, grâce à celle-ci, le pays a pu revoir tous les accords de pêche existant dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale en vue de réduire les captures des bateaux étrangers en faveur des embarcations nationales.

M. le Président, en ce qui concerne l'élément 1 de la Stratégie, je vous informe que, durant les trois dernières années (1988, 1989 et 1990), environ 90.3 pour cent/an des captures sont destinés à la consommation humaine. Je ne veux pas dire par-là que les besoins de notre population sont satisfaits totalement; loin de là, parce que la grande majorité de celle-ci vit dans le milieu rural qui était difficile à atteindre à cause de la guerre. Seulement un faible pourcentage des captures est exporté.

M. le Président, grâce à l'assistance technique de la FAO, mon pays a mis en place un nouveau cadre juridique, adapté aux normes internationales. Notre Assemblée nationale va prochainement approuver la loi sur les pêches. Pour essayer de minimiser les principales difficultés contenues dans la deuxième partie du paragraphe 21, mon pays a sollicité l'assistance technique de la Banque mondiale.

Dans le deuxième élément de la Stratégie, nous considérons prioritaire la formation du personnel national, parmi lequel il faut inclure celui de la pêche artisanale sans lequel le pays ne pourra pas tirer le maximum des profits de ses ressources halieutiques.

Nous disposons de deux écoles de pêche pour la formation des techniciens nationaux de base et de moyen niveau. Et à partir de 1992, les jeunes cadres des pays de la SADCC pourront les fréquenter.

Le document C 91/25 nous informe que l'élément 3 de la Stratégie constitue une grande préoccupation des gouvernements des pays tant développés qu'en développement. Pour les pays en voie de développement en général, et l'Angola en particulier, cet élément, comme nous pourrions le constater, constitue notre point faible, ne disposant pas des moyens adéquats pour le contrôle, la fiscalisation des ressources et opérations de pêche, et conduisant à la réduction de nos stocks halieutiques. L'Angola, qui se trouve dans la même situation que les autres pays en voie de développement, demande une fois de plus, dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale et multilatérale, le renforcement de l'appui financier, matériel et technique, pour résoudre l'aménagement rationnel et l'utilisation optimale des ressources halieutiques.

Le document C 91/25 met aussi l'accent sur la pollution et ses effets, la dégradation de l'environnement. La délégation angolaise appuie toutes les mesures prises ou à prendre pour surveiller et contrôler les menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement. D'ailleurs, ce point est parmi les thèmes sur lesquels la FAO va s'attarder dans ses analyses. Monsieur le Président, la pêche artisanale a un grand rôle à jouer pour atteindre les objectifs économiques, sociaux et nutritionnels nationaux. Elle possède une grande réserve en hommes qui connaissent le secteur. Nous devons aussi reconnaître l'importance des femmes surtout dans la transformation et la commercialisation des poissons, sans oublier les activités connexes, notamment les charpentiers et les mécaniciens. Source d'emplois tout le long de la côte, ce secteur, la pêche artisanale bien sûr, exige très peu de ressources financières et matérielles par rapport à la pêche industrielle. En Angola, la pêche côtière a été définie parmi les priorités. Je profite de cette occasion qui m'est offerte pour informer la conférence qu'un organe a été créé pour s'occuper du développement de la pêche artisanale et aura comme objectifs: sa promotion, l'établissement des programmes d'actions socio-économiques visant le développement intégré des communautés de pêcheurs, et enfin l'élaboration d'un système national de captures, la recherche et la divulgation de l'information utile à la pêche côtière.

M. le Président, ma délégation félicite la FAO pour le FIPIS qui est devenu opérationnel, et appuie la collaboration multinationale pour l'aménagement des pêches en vue d'harmoniser les systèmes conjoints de contrôle et de surveillance.

Ma délégation appuie aussi les observations et les recommandations de la dix-neuvième session du Comité des pêches de la FAO contenues dans le Chapitre IV, ainsi que les observations du Conseil de la FAO à sa quatre-vingt-dix-neuvième session.

**Adnan Kh. AL-RASHOOD (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic):** In the name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful, on behalf of the Kuwait delegation, I should like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the Secretariat who have prepared this very important document, C 91/25.

We are meeting here to discuss this document. It is for us to try to register progress in the implementation, management and the development of fisheries. However, it is regrettable to note, also, that what I am talking about now may differ from what other people are going to talk about. I can only talk about the disastrous situation which prevails on our shores, the shores of Kuwait. I refer to a serious problem for the whole of mankind. At all times Kuwait has given considerable importance to the management and development of fisheries. Kuwait was one of the first countries in the Gulf Region to prepare a policy and strategy aimed at guaranteeing an integral and harmonious development of its fisheries. Kuwait has also been among the first countries to fulfil their obligations and to pay their contributions to FAO because of the crucial importance of this sector.

We prepared legislation and regulations governing fisheries in our country. We have defined those areas where fishing is forbidden. We have defined the varieties of fish to be caught and also the type of vessels to be used.

We have also forbidden the use of certain types of gear because of their disastrous effects. In the 1980s and 1990s we followed a strategy aimed at improving fishery development and management. This strategy was adopted by the Government of Kuwait and then reported to FAO.

Our Fisheries Research Centre in Kuwait is also engaged in considerable research concerning the fisheries resources of our country. This Centre is of considerable renown in the Gulf Region and in the Middle East as a whole.

Unfortunately, in 1990, my country was occupied by Iraq. I am sure you are fully acquainted with the various actions engaged in by the occupying forces, who did not hesitate to destroy all our infrastructure and our achievements.

What the occupying army was not able to pillage, it destroyed. As you know, a lot of mines were laid along our shores. We carried out many studies and we were engaged in a lot of work which was burnt. Our libraries and documentation centres were destroyed.

You also know of the other damage that was done. You know that the Iraqi régime poured tons of oil on to our shoreline and along the ocean adjoining Kuwait.

You understand the repercussions of such action. This was crowned by the crime of the century when the occupying army of Iraq burned our oil-wells and this led to an unprecedented ecological disaster in our region. It led to the destruction of all forms of life in the country.

Kuwait is always among the first countries to support the actions of FAO, and we wish to endorse the words of our brethren and colleagues in saying that we shall always be ready to contribute our assistance to the Organization and to countries needing our assistance. When a strategy is adopted for fisheries in the years to come, I hope you will take into due account the situation in Kuwait and neighbouring countries so that you will be able to help us repair what has been destroyed, both as regards technical aspects and also in order to help us carry out the necessary studies.

We trust that you will be able to provide us with the experts we need to restore our documentation, statistics and data on fishery resources. All the Gulf countries have considerable need of technical assistance from FAO if they are to combat pollution which has had such a cruel effect. We believe this will be part of one of the resolutions to be adopted by this Commission.

**Nedilson Ricardo JORGE (Brazil):** First allow me to express my satisfaction at seeing you in the Chair conducting our work under this item. Next, I should like to thank FAO's Secretariat for having prepared this comprehensive and very informative document.

The Brazilian Government is worried about the attempts made by some developed countries to impose on developing countries their fishing techniques and technologies disguised as being environmentally safer. However, my Government shares the views of those who give importance to training and to transferring knowledge, skills and technology in order to assist developing countries to improve their management and sustainable development of their fisheries.

With respect to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, I should like to stress once again the strong opposition of the Brazilian Government to this kind of fishing practice.

In order to be brief I will refer only to the two aspects I have just mentioned.

**Tara Nath BHATTARAI (Nepal):** First of all, allow me to take this opportunity to join with other delegates in congratulating the Secretariat on presenting a comprehensive and high-quality report on the subject, document C 91/25.

We should like to endorse the views expressed by the delegate from Senegal, particularly regarding the need to emphasize the importance of inland or continental fisheries, management and development. We endorse this view because, being a landlocked country, our fisheries management and development is concerned with inland fisheries only, which has been contributing significantly to the socio-economic upliftment of some parts of the rural community and to food and nutrient supplement for many rural communities.

The progress achieved by us in this type of fisheries, particularly in research and development, has been quite significant. The large potential for hydro-power generation in the country, which is attracting heavy investment in the construction of dams, will open up a new venue for inland fisheries development and management. So we think that the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development should also consider the needs of inland fisheries and continental fisheries.

**Antonio BAYAS F. (Chile):** El Gobierno de Chile participa de los principios del Plan de Acción y Ordenación de los Recursos y Desarrollo Pesqueros, comparte los planteamientos del documento C 91/25 mediante el cual la FAO informa a esta Conferencia sobre los resultados y aplicación por gran parte de los países miembros del citado Plan de Acción.

Mi delegación apoya el mencionado documento, especialmente en lo que respecta a la regulación de pesca de altura. La Subsecretaría de Pesca de mi país está implementando una serie de medidas, tanto técnicas como de carácter legal, con objeto de obtener una ordenación racional de los recursos pesqueros.

En aras del tiempo, no me referiré a otros asuntos que ya han sido tocados por otras delegaciones que me antecieron en el uso de la palabra. Particularmente, compartimos varios de los aspectos expresados por las distinguidas delegaciones de España y Australia. Consciente con los principios de ordenación y explotación racional de los recursos pesqueros, Chile fue el segundo país que procedió a firmar la Convención para la provisión de pesca con redes de enmalle y deriva en el Pacífico Sur.

**Sra. Ana María NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** A nombre de la delegación de Cuba permítame saludarlo a usted, al Presidente elegido y al Vicepresidente, deseándoles éxitos en la conducción de esta importante Comisión II.

Agradecemos muy sinceramente los esfuerzos realizados por la Secretaría en la presentación de este documento conciso que a la vez nos brinda una valiosa información acerca del rumbo positivo de las acciones realizadas por los países en favor de la Estrategia para la Ordenación y el Desarrollo Pesqueros.

Nuestro reconocimiento también al Sr. Lindquist por la valiosa presentación de este tema en la mañana de hoy.

No existen dudas sobre la eficaz orientación y la valiosa contribución que la Estrategia ha brindado a la mayoría de nuestros países. Este instrumento ha representado un valioso aporte a los programas y planes nacionales de diversos países. No existen dudas además que la Estrategia ha desempeñado un importante papel en la orientación de los cambios a adoptarse dentro del sector pesquero y muchos países han planteado que sus planes nacionales se han visto enriquecidos con su adopción y otros han vuelto a formular sus planes después de la Conferencia Mundial, con el objeto de proceder acorde a las orientaciones contenidas en la Estrategia.

En el caso de Cuba, y para nuestra satisfacción, la aprobación de esta Estrategia para la Ordenación y el Desarrollo Pesqueros reafirmó la voluntad política en materia de pesca adoptada por nuestro Gobierno hace 30 años, es decir, los parámetros de la Estrategia reafirmaron la validez de nuestro programa nacional, por lo que siempre hemos afirmado que la Estrategia constituye un instrumento válido, por sus planes y objetivos generales, por su empuje y acción orientadora.

Cuba confiere gran importancia a las actividades pesqueras, habida cuenta de que este sector representa un rubro importante en las acciones que se llevan a cabo en el Plan Alimentario Nacional y representan además una valiosa fuente de divisas necesarias para la economía nacional.

A la pesca en Cuba se le confiere una importante prioridad y el programa nacional está debidamente insertado en el sistema de desarrollo integral de la economía nacional.

Mi delegación desea aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer la colaboración eficiente que siempre ha recibido del Departamento de Pesca de la FAO y, sobre todo, la colaboración prestada en sentido general por la FAO a nuestro país a través de importantes proyectos y asistencia técnica en el sector de la pesca.

Concedemos gran importancia además a la capacitación como componente de los programas de asistencia al desarrollo.

Nuestro país en distintas ocasiones ha revelado su creciente preocupación por el efecto de la contaminación y el deterioro ambiental sobre la pesquería en nuestra zona y en el mundo. En nuestro caso, y confiamos que el resto de los países también lo haga, tomamos las medidas necesarias o previstas para el seguimiento y control de las amenazas al medio ambiente.

Acogemos con beneplácito los progresos realizados en la aplicación de la Estrategia, hecho que además se ha demostrado a través del segundo informe, cuya contribución fue más amplia y sustanciosa que el primer informe realizado.

Apoyamos en este sentido las observaciones y recomendaciones formuladas por el Comité de Pesca en su 19<sup>2</sup> período de sesiones, así como las observaciones formuladas por el 99° Consejo de la FAO el pasado junio de 1991.

Compartimos la preocupación de la distinguida representación de México con respecto a la reducción del Presupuesto del Programa de Pesca de la FAO, por la incidencia que este hecho revertirá sobre los países en desarrollo que tanto necesitan de la ayuda y cooperación de la FAO.

Finalmente, hacemos un llamado para que los recursos que los países puedan ofrecer al desarrollo de este importante sector no se escatimen, si se tiene en cuenta que la preservación y conservación de los recursos pesqueros en el mundo es responsabilidad y deber de todos.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** At the outset, I would like to compliment the Secretariat for circulation of a concise, yet very informative, document C 91/25 on the Agenda, Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development - Progress Report. The document has ably summed up the progress achieved in regard to the eight major elements identified in the 1984 FAO World Fisheries Conference as part of a strategy for fisheries management and development. The implementation of the strategy has made possible the realization of economic, social and institutional goals and led to rational management and optimal utilization of fishery resources, greater self-reliance in fisheries management, development of small-scale fisheries in rural fishing, betterment of the status of the fish farming communities, larger investments in fisheries and increased international cooperation in fisheries projects and trade in fish.

India has vast fishery resources. Through scientific exploitation, fish production, which was only 75 million tonnes in the early 1950s, has since gone up to 3.8 million tonnes, which represents nearly a fivefold increase. There has also been a phenomenal growth in the export of marine products from the country. The value of exports of marine products during the year 1990-91 reached an all-time high of Rupees 8.9 billion.

Development of aquaculture has also received the desired attention through the propagation of semi-intensive and intensive aquaculture in tanks and ponds through fish farmers' development agencies, extensive fish farming in reservoirs through cooperatives, and the development of a requisite infrastructure for the production of quality fish seeds. The strategy for development of marine fisheries aims at modernization of the traditional and mechanized sectors, judicious mix of imported and indigenous vessels, specific deep sea fishing through chartered vessels, joint ventures and 100 percent export-oriented units for the optimum exploitation of the fisheries resources in the Indian EEZ and joint ventures in tuna purse-seining and processing for exploitation of deep sea fishery resources.

The role played by the small-scale fisheries in providing food for domestic consumption and employment and the need to improve the welfare of marine and inland fishing communities is well recognized. Priority is given in the national fisheries development plans for protection of small-scale and traditional fishermen communities and steps are taken to improve not only their fishing efficiency but also their socio-economic conditions. The role of women and involvement of youth and educated unemployed are the other two aspects receiving the attention of many countries including India.

Considerable efforts have been made in recent years to introduce new methods for rational management and optimum use of the fisheries resources in the developing and developed countries. There is also a need for an adequate scientific data base, formulation and implementation of management systems for sustaining fisheries exploitations. There is also a need for identifying clearly the research priorities and objectives for better stock assessment.

The value of fish trade has more than doubled during the late 1980s and the developing countries contributed to over 47 percent of the world total. There is a continued need for steep reduction in trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff, for greater diversification of the products and improved access to market information and intelligence.

There is a need for greater coordination and exchange of information between the agencies, donors and financing institutions within the fisheries sector as a means of promotion of investment in fisheries management and development. Private sector investment also needs to be encouraged in fish production and marketing and provision of support services on a non-commercial nature. Many bilateral and other agreements have recognized the value of joint ventures and similar cooperative programmes, particularly in the transfer of technology and training of personnel fisheries.

In the context of world food security, the role of FAO in sustainable fisheries management and development assumes still greater importance. In this context, reduced outlays for fisheries sector in the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1992 and 1993 call for considerable augmentation from other extrabudgetary sources. The efforts of FAO also need to be complemented by other organizations such as ADB, IFAD, UNDP, WFP and other international organizations especially for providing more support for development of aquaculture, small-scale fisheries, artisanal fisheries, etc. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands):** The Netherlands delegation welcomes the Progress Report which provides an important contribution to the development of a national fisheries policy in many countries but it also gives a useful outline of the impact and implementation of the Strategy until 1990.

My delegation also welcomes and endorses COFI recommendations in it. As mentioned by Germany and the United Kingdom, the Netherlands is of the opinion that the Strategy has to be flexible and could be adapted to the varying circumstances. This applies in particular in relation to the environment and sustainable development.

In developing a management policy, these matters should be taken into consideration sufficiently. Where technically possible my country prefers a multi-species approach to achieve this. A free access to markets will contribute to the development of the fisheries sector. Like many delegations, the Netherlands endorses the importance of attention to socio-economic factors in developing fishery policies and asks for the protection of interests in the artisanal fisheries.

Finally, my country supports the idea to improve the implementation of the Strategy by means of a publication. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** Indonesia welcomes document C 91/25. As mentioned in the document we are also of the view that the guidelines and principles contained in the Strategy have been, and still are, of value and use in helping to prepare our review plans and programmes for the fisheries sector.

Mr Chairman, in the other document of the Conference, C 91/19, regarding the work programme of action, it was mentioned that the numbers of fish will fall, meaning that the small fishermen, around 50 million plus their families, will suffer. This is a large subgroup of the poorer farmers in the world. It is therefore very logical, Mr Chairman, that the developing countries to which the majority of these poorer fishermen belong take the necessary steps to facilitate and to secure the acceleration of an improvement programme for their betterment; for these fishermen and their families' well-being.

In connection with the above it is also obvious that the Government has and will be implementing necessary legislation and regulations to safeguard these poorer fishermen.

With regard to Strategy 1 we wish to inform you, Mr Chairman, that the Fishery Sub-sector contributions to the Indonesian GDP is relatively small and following the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea the Government has enacted a law on EEZ and through this law access has been given to foreign fishing vessels to exploit the resources in the Indonesian EEZ. During the period of 1986 to 1988 the total number was 1 374 vessels operating in the Indonesian EEZ out of which 871 were foreign vessels. To accelerate and provide broader opportunities to national fishing companies to expand their fishing in EEZ zones, efforts were made to encourage existence of own enterprises, national fishing companies and joint ventures to invest in EEZ.



Further, due to the remarkable increase of the number of foreign vessels operating in the Indonesian EEZ, measures should and will be taken to control these vessels. National data indicates to us that there is a significant increase in foreign fishing vessels operating in the Indonesian EEZ since then. It decreased from 871 to 503 in 1990, and simultaneously an increase of national vessels went from 499 in 1988 to 1 455 in 1990.

With regard to Strategy 3 the national management and optimum use of these resources, we wish to inform the Organization that most existing regional fisheries cooperation between Indonesia and its neighbouring states and distant water fishing nations form the function of providing services such as information exchange, data gathering analysis, consultation, coordination of programmes and joint planning. These have not yet received full cooperative planning, on (1) establishment of standards regulations and allocation of costs and benefits; and (2) the management of fisheries resources, exploration and exploitation.

The proclamation of the EEZ presents some problems as a consequence of the necessity for establishing control and surveillance and monitoring measures. In order to manage these fisheries resources and to obtain the benefits that can be obtained from the utilization of these fishery resources in the EEZ, the Government has been developing fisheries protection through the implementation of the NCS system. In this regard we note the assistance of the UNDP/FAO in the regional project for ASEAN from NCS of fisheries in EEZ of the ASEAN countries, undertaken with the main emphasis on training activities. This project is located in Indonesia - Jakarta.

With regard to the international trade in fish and fishery products, we wish to inform you that measures have been taken by our Government in pursuance of the export promotion programme in the field of promoting the productive element and in improving the quality of exported products to meet the standard requirements of importing countries.

With regard to economic and technical cooperation in international fisheries management and development, we wish to inform that within the developing countries, under the auspices of ASEAN, a programme has been carried out in the sharing of development of appropriate technology, expertise, research, training, resource management and trade promotion. Attention has also been given to the timely gathering and exchange of data and information with other regional countries in order to enhance coordination in fisheries management development.

We feel there is a need for establishing closer cooperation between FAO and other regional organizations or bodies concerned with fisheries, and in recognition of the need of participation in the increasing of our commitments to technical participation and commitments to technical support. Indonesia is involved and contributes as a member country to the several regional projects.

Finally, we are of the view that institutional coordination to support fisheries development should be encouraged.

**Jamil Mohammad JAMIL (Iraq) (Original language Arabic):** We wish to express our thanks to the Organization for this excellent document, C 91/25. We fully support the contents of the document relating to fisheries management and development. Of course these documents have been ratified in the World Conference.

You are aware, of course, of the very great importance of the fisheries sector to coastal developing countries, though this importance might vary in landlocked countries. However, fish is still a very important commodity in the Iraqi food basket. It is, as you know, an alternative to red meat, which is expensive compared to fish.

In my country, Iraq, our aquacultural policies during the past two decades have concentrated on the development of small-scale fisheries and craft fisheries, although I do admit that we have not gained much in this field. We know that according to the Strategy we have to improve small-scale fisheries and rural fishing and, as I said, we do not have long coastal fisheries. We depend on inland fisheries in the Tigris and Euphrates, and also in some natural lakes in our territory, as well as artificial lakes and other water courses in the south of the country.

Mr Chairman, despite the great efforts made and still being made by FAO in regard to measures relating to coastal and other fisheries in different parts of the world, we in Iraq feel that we are still in need of advisory services in order to adapt the technology relating to fisheries developments and to implement such new practices in our inland fisheries in rivers and lakes. We also need advisory services and consultancies relating to ways and means of conserving natural resources and protecting our environment. These, of course, are related to inland fishing.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I should like to thank you for this very excellent document and to thank you for your attention.

**Mme. Maria DE LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert):** Tout d'abord veuillez nous excuser d'avoir allongé la liste des orateurs et permettez-nous tout de même de féliciter M. Linquist pour la présentation du document.

Le Gouvernement du Cap-Vert considère la pêche comme un secteur stratégique pour le développement du pays car les ressources halieutiques en constituent la principale ressource. Le développement de ce secteur détermine la création d'un grand nombre d'emplois dont l'effet multiplicateur sur l'économie contribue à l'amélioration de la diète alimentaire et à la viabilisation d'autres secteurs tels que l'agriculture et l'élevage. Les produits de la pêche et leurs dérivés constituent un important élément pour l'équilibre externe du pays. Ce secteur est un pôle d'attraction de l'investissement externe qui, associé au capital national, peut contribuer de façon significative à l'insertion stratégique du Cap-Vert dans le système économique mondial.

La stratégie adoptée par la Conférence mondiale des pêches en 1984 est un précieux instrument aussi bien pour nos pays en développement que pour les pays développés, surtout insulaires et côtiers, si bien qu'elle demeure valable. Nous estimons, nous aussi, qu'elle doit faire ultérieurement l'objet de mise à jour, compte tenu du nouveau concept de développement durable et de l'intégration des femmes. A cet égard nous appuyons la déclaration de la Norvège.

La politique du Gouvernement pour ce secteur s'appuie sur cette stratégie, les principaux objectifs étant l'augmentation et la diversification de la production, l'augmentation de la production des industries de transformation et de conservation, l'amélioration de la capacité du secteur de générer des effets multiplicateurs en stimulant l'investissement dans ce secteur situé en aval et amont, de façon à augmenter l'efficacité de l'investissement sectoriel, le développement de la Coopération internationale et la signature d'accords de pêches particulièrement au niveau régional basés sur les principes de la réciprocité, la création d'un appareil productif moderne capable de répondre aux sollicitations du marché international, le développement de la recherche scientifique et la création d'un institut national pour le développement des pêches. Sur le plan économique, le Gouvernement utilisera plutôt des instruments d'intervention indirecte, notamment le crédit, le taux d'intérêt et la politique de revenus et de prix. Le Gouvernement entreprendra encore la révision et l'adéquation de la législation existante de façon à la rendre plus efficace.

Encore une fois nous tenons à manifester notre préoccupation pour la diminution des ressources allouées à cet important secteur, en espérant qu'une meilleure attention lui sera accordée dans le prochain biennium 1994-95.

Avant de terminer nous aimerions souligner, tout en appuyant les déclarations précédentes, les points suivants: la poursuite de l'appui et des interventions de la FAO, l'importance de la Coopération régionale et internationale dans le développement des pêches, le renforcement des capacités nationales en matière de recherche et de formation à tous les niveaux des opérateurs concernés.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** We have received a written statement from the EEC, with a request that it be inserted in the Verbatim Records.

**Gian Paolo PAPA (CEE) :** Les priorités du programme de coopération de la Commission, relatives à la pêche et à l'aquaculture, sont issues d'une analyse basée sur un dialogue continu avec les administrations des pêches maritimes des pays ACP et non ACP sur les programmes lancés en 1984 par la Conférence mondiale sur le développement mondial et l'aménagement des pêches, et sur la consultation avec nos pays membres. Ils insistent sur l'aide, le planning et le renforcement des institutions concernant les pêches, la recherche, l'aquaculture, l'appui à la valorisation et l'aide aux pêches artisanales. L'idée de base est d'aider à maximiser les bénéfices potentiels que les pays en voie de développement peuvent tirer de leurs ressources halieutiques.

Pour des raisons historiques, la Commission des Communautés européennes a eu traditionnellement de nombreux liens avec l'Afrique au sud du Sahara. Ces liens sont toujours très importants et se reflètent en +/- 127 millions

d'ECUS\* (154 millions de dollars E.-U.), ou plus de 50 pour cent du total du programme de coopération dans le secteur pêche, investis dans cette partie du monde.

Sur un total approximatif de 246 millions d'ECUS\* (298 millions de dollars E.-U.), investis dans des projets de pêches et d'aquaculture, quelques 40 millions d'ECUS\* (48 millions de dollars E.-U.), ou à peu près 16 pour cent, sont alloués aux deux priorités du programme communautaire, qui correspondent en gros au Programme d'action N° I, lancé par la Conférence de 1984.

A présent, seules quelques activités sont en cours dans le secteur de transformation en aval, avec comme but de valoriser les produits de la pêche. Cependant, le souhait des pays en voie de développement de prendre une part toujours plus importante dans le commerce international, par l'utilisation d'espèces plus nobles destinées aux marchés du Nord et les efforts continus afin d'obtenir une plus grande autosuffisance alimentaire, se traduit par un certain nombre d'orientations et de résultats concrets du Programme d'action IV. Par ailleurs, ces deux objectifs sont souvent en conflit et on peut trouver des situations où l'accès au poisson n'est pas tellement une question de disponibilité physique mais bien de pouvoir d'achat.

Cependant, la demande de valorisation des captures et d'amélioration des revenus de la pêche a eu un impact positif sur le programme de coopération communautaire. Un projet préparatoire destiné à mobiliser les institutions et l'expertise de l'Afrique occidentale dans le secteur de transformation en aval vient d'être prolongé pour une nouvelle année. Ceci, tout comme d'autres activités, est important pour développer un climat de confiance parmi des centaines de petits opérateurs de la filière, parmi lesquels beaucoup sont des femmes. D'autre part, une coordination et une coopération avec d'autres initiatives, telles que le réseau de transformation en aval de la FAO et INFOPECHE, le service d'information et de conseil en matière de commercialisation des produits de la pêche à Abidjan, sont également développées.

La coopération relative à l'aquaculture continue à être importante dans le cadre des travaux thématiques, particulièrement en Asie avec un programme de coopération régionale alors que les programmes d'aquaculture en Afrique et en Amérique latine sont toujours limités, vu la nature encore peu confirmée de l'activité. C'est ainsi que, dans les deux derniers continents, on estime que ce sont des programmes à plus long terme traitant les problèmes des systèmes agricoles entiers, ou de formes intégrées d'aquaculture-agriculture, qui constituent un préalable à l'établissement d'une véritable aquaculture.

1 ECU                   =1,21 dollar E.-U.  
(31.10.1991)       =1 531 liras italiennes

L'ECU (European currency Unit) est une unité panier composée de montants spécifiques des monnaies d'Etats Membres de la Communauté. Il fait partie du Système monétaire européen (SME) et est couvert par les réserves de Banques centrales. Dans le stade final de la création de l'Union monétaire européenne (EMU), il devrait y avoir une monnaie européenne unique.

Depuis les premiers projets de pêche artisanale lancés par la Communauté il y a plus de 10 ans, la compréhension des besoins de ce sous-secteur a évolué considérablement. L'expérience avec cet aspect du programme communautaire confirme que de tels projets doivent tenir compte d'une extrême complexité sociale, institutionnelle et technique, et que ceci nécessite une approche intégrée et holistique avec une participation approfondie des bénéficiaires dès le départ. L'aide à la pêche artisanale représente à peu près 27 pour cent du total des ressources allouées au secteur, et les projets les plus récents essaient d'adopter cette approche intégrée. Cela veut dire que toute la gamme des facteurs, partant des facteurs naturels jusqu'aux facteurs sociaux, économiques et d'environnement politique, doit être prise en compte si le soutien extérieur a pour objectif de créer des activités viables au bénéfice des petites communautés de pêche, y compris les femmes.

En effet, une grande partie de l'évolution de la manière d'approcher ce sous-secteur extrêmement important a été facilitée par les travaux et documents de la FAO ainsi qu'une évaluation conjointe ACP/CEE du programme de coopération en matière de pêche de la Communauté. Ceci a conduit à l'adoption, en 1990, par le Conseil des Ministres AFP/EC des principes de base sur les projets concernant la pêche. Une version plus générale de ces principes de base a été récemment soumise à la deuxième consultation des bailleurs de fonds en matière de pêche à Paris. Ils ont été établis en vue d'une meilleure coopération et d'une réduction des conditions divergentes imposées par les bailleurs de fonds aux administrations des pays en voie de développement. Conjointement avec les membres de la Communauté européenne, cette démarche a ultérieurement mené à l'établissement de directives pour la préparation et la mise en oeuvre des projets de pêche. Ce document est disponible au Service d'évaluation de la Direction générale du développement.

La compréhension de la spécificité de la pêche en tant que secteur de ressources naturelles, de son potentiel et de ses limitations ainsi que de la population qui en vit, fut une des bases de la stratégie formulée en 1984. Une grande partie de ce qui a été débattu à l'époque reste d'actualité même si on utilise actuellement une terminologie quelque peu différente en insistant, par exemple, plus sur des concepts d'intégration et d'environnement, puisque le secteur ne peut évoluer que dans un environnement sain.

La Commission a hautement apprécié les efforts de la FAO vis-à-vis de l'UNCED afin de maintenir la stratégie des programmes d'action. Elle continue à travailler en collaboration étroite dans ce domaine.<sup>1</sup>

A.H. LINDQUIST (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): First of all I wish to thank you for all the information received. It will be studied very carefully by the Officers in the Fisheries Department and by the Organization and, as you know, all that you said will be available in the Verbatim.

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

COFI, the Committee on Fisheries, was mentioned several times here, and as the interventions were of a very high technical quality I had the feeling sometimes I was sitting here at COFI; and I think this is a very good sign.

The delegate of Poland said at the beginning that the impetus of this Strategy, on which there was remarkable agreement, has not been lost, and I think this very first statement was confirmed by all the other following 33 interventions and by the written statement from the EEC. It was very encouraging to listen to all your positive statements, both in the morning and in the afternoon, and I think from the material it was quite obvious that the Strategy was not only for the developing countries but also for the developed countries; not only for those who are receiving but also those who are giving funds for work.

The need for cooperation in order to manage and develop fisheries was mentioned, I think, by nearly all the delegates, and fisheries resources should be used in such a way that fisheries could be sustained; and this, of course, is the whole purpose of fisheries management.

Special reference was made to the management of the high-seas, to coastal areas and to inland waters; and the trans-sectorial approach, which is needed, was stressed.

This is needed of course for the management of coastal areas. It is not fishery alone which affects coastal fisheries but all human activities. I would like to comment on the three sea areas, namely high-seas, coastal areas, and inland waterways, in a little more detail. There will be a technical consultation on high-seas fisheries. The Director-General has considered this carefully and FAO has taken the lead on this issue together with the UN office of the law of the sea. A Technical Consultation will be held next year and there will also be an Inter-Governmental Consultation on this issue. The results will then be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on fisheries in 1993. We appreciate the positive comments which have been made on that. The Agenda will soon be sent to all interested countries. You may recall that several of our officers visited a number of countries to receive their views, which have now been incorporated.

Then there was the question of a related matter, that is, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. The next Diplomatic Conference has been tentatively set for 15-19 June next year, subject of course to the agreement of the Conference. As regards the large-scale pelagic driftnet fisheries, there were a great number of interventions, and I wish to draw your attention to Agenda Item 22 of this Conference, during which a record of the activities of the Secretariat will be given, and this will be later this week. As regards coastal areas management, this is, as you know, a main theme for UNCED and the Organization has been very active in preparing a background document for this purpose.

The competing use of coastal areas is of major concern. In this context I also wish to mention what we have been doing in the field of marine mammals, which has been mentioned, and it concerns both the coastal areas and the high seas. We are participating jointly with UNEP in a Programme and Coordinating Committee on marine mammals and a scientific commentary. We are going to publish identification sheets of citations.

We have published a study on the biological impacts of all types of gill nets on marine mammals and we have also published a document - a book, actually - on the interaction between marine mammals and fisheries.

When it comes to inland waterways, a number of interventions were made and we are putting particular stress on this from the Secretariat side: As you have seen in the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan, inland fisheries are by no means forgotten, although naturally marine fisheries always tend to be the big brother. As regards the future reporting by the Secretariat on the Strategy, it has been noted that several delegations said that this should be done at four-yearly intervals, as it is now. It was also noted that the next review should contain some sort of updating of the Strategy itself. This would of course have to be discussed at the next COFI Meeting, which will be in 1993, because the Secretariat itself cannot review the strategy; it has to be done by a technical body, but the Secretariat will prepare for the discussions during COFI. The Secretariat also noted that a publication of the national views which have been given to us has been endorsed, and we have also noted that countries should have an opportunity to clear their own contributions. Of course, this publication is something different from the chapter which we are preparing for the so-called SOFA. Several delegations stress the need for more information on resources combined with multi-species approaches, and I think this is in general line with the strategy. Norway announced that the Dr Fridtjof Nansen Programme will continue with a new Dr Fridtjof Nansen, which is of course very happy news because this kind of review of resources has been carried out in many developing countries. It has been useful for the planning of their marine fisheries. Those are the main points which were mentioned.

**CHAIRMAN:** I have been told that I must sum up. Having listened to Mr Lindquist, I am still debating whether there is any need to sum up because he took over that responsibility as well. There are a few issues which I have flagged which I will present to you now in summing up. Almost all delegates expressed their satisfaction with the document presented and the frequency of reporting. FAO will try to improve on the format as they proceed, and on the content and focus. This is a natural process, of course, as they proceed with their activities. To my mind, the most important focus is on the environmental aspect, sustainability, protection of ecosystems and the ecological balance, which was highlighted by most delegates. It is like a central thread running through the entire fabric of this document. Even if you look at the larger aspects, this particular Conference highlighted at the various fora the question of sustainability, impact on environment and the necessity to highlight those things. We are glad to observe that the issue has captured that particular aspect, and the fact that several delegates highlighted and emphasized it would certainly be an encouragement for the FAO to take a special interest in it.

The management of aquatic resources was another area which was highlighted. Some countries may have developed their own management capabilities while others may not. It was generally indicated that FAO, as much as possible, developed and transferred the technology of management and also tried to find more ways of imparting that knowledge to Member Nations, so that the management aspect of aquatic resources could be kept constantly in focus. Naturally, countries have their own priorities. Sometimes they may lose sight of some of these main areas. So it is a responsibility of FAO, as

indicated by several delegates, not to lose sight of this, which is not exploitation per se but the management of the aquatic resources available for the use of Member Nations.

One or two delegates mentioned the budgetary restrictions, the fact that money is not adequate for this particular programme, and I hope the Secretariat and the ADGs concerned have taken note and will see to what extent this aspect can be taken care of and some flexibility introduced so that Member Nations will be satisfied with the programme that will be implemented within the resources available. The question of the collection of data, statistics, and technical cooperation was another issue which was highlighted and, of course, FAO would be very happy to extend that cooperation and to try and supply and reinforce the existing knowledge of Member Nations as far as statistics and information are concerned. I am sure the Secretariat will take note of this in trying to develop programmes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these are by and large the important points. I will not of course touch on all the issues raised, and you will very soon receive a report, when the Drafting Committee completes it, which is a correct reflection of what has transpired here.

Before I adjourn let me thank the Secretary, the Secretariat and, in particular, delegates for making my task very simple.

The meeting rose at 16.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.00 horas.



conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/11

Twenty-sixth Session

COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session

COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones

COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING

ONZIEME SEANCE

11ª SESION

(19 November 1991)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Chairman of Commission II. presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 11ª sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

19. Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations

19. Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO

19. Aplicación del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO

**CHAIRMAN:** First of all I want to thank the second Vice-Chairman for conducting meetings yesterday. That was a great relief for me.

We are a bit late but the reason is we have been talking about how to conduct business this afternoon. In fact the Commission is ahead of schedule, which I personally like very much, and I think we should, one way or another, try to rearrange things this afternoon. I would ask the Secretary to tell you about the state of the draft reports.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** This afternoon we should be able to adopt the report on Item 16, the Programme of Work and Budget, and also the reports on Item 14, the Review of the Regular Programme, and Item 15, the Medium-Term Plan, which makes together Report 1 and Report 2 for this afternoon.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much. That means, in practical terms, to carry it a bit further, that we will have the report on Item 16 before Plenary tomorrow morning with the votes on the Budget; plus we could have the draft reports on at least Items 14 and 15, maybe a bit more, in Plenary on Friday morning instead of next Wednesday. We will announce it later on in more detail but I think you should learn how it goes.

Now we are supposed to deal with Item 19, Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. There are two documents, one is the Report of the Director-General to the Conference, C 91/21, and in addition there is C 91/LIM/22, Extract from the Report of the Council.

Mr Shah, you have the floor for the introduction.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** As usual I intend to be brief. I am pleased to present this Report of the Director-General to the Conference in response to Conference Resolution 10/89 of the Twenty-fifth Session, the last Session of the Conference. As also directed by that Resolution, this report is submitted to you through the Programme and Finance Committee and the Council. The comments of these Bodies are before you. The Conference decided on a Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations through Resolution 6/87, adopted at its Twenty-fourth Session in 1987. Based on the debate which then took place, the Report of the Conference underlined two important reasons for the review of FAO.

Firstly, the Conference expressed, and I quote, "unanimity on the need to strengthen FAO in every possible manner so that it can continue to play a leading role in world agriculture during the years ahead".

Secondly, there was a current of opinion that "an in-depth review of FAO's goals and operations would be timely so that the Organization could face the challenges of the 1990s and beyond, with increased strength and efficiency". The references are to the Report of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference, C 87/REP, paragraphs 138 and 139.

The review of FAO was therefore a valuable and a timely exercise, aimed specifically to strengthen the Organization in every possible way. The joint report of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations was thoroughly examined by you, the Conference, at the Twenty-fifth Session. It bears recalling, and I cannot emphasize it enough; it bears recalling that a spirit of consensus marked the entire process of the Review: the work of the two groups of experts, the work of the Programme and Finance Committees; and their respective reports. The same spirit of consensus led the Conference to adopt by consensus Resolution 10/89.

The Resolution requested the Director-General to implement the measures proposed in this Resolution on a phased basis, to the extent that resources were available without impairing the execution of other priorities and activities in successive Programmes of Work and Budget adopted by the Conference. It also appealed to all Member Nations to pay their full assessed contributions to the Regular Programme promptly, and to financing agencies and institutions to consider the provision of extra-budgetary funds to cover the cost of selected activities.

The Conference had considered the requirements for resources to implement the recommendations emanating from the Review on the basis of the Director-General's estimated requirement of US\$27 million, of which US\$8 million might be drawn from extra-budgetary resources. However, you will well recall the Conference did not approve any supplementary appropriation and Member Nations and financing institutions have not come forward with the level of extra-budgetary resources required. It has been and continues to be the firm intention of the Director-General to implement the decisions of the Conference relating to the FAO review as promptly and as fully as possible. He regrets that the continuing financial crisis, which has proportions of unprecedented magnitude, of which you are well aware, has prevented him from doing more than what is presently reported. Contrary to what was expected as a result of the Review, the capacity of your Organization to serve the needs and aspirations of Member Nations has been severely eroded by the liquidity crisis. In this context, Mr Chairman, the Director-General has taken action to implement the Conference decisions in accordance with its directives, that is to say, on a phased basis and to the extent that resources permitted. While the largest and most important components of the Conference decisions have been implemented, the Director-General is committed to pursuing further action as resources become available in the hope of completing the task during the next biennium.

Mr Chairman, the entire process of the Review has been characterized by staff involvement and participation. This happened in the preparations for the groups of experts, in the briefing and discussions with them. It happened in the Secretariat response to the Programme and Finance Committees. The Director-General has followed the same principle of staff

involvement in implementing the decisions of the Conference on the Review. The report before you has clear sections on each area of action which has been implemented. In most cases the results of this action are before the Conference under other items of its Agenda. To give the most prominent examples, I cite the action on the Medium-Term Plan, which you have already considered; further strengthening FAO action on sustainable development and environment, which is considered by Commission I; country policy work, again in Commission I; the Review of Field Operations by the Governing Bodies, which you considered under the Review of Field Programmes; and support to agricultural trade negotiations, which is also covered in the work of Commission I. I will therefore not repeat the contents of the report.

Mr Chairman, the Director-General has spared no effort in implementing the Conference decisions. He regrets that the financial situation has not permitted further action. As you know, the execution of the Programme of Work and Budget approved by the Conference for the present biennium has been more difficult than ever because of the financial situation, and the Conference has given its directives on the manner in which the review recommendations were to be implemented without impairing the priorities and programmes of the Programme of Work and Budget. The Director-General wishes to emphasize that there are several important and useful recommendations emanating from the Review which would make FAO stronger in the future, provided they are put into effect immediately. The implementation of these recommendations calls for additional resources both under the Regular Budget and from extra-budgetary resources. If these resources fail to materialize, the Organization is bound to weaken the point where its mandate could be threatened and its comparative advantages eroded. Corrective action would then be much more difficult and costly. The Director-General sincerely hopes that an improvement in the financial stability of the Organization will permit him to satisfy you, the Conference, by completing action on the decision emanating from the FAO Review.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Como siempre, el Sr. Shah ha hecho una excelente presentación de este documento. La primera observación de carácter general que deseamos hacer los representantes de Colombia es la de que la realización del Examen y la aplicación de los resultados han tenido lugar dentro de un marco de incoherencias notorias y lamentables.

Los representantes de los Estados industrializados presionaron para que se llevara a cabo ese ejercicio con un costo superior a los tres millones de dólares, cifra calculable apenas hasta donde se pueden estimar los costos directos. Cifra que representó detrimento en favor de la asistencia a los países en desarrollo.

Luego, se negaron esos países a la adopción hasta de las más mínimas asignaciones presupuestarias adicionales para implementar las recomendaciones, y los tan anhelados y esperados recursos extrapresupuestarios brillaron por su ausencia; nunca aparecieron. Sin recursos, bajo el peso de la más grave crisis financiera que jamás haya padecido nuestra Organización, el Director General ha venido haciendo grandes esfuerzos para aplicar gradualmente las disposiciones y, hasta donde ha sido posible, ha evitado afectar las prioridades y actividades esenciales contenidas en el Programa aprobado por la Conferencia.

Ese examen de algunos aspectos de las metas y operaciones de la FAO confirmó la solidez de la estructura de nuestra Organización. El funcionamiento eficaz y adecuado de la FAO. Todo ese proceso se cumplió con el más amplio y decidido espíritu de consenso y el resultado unánime coincidió en la necesidad de reforzar a la FAO para que pudiera continuar desempeñando un papel destacado en la agricultura mundial durante los años venideros.

El párrafo 1 del documento básico concluye afirmando que "el examen constituía una actividad útil y oportuna para reforzar a la Organización en todas las formas posibles". Todos esperábamos que los gobiernos interesados en el examen, suministrarían los recursos indispensables para la aplicación de las recomendaciones. En Colombia hay un proverbio popular que dice: "El que quiere azul celeste, que le cueste".

Si esos Estados desarrollados propugnaron ese examen, debieron ser coherentes al haber suministrado los recursos para que se aplicaran las recomendaciones. Después, aquí viene otra de las incoherencias a las que hicimos referencia al principio de esta declaración. La última frase del párrafo 10 dice "contrariamente a lo que se preveía como consecuencia del examen, la crisis de liquidez ha erosionado gravemente la capacidad de la Organización para atender las necesidades y aspiraciones de los Estados Miembros".

No obstante, el Director General con actitud eficaz, ponderada e inteligente, ha logrado aplicar ya, como lo demuestra este documento, las recomendaciones más importantes y de mayor significación. Algo más, el Director General de mutuo propio, sin que lo hubiera solicitado la Conferencia, sin que lo hubiera pedido ningún representante de Gobierno, se anticipó, con buena voluntad, a presentar un informe preliminar al Consejo en noviembre de 1990 al final del primer año después de aprobada la Resolución 10/89.

Ya desde entonces, hace un año, el Consejo consideró que todo se adelantaba de manera clara, concisa, pragmática, como respuesta adecuada a las decisiones de la Conferencia y reconoció la dirección eficaz de esas medidas que estaban reforzando las actividades de la FAO.

Cuando intervenimos sobre algunos de los principales documentos de que se ha ocupado esta Comisión, bajo su digna y competente presidencia, tememos siempre incurrir en repeticiones porque hay una directa interrelación entre los principales documentos de esta Comisión II. Eso no obsta para que digamos que el Plan a plazo medio, que había ya existido hace 20 años, a fines de los sesenta y principios de los setenta, y luego se había incorporado al Programa de Labores, ahora ese Plan a plazo medio ha sido considerado en esta misma Comisión como un documento importante marco de políticas y programas para los próximos seis años.

Como lo comprobó el debate celebrado en esta misma Sala, ya en ese Plan a plazo medio se han incorporado esencialmente las principales recomendaciones dimanantes de ese examen. Pero aquí de nuevo encontramos otra incoherencia más. El párrafo 20 indica que - citamos - "el Consejo reiteró la vinculación orgánica entre el Plan a plazo medio y los sucesivos Programas de Labores y Presupuesto, inclusive la necesidad de recursos". Inclusive la necesidad de recursos, dijo el Consejo.

Y, ¿a qué estamos asistiendo? A un Plan a plazo medio magnifico, bien redactado, lujosamente empastado, luminosamente proyectado hasta el año 1997, pero todo ello en una estructura completamente vacía sin la menor indicación de cifras, ninguna referencia a recursos. Pero lo que es más grave y preocupante, el primero de los tres bienios que abarca el Plan a plazo medio 1992-93, comienza bajo el triste y lánguido peso del funesto crecimiento cero.

¿Cómo es posible, que si los Estados industrializados, que tienen los recursos, impulsaron ese examen y en ese Plan a plazo medio se han incorporado los principales objetivos localizados, que ahora se nieguen recursos para que todo lo que ellos han buscado se pueda en realidad implementar? La persistencia de esta nueva incoherencia, si en los otros dos bienios se insistirá también en el crecimiento cero o bajo cero; si el aumento de los costos se contendrá en forma tal que no permita garantizar la interejecución del Programa; si no podrá lograrse la recuperación de la totalmente devastada Cuota Especial de Reserva; si no podrá lograrse el natural y adecuado incremento del Fondo de Operaciones. Todo esto lo veremos más adelante en la Comisión III. Si nada de ello nos permitirá lograrlo, asistiremos a la desintegración progresiva de las actividades de la FAO, a través de los tres bienios del Plan a plazo medio.

Sobre el desarrollo sostenible y medio ambiente, la Resolución 3/89 de la pasada Conferencia pidió al Director General intensificar la integración de los aspectos del medio ambiente en todas las actividades pertinentes de la FAO y que al desarrollo sostenible se le concediera alta prioridad en los programas técnicos y económicos de la Organización.

Este era uno de los puntos esenciales sobre los cuales muchos Estados desarrollados y en desarrollo insistían como alta prioridad. Pues bien, de los párrafos 24 a 34 de este documento se desprende claramente como todo esto se ha llevado a cabo.

La Conferencia FAO/Países Bajos sobre Agricultura y Medio Ambiente, celebrada en Den Bosch en abril de 1991, ha creado un marco internacional muy constructivo para la elaboración y ejecución de programas para una agricultura y un desarrollo rural sostenible. La FAO ha venido participando activamente en las actividades preparatorias para la celebración de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo (PNUMA). La Cumbre de la Tierra, que tendrá lugar en Brasil en junio del año próximo. El desarrollo sostenible es una de las pocas actividades de la FAO que, en medio de la crisis financiera, recibirá incremento de presupuesto en el bienio próximo.

Si no abusáramos de su tiempo y nos extendiéramos al infinito analizando cada uno de los apartados de este documento, podríamos fácilmente confirmar que el Director General ha cumplido con atención y eficacia todo lo que el resultado del Examen le pidió en la Resolución 10/89. Entonces, como lo dijo el Sr. Shah, corresponde ahora a los Estados Miembros ofrecer todo el apoyo necesario para completar las aplicaciones de las decisiones emanadas del Examen. Ya la propia Resolución 10/89, en el párrafo 13, reconoció la necesidad de recursos adecuados, incluida la aportación de fondos extrapresupuestarios. En sus conclusiones, el Director General dice que "no ha escatimado esfuerzos para aplicar esas decisiones". Varias recomendaciones, importantes y útiles, fortalecerán a la FAO en el futuro, si pudieran llevarse a cabo inmediatamente. Si no se consiguen los recursos indispensables, la FAO está destinada a debilitarse hasta el punto de que

su mandato podría verse comprometido. Creo que todos los representantes de Gobierno tenemos la obligación de ofrecer la mejor atención y el mayor respeto a estas admoniciones del Director General.

Para concluir señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que con este documento el Director General ha atendido lo dispuesto en el párrafo 14 de la Resolución 10/89, que pidió se informara a la Conferencia en este 26° período de sesiones. Pero eso sí, esperamos que este sea el informe final.

Como lo dijo el Sr. Shah, el personal de la FAO sacrificó muy buena parte de su tiempo. En todo momento estuvo dispuesto a atender las solicitudes de los integrantes de los grupos de expertos. Algunas veces solicitudes excesivas. El personal de la FAO dedicó su tiempo para producir documentos a granel. Fue así como la FAO ofreció su más plena cooperación a la realización de este ejercicio. Eso sí, después de este informe final ahora, a trabajar.

Adoptaremos un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1992-93, en el cual ya se han incorporado los resultados de este examen, cuyo nombre y cuyas ambiciones deben de quedar hacia atrás en el pasado y ahora, señor Presidente, hacia el futuro. Punto y basta.

**Per Harald GRUE (Norway):** Firstly, let me thank Assistant Director-General Shah, for his introduction this morning.

On this Agenda Item I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and my own country, Norway.

The Nordic countries have, for many years, taken a keen interest in strengthening and improving the United Nations system. As major contributors to the UN operational activities, the Nordic countries feel concerned about, and indeed that we have an obligation towards, ensuring the efficiency and the development impact of these activities.

It was against this background that the Nordic countries in the mid-eighties took an initiative to conduct a thorough and broad review of the goals and operations of FAO.

Since then considerable changes have taken place in the world and in international relations, creating a need for multilateral cooperation to adapt to a new and different situation.

This has also created a new atmosphere of constructive cooperation which has given the very notion of reform a more positive connotation and enhanced the prospects for successful reforms of the United Nations system.

It is thus with great expectation that the Nordic countries welcome the Director-General's Report on the Implementation of the Review of Goals and Operations in FAO. In the document in front of us, C 91/21, the Director-General presents actions taken by the Secretariat to implement the Resolution adopted by consensus at the last Conference. Let me recall that the Nordic countries originally wanted a stronger Resolution, but at the end they joined in consensus.

Frankly, I have to say that the document does not fully meet our expectations. The reform process should be perceived as a positive challenge rather than a problem. This is, however, not the impression from reading the report. The report could have presented a clear picture of how far the Organization has reached in some areas which have been touched upon.

The Nordic countries have never accepted that reforms should be regarded as an additional cost factor to the Organization. A reform process is a useful basis for the necessary reduction of costs and for the streamlining of activities in any organization.

However, we realize that in a situation where the Organization is experiencing serious financial difficulties, the Secretariat's ability to implement the reform Resolution has been somewhat affected. The Secretariat has, nevertheless, been able to implement important parts of the Resolution. We are particularly pleased by the re-introduction of the Medium-Term Plan which is discussed in Agenda Item 15 at this Conference. The Plan forms a good basis for a fruitful discussion on priority setting. Through such discussions leading to consensus on the main priority areas, the Member Nations can improve governance of the Organization.

The continuous revision and updating of the Medium-Term Plan provides the membership with an opportunity to appraise FAO's comparative advantages. A thorough analysis of these advantages should form the basis for choosing areas of priority for the years ahead.

As a result of the Review Process, a new Budget procedure, including a Budget Outline, has been established. The new procedure has increased the transparency, and has thus improved the possibilities of reaching a consensus on the Budget at this Conference. The recent proposal from the Director-General for streamlining the whole Programme Budget Process, endorsed by the Programme and Finance Committees, will further increase the transparency and strengthen the influence of Member Nations in the Budget Process. There is, however, also need for further improvement in the transparency of the Programme of Work and Budget. In this connection we would like to refer to the Nordic statement on the PWB.

Conference Resolution 10/89 calls for strengthened efforts by FAO for sustainable development and environmental protection. The Nordic countries have for a long time advocated that higher priority must be given to these aspects of development. Agriculture, forestry and fishery are based on exploitation of natural resources, and are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation. FAO, mandated to be the lead agency in these sectors, should therefore give environmental questions top priority. Let me emphasize, Mr Chairman, that the Nordic countries are pleased with the follow-up of this part of the reform Resolution. We note with pleasure that FAO is actively participating in the UNCED process. We trust that the Organization elaborates the follow-up measures of the Rio Conference in its next revision of the Medium-Term Plan and the PWB.

The Nordic countries support the Director-General's intentions to increase FAO's technical support to the ongoing agricultural trade negotiations in GATT. The work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the standardization of phytosanitary regulations are important contributions to the removal of trade barriers.



The report at hand does not include a section of Women in Development and we shall not elaborate on the issue in this connection either, since it will be discussed under Item 13.

Greater involvement of FAO in policy analysis and advice - tasks that have been gradually taken over the Bretton Woods institutions - has been of particular importance in the review process. The report devotes seven pages to country policy work and gives a good description of ongoing policy advice activities. In the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, policy activities are said to be given higher priority. We note, however, that the allocation of funds for these objectives seems rather modest. Further strengthening of this important role of FAO will therefore be needed.

Resolution 10/89 requested the Director-General to examine ways and means of strengthening the effectiveness of FAO's field representations. Such strengthening is important, and we believe this can be achieved by better coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and if necessary through increasing the number of staff. At least for the smaller FAO representations considerable strengthening and savings could be achieved through closer cooperation. In this regard, the present number of country representatives should be reviewed.

Another part of the review process is improved coordination with other UN organizations and funding agencies. The report shows that there is ample room for improvement in this regard, and we would like to have more information from the Secretariat on the follow-up of the initiatives mentioned in paragraphs 56, 57, 58 and 113. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan could serve as an example of an area where an improved cooperation with other agencies is called for. The situation presently experienced for the TFAP and its reorganization, is not promoting confidence in the Organization.

FAO is entrusted to implement an extensive Field Programme that is important to many developing countries. The effectiveness and quality of the programme must be ensured and the Organization must take into account the changes in the UN system's technical cooperation modalities. Adhering to the modalities of national execution, as called for in UNGA Resolution 44/211, will require modifications in the implementation of the Field Programme. The new support cost arrangement, approved by the UNDP Governing Council, further advances these aspects of development. This challenge must be taken in a positive spirit by FAO, and the Organization must actively work to define its role within the new scheme.

We get the impression from the report that only a modest strengthening of technical backstopping has taken place. The new system for review of field operations by Member States has in our view not yet provided more information or resulted in thorough discussion of the different parts of the Field Programme. The lack of participation in the Technical Committees of experts from the capitals, especially from developing countries, and the committees' tight timetables, constitute the major obstacle to achieving the results expected from this new system. Therefore, there is a need to establish a better system to get the Member Nations more involved in the providing governance for the field operations.

The Director-General is, as stated in the report, committed to pursue further action. The Nordic countries, as strong supporters of FAO and the UN system in general, are prepared to participate actively in the further follow-up. The final report by the Nordic/UN project, which has been distributed to the Council members and the Secretariat, strongly recommends a strengthening of the quality and impact of the UN's operational activities for development and introduces a series of proposals in this regard. The most relevant proposals relating to the specialized agencies include: restoring their role as centres of excellence, strengthening of their normative roles, redressing the balance between Regular Budget and extra-budgetary resources and a redefinition of their role in the provision of technical cooperation. These are issues which the Nordic countries have already promoted during the FAO review exercise.

I want to conclude by saying that the Nordic countries are in general satisfied by the progress the Secretariat has made so far in implementing the reform Resolution. The principal task for this Conference is to decide on how best to carry the process further. Let me in this respect underline and support the conclusions from the Programme and Finance Committees when they discussed the review issue in September. I quote from paragraph 1.30 of the report of the joint meeting: "The Committees recalled the need for FAO, like every other institution, to adapt to changing circumstances and stressed the importance of continued dialogue among Member Nations with a view to achieving this aim and further enhancing the relevance and the impact of FAO action. They also recognized that new procedures, such as the Medium-Term Plan, would usefully permit periodic reassessment and study of the situation of the Organization."

In accordance with the conclusion of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Nordic countries would like to see a biennial follow-up included in the Medium-Term Plan, the first time taking place in 1993. This follow-up mechanism should be based on active involvement by all Member Nations of FAO. In this way, the Organization can adapt to meeting future expectations and demands from the World Community.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** Two years ago we adopted Resolution 10/89 on FAO Review. The Resolution was a compromise, meaning that for some countries such as ours not all wishes regarding the Review were fulfilled. I quote further in this respect our wishes on the decision-making process in various Bodies of the Organization. Nevertheless, we were satisfied that the result of the Review efforts as formulated in the Resolution was there. Many delegations stated at the time that: this was the beginning of the second phase of the process of implementation.

It was also stated that because of the difficult financial situation it would not be an easy job to implement all the directives in the Resolution immediately. There was agreement that this should be done gradually.

Now we have before us a report in which all the activities resulting from that Resolution are described, and we are very happy to admit that the realization of the various directives is above the expectations we had two years ago. To mention a few again, we have already discussed the Medium-Term Plan, and the general feeling was positive. On policy advice the activity requires an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach. We pointed at this during the discussion of the Medium-Term Plan. The difficult

process of integration was set in motion, and various suggestions for improvement were given. So we consider that what has happened so far is the beginning of the process of further integration.

As a special feature of policy advice we see the efforts FAO put in its advisory role to governments that took and take place in the Uruguay Round negotiations. We also see a role for FAO to advise in policy matters that are related to adjustments after the successful completion of the GATT negotiations. We are ready to support FAO with this, as has been said already by my Minister in Plenary Session.

Related to this is also the good work that FAO does with regard to Codex and food quality and standard activities, as well as with regard to the International Plant Protection Convention, IPPC.

We still see scope for improvement in policy formulation in the execution of field work. FAO is still working on a number of concrete measures related to better information, evaluation and backstopping. Also, involvement of members during the discussions in the Technical Committees could result in more guidance for the Secretariat in this respect, as we mentioned during the debate on the Review of the Field Programme.

We have already expressed our satisfaction with the strengthening of the country offices and FAO's efforts in sustainable agriculture and environment.

To avoid too much repetition of subjects that have been dealt with in other Agenda Items, I shall stop there. There is just one remark which I should like to make. As we said at the beginning, the process of implementation has started promisingly. Therefore, we express the hope that further efforts are being made to continue with the process to bring the whole review exercise to a satisfactory end - an end that we will only call good when we see, as a result of this review process, a stronger Organization in the field of food and agriculture serving the interests of all people in the world and especially the underprivileged who still form such a great proportion of the population in our areas.

**K.M. RABBANI (Bangladesh):** We have gone through document C 91/21 containing the Report of the Director-General of FAO on the Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations. We very much appreciate the fact that, in spite of the resource constraints, the Director-General undertook the review in the light of the earlier decision of the Conference. The review, which was admittedly a costly exercise, gave rise to a number of useful recommendations to strengthen FAO and its activities.

Again we commend the Director-General of FAO for the initiative he has taken to implement some of the recommendations in spite of the resource constraints.

The Conference in its Twenty-fourth Session expressed "unanimity... on the need to strengthen FAO in every possible manner, so that it could continue to play a leading role in world agriculture during the years ahead". With such an expression of unanimity, it is the moral duty of all Member States

to strengthen FAO by committing resources which will enable the Organization to implement the recommendations of the Review which was carried out at a considerable cost.

Resolution 10/89, adopted by consensus in the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, requested the Director-General to implement the measures on a phased basis, to the extent of resources available, and at the same time appeal to all Member Nations to pay their full assessed contributions to the Regular Programme promptly and to financing agencies and institutions to consider the provision of extra-budgetary funds to cover the cost of selected activities.

In view of the importance of agriculture to ensure food security to an increasing global population, we feel that all Member Nations of FAO should positively respond to this appeal.

We welcome the introduction of Medium-Term Plans for FAO which is one of the important decisions that emanated from the Review. We endorse FAO's Medium-Term Plan for 1992-97 as presented during this Conference, and congratulate all those in FAO who contributed to the preparation of this Medium-Term Plan. As considered in the 98th Session of the Council, we agree that the Medium-Term Plan should constitute a major policy document for giving direction to the existing programmes and new initiatives, provide the link between the Medium-Term Plan and the successive Programmes of Work and Budget and present cross-programme priorities to facilitate coordination with other UN organizations.

We are also happy to note that the various reports and proposals submitted by FAO before the current session of the Conference reflect earlier Conference Resolutions that sustainable development and environment protection concerns should pervade all the relevant FAO activities of the Regular and Field Programmes. The Government of Bangladesh is also putting emphasis on sustainable and environment protection while examining and approving the various development projects.

We have noted with satisfaction that the Director-General has taken a number of measures to increase decentralization at field level, among others, by doubling the ceiling of field purchase orders to US\$20 000 and by authorizing the Country Offices to recruit national consultants. We strongly suggest that Country Offices, especially in those countries where FAO has a large Field Programme, should be further strengthened and measures should be taken for further decentralization of authority particularly for purchases and sub-contracts.

We hope that with the cooperation of Member Nations FAO will be able to overcome the financial constraints and take adequate measures to further strengthen its field operations and technical support in all the member countries in general and in the least developed countries in particular.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I too would like to thank Mr Shah for his very helpful and positive introduction. Mr Chairman, perhaps I could begin by saying that my delegation welcomes this important Report by the Director-General on the steps which have been taken so far to implement the review of FAO's goals and operations. The review process is one which the

United Kingdom has followed with the greatest of interest believing, as we do, that on the success or failure of this process depends the ability of FAO to meet the challenges of the 1990s and beyond.

In order to meet these challenges, we believe it is necessary for FAO to strengthen its programme in those areas where it acts as a global centre of excellence and expertise and, at the same time, to ensure appropriate coordination mechanisms are in place. This coordination, both within the United Nations system and with other national and international bodies, is vital in order to ensure that activities of all different kinds, be they research, technical assistance, policy advice or others, are each carried out in the most efficient and effective manner by the body which is most appropriately placed. The implication of this is that FAO gradually relinquishes the execution of its field projects in favour of a greater concentration on technical backstopping and country policy advice, while national execution of projects is correspondingly strengthened; in other words, Mr Chairman, focusing its main activities on the Organization's normative functions.

As my Permanent Secretary said in his Plenary statement, these comments apply more widely than FAO alone. We strongly support the general approach to reform of the United Nations development system proposed by the Nordic countries, and to which my Norwegian colleague has just referred. For FAO, this means Secretariat action on a more open approach, greater accountability and a clear setting of priorities, but it also needs to be matched with action by we, the membership. We too have obligations as well as rights. We should therefore agree how best to fulfil them; how to improve our own working methods and decision-making process, and how best to balance the essentially multilateral nature of our Organization with the reality of differing national needs and contributions.

I would now like to turn to the report itself. My delegation welcomes the advances which have been made so far in implementing the recommendations of the Review. To mention just a few of the positive developments which are included in it we particularly welcome the continued emphasis on developing the Organization's role in country-focused policy work. An important aspect of this is the assistance that FAO provides with structural adjustment programmes, particularly the intention to monitor their effects on vulnerable groups including women.

In paragraph 61 the report refers to the strengthened coordination mechanism for country policy work, and the establishment of a Steering Committee, Central Task Force and Country Policy Information System. These are all positive steps which we welcome, as is the recognition in the report of the need to decentralize responsibility to Country Offices, a point reinforced by my colleague from Bangladesh. I shall return to this topic later on as we have some suggestions as to how FAO's country policy work might be further strengthened by ensuring an adequate geographical input from FAORs.

The Director-General in his Report has referred to the fact that the review has been a costly process, not only in terms of direct costs and staff support to the review itself, but more significantly in terms of its resource implications at a time when, as we all know, this Organization faces considerable financial difficulties. In this respect the Director-General's approach in our view has been a pragmatic one, and my delegation

supports the phased implementation, to which Mr Shah referred, of the Review recommendations as resources become available. This will inevitably be an on-going process.

We recognize, as this document states in paragraph 11, that the largest and most important components of the Conference decisions following from the review have already been implemented to a certain extent. However, we do have some concerns with the notion that there is an inevitable linkage between the further implementation of the review recommendations and the call for extra-budgetary resources. If the review process is taken hand in hand with effective prioritization of FAO's programme of work, some cost savings should also result. In other words, we do not accept that the implementation of the review should be seen exclusively as a financial burden on the Organization which will have to be met by extra-budgetary resources. Indeed, certain of the review recommendations do not have financial implications for the Organization, while others, as I have said, should result in cost savings if they are accompanied by effective prioritization and by a programme of work which truly concentrates on FAO's areas of comparative advantage.

In this respect, we feel that the report could have gone somewhat further in setting out for discussion by Conference actually what FAO sees as the Organization's priorities and those things it does best. Simply appealing to members to pay their full assessed contributions does not, unfortunately, solve the problem. FAO has to make some difficult decisions and choices and we would like to see it entering into a dialogue on these matters with the membership.

We agree with this report when it states that one of the most far-reaching decisions from the Review was the introduction of a rolling six-year Medium-Term Plan. The membership of FAO had of course ample opportunity to comment on the Organization's contribution to the International Development Strategy, which in turn provided the longer-term perspective. The United Kingdom welcomes the reintroduction of the medium-term planning process to FAO, and we have made detailed comments on the Plan itself under the relevant Agenda Item.

In the Technical Committees of FAO, the United Kingdom has commented on the medium-term perspectives, stressing the need to be realistic in what can be achieved in the five-year time span as well as the need to take full account of the technical, environmental and social issues involved. We very much agree with the Secretariat in emphasizing the importance of the Long-Term Strategy and the Medium-Term Plan in providing an opportunity for the Organization to prioritize its future work programme.

As I have already said, FAO should concentrate on its areas of excellence and emphasize cross-programme priorities which facilitate coordination with other UN organizations, other multilateral donors, bilateral donors, the private sector and NGOs, as mentioned in paragraphs 15-23 of the document. The recent success of the Screwworm Eradication Programme in Libya, which we were glad to see has been given appropriate publicity and on which my delegation warmly congratulates FAO, is an excellent example of this type of coordination.

In commenting on the FAO Long-Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector and on the Medium-Term Plan at past FAO meetings, my delegation has stressed the importance it attaches to environmental protection and the

attainment of sustainable development. We consider this to be a priority objective without which the other objectives of the strategy (namely economic growth with equity, poverty alleviation and food security, and development of human resources and institutions) cannot and will not be achieved. We therefore endorse the priority which has been attached by FAO to sustainable development and environment in the implementation of the Review recommendations. We also welcome the Organization's positive steps toward strengthening efforts for sustainable development, protection of the environment and the appropriate management of renewable natural resources.

It is equally important, however, that FAO ensures that these issues are fully integrated into all its programme and activities.

Paragraphs 35-64 of the report address another key area of FAO's activities, namely country policy work. This activity, as the document rightly states, calls for an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach covering a wide range of issues. That said, we somewhat question whether FAO actually has the capacity to carry out all the activities referred to in paragraph 37, such as in-depth analysis on all the areas of policy mentioned here, including macro-economic and socio-economic analysis. For some of these areas institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have the expertise. As we see it, the emphasis should therefore be placed on inter-agency cooperation rather than on FAO attempting to match this expertise. This is not to say that FAO does not need to have some understanding of macro-economic issues. Indeed, the Organization has an important role to play in ensuring that natural resource issues are adequately analyzed in the context of economic reform.

And it is encouraging to note that informal collaboration between FAO and the IMF on a country-by-country basis already takes place. We would like to see more of this.

Another fundamental aspect of country policy work which I would like to address is that, in addition to the multi-disciplinary approach which the document rightly stresses, a stronger geographical focus is also needed. Country policy advice will obviously not be effective and appropriate unless it is informed by adequate knowledge of local and national conditions. The Medium-Term Plan places the onus on Regional and Country Offices to feed back to Headquarters the relevant information. Nevertheless, we are conscious that the Country Offices may lack the capacity to do this effectively, and that they will not be able to play their full part in the country policy advice process as currently envisaged. We welcome the establishment of a country policy information system which is mentioned in paragraph 61 of the report, but feel that more will need to be done in strengthening Field Offices and in delegating responsibility to them if they are to be able to contribute all they should to the important country policy advice work of FAO.

Paragraphs 99 to 102 of the report refer to progress in decentralization and in strengthening FAO Country Offices. As I have already said, the United Kingdom welcomes the recognition by FAO of this need to decentralize, and we are happy to note that considerable steps have already been taken in this direction, including the increased delegation regarding field purchases. It is disappointing, however, that the proposals in this area have had to be scaled down due to the financial difficulties of the Organization. My delegation would like to reiterate its view that as meaningful responsibilities are delegated to Country Offices, such

decentralization should involve cost savings at Headquarters. I would urge the Secretariat to look at whether certain posts could be saved at Headquarters in order to continue the process of strengthening FAORs.

Finally, on the subject of country policy advice, we have some other points of detail to put to the Secretariat, but rather than take up more valuable time now, we will put these in writing to Mr Shah and be most grateful if they could be included in the Verbatim.

Perhaps I could now turn to paragraphs 83 to 91 of the report which address the review of field operations by the Governing Bodies. We have detailed comments to make on the Review of Field Programmes document itself under the relevant Agenda Item. However, at this stage I should like to raise one general issue concerned with the adequacy of the current arrangements for the review of field operations. Though a system was agreed at the last Conference which is designed to ensure that each of the Technical Committees of the Council review relevant aspects of the Field Programme, the arrangement in our view has a number of shortcomings. In part this is due to the fact that the level of technical attendance at these Technical Committee meetings is not as high as could be desired. Now, I appreciate that the Secretariat are already looking into this question. In part, too, it relates to questions of procedure and to agendas which are sometimes rather heavily loaded and do not always permit the proper examination of the field review. Consequently my delegation urges the Secretariat to continue to consider ways in which the review of the Field Programme can be improved. This perhaps could be done by establishing a separate Field Programme Committee or by considering ways in which Technical Committee procedures could be streamlined to allow more in-depth discussion of the field review.

The FAO Yearbook, mentioned in paragraph 92 of the document, is a most useful source of information on FAO field projects. My delegation would like to put forward a modest practical suggestion which could improve the usefulness of this document. At present its format is geographical, showing breakdowns of projects by country and source of finance. Other documentation, such as the Programme of Work and Budget, has a sectoral format. It would be most helpful if in the Yearbook a breakdown or index by sector could also be given in order to permit users of this document to identify assistance by sector as well as by region and its source of finance. That would bring it into line with other FAO documentation and facilitate cross-reference and analysis.

Similarly, we regard the development of a Field Programme Manual, mentioned in paragraph 94 of the report, as potentially a very valuable instrument in unifying the procedures and guidelines relating to field operations.

Paragraphs 95 of the report gives a brief reference to the computerized Field Programme Management System. In view of the importance of management information to the process of project monitoring and decision making, my delegation would be grateful for an update from the Secretariat on progress in implementing this system and its linkage to the FINSYS system. Given the discussion which took place at the June Council this year about the future financing of the Field Programme Management System, we would be very grateful to hear about the Secretariat's longer-term plans for securing the financing of this system.



My delegation also welcomes the acceptance in the report of the need to strengthen the technical backstopping of FAO; again, a key area already alluded to by several speakers. This is indeed crucial to the future development of the Organization as is envisaged in the Review. We were somewhat disappointed, however, at the account of progress in technical backstopping and evaluation of field operations provided in paragraph 103. Given the changing nature of FAO's involvement in field projects - that is to say, with a shift towards more complex projects in which technical backstopping is of the utmost importance - we would once more urge the Secretariat to look again at ways in which Field Programme evaluation and technical backstopping can be reorganized so as to approximate more closely to the review recommendations. The United Kingdom considers that greater emphasis should be given to monitoring and evaluating field activities, in particular the TCP. We would therefore like to see a strengthening of the mechanisms whereby the findings and lessons learned can be fed back into the system to improve the management of field activities.

I have ranged widely and, I am conscious, at some length in this intervention. I will conclude by summarizing the following key points. It would be most helpful if we could have the Secretariat's comments on them.

Firstly, have any areas been identified where the prioritization of FAO's activities, and concentration on what I described earlier as "what it does best" will permit cost savings, which in turn could be offset against the costs of implementing the review recommendations?

Secondly, what measures are in hand to further strengthen FAO Country Offices and to delegate responsibility to them, given that the onus is to be placed upon them to provide a stronger geographical focus for FAO's country policy advice activities?

Thirdly, have any cost savings at Headquarters been identified as a result of the delegation of responsibilities to Country Offices? In other words, is there a true transfer of posts from Headquarters to the FAORs?

Does the Secretariat have any plans to strengthen the review of field operations by the Technical Committees and Governing Bodies of this institution? As a related point, what further consideration has been given to the ways in which attendance by national technical experts at FAO technical meetings could be enhanced?

What is the current state of play regarding the implementation and future financing of the Field Programme Management System?

And, finally, what steps are envisaged in order to continue the process or reorganization of Field Programme evaluation and technical backstopping in the light of the review recommendations?

My delegation also has a number of more detailed comments to make on the subject of country policy advice. In paragraph 43 of the document, the table headed FAO's Assistance to Member Nations in Policy Work raises a number of questions which we would like to ask the Secretariat. We note a total of five ongoing projects in the field of assessment of structural adjustment programmes, plus two in the pipeline. This total seems perhaps rather low, especially given the importance which is attached to this topic in other parts of this report. My delegation would like to ask the Secretariat whether it sees its role in this area as an expanding one.

We also note that in the area of Policy and Performance Review, though there are fewer pipeline projects the costs are considerably higher than for ongoing projects. We are led to conclude that FAO is planning to become involved in much larger scale projects than those currently being implemented, and would like to ask for an explanation of this change in scale. A similar phenomena would seem to be occurring in the case of training projects, where the allocation of resources for projects in the pipeline is around ten times greater per project than that for ongoing ones.

Likewise, could the Secretariat explain why institution building projects, which we might expect to expand in line with the objectives of the Long-Term Strategy, seem rather to be subject to a decline. Country policy work is unlikely to be effective where local institutions are weak, and indeed it is of great importance that FAO should evaluate the impact of its assistance to those countries where institutions are very weak.

If the figures given here indicate a concentration of effort by FAO on fewer, larger and more carefully selected projects, the United Kingdom would of course welcome this. However it would lead us to emphasize, too, that in this case the evaluation of project implementation and impact becomes even more crucial.

**Ms Melinda KIMBLE (United States of America):** The United States is pleased to have this opportunity to discuss the implementation of Resolution 10/89. Mr Shah's introductory comments were extremely useful in focusing our attention on some key issues examined in this document. The Director-General's Report itself provides useful information about many initiatives undertaken in response to this Resolution.

The United States has been especially pleased with the improvements in priority setting, both within the Budget and the Medium-Term Plans. The discussions within the Technical Committees and the Council on priorities clarified relative benefits and necessary trade-offs. These discussions allow the Organization to proceed into the next biennium with the membership united behind its stated priorities. The United States commends the Organization for its increased involvement in agriculture trade issues, especially GATT, Codex, and the International Plant Protection Convention. These activities, which serve developed and developing countries alike, depend on FAO's continued technical expertise.

The United States fully supports the efforts which the FAO has made, and which are detailed in this report, to increase its linkage with other UN agencies. In particular, we note the Memorandum of Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank. These relationships are invaluable, for they permit each organization to benefit from the human and financial resources of the other. The FAO should also seize the opportunities presented by the new arrangements on UNDP support costs, which offer the FAO an opportunity (1) to focus its resources and efforts on areas of comparative advantage, particularly its technical competence; and (2) increase its support to building the capacity of developing countries to manage and implement their own development projects and programmes.

The United States particularly welcomes the process that FAO is now making in strengthening and expanding its agricultural data bases. These data bases will underpin and reinforce the technical and analytical work of FAO and serve as an invaluable resource for all Member States.

Despite these achievements, the report notes on several occasions that FAO's ability to implement Resolution 10/89 was limited by resources constraints. The United States continues to believe that the initiatives called for under the Resolution should be integrated into FAO's normal operational activities, rather than regarded as distinct or additional programmes, and should not require significant additional resources. FAO must see "Review" as an on-going dynamic process, a process that must continually reset priorities and eliminate functions that no longer serve desired objectives. Without such an approach, FAO cannot sustain its effectiveness in areas of its technical competence, and it must sustain its effectiveness to retain its relevancy in this decade. Strengthening and streamlining operations is a positive challenge that every organization must undertake. In this regard we note that the possible efficiencies and savings resulting from the implementation of Review initiatives were not covered in this report.

The United States is disappointed that the report did not provide more information on the impact of Review-related initiatives on FAO's programmes. For example, the report provides a detailed list of the country policy work in which FAO has been involved: however, the report does not provide comparative information to enable members to evaluate the impact of the Review. Has FAO's involvement in country policy work expanded in this biennium? What measures are being taken to assess the quality of policy analysis and advice? Has the quality of the analysis improved? What changes have taken place to strengthen FAO's policy analysis capacity?

The United States has specific comments on the following sections of the report:

Field Operations: FAO should reexamine its staffing requirements for Field Offices and management support in the context of the new UNDP support cost arrangements, the anticipated shift from agency - to national-execution, and the reorientation from a project to a programme approach. Specifically, it should consider gradually replacing its traditional programme officers and operations officers, who are primarily concerned with monitoring the delivery of project inputs, with agricultural development officers, who would have a background in both broad sectoral development as well as policy.

Strengthening FAORs: While the report addresses increased decentralization only with respect to purchasing, the United States supports increased delegation of authority to Field Offices for project development and approval. In addition, as described above, the United States supports a shift in the qualifications for field staff.

Role of Regional Offices: As the Review showed, many questions remain about the role of the Regional Offices, particularly given the varying needs of each Region. The United States encourages FAO to follow up on the issues raised by the Review, examine the role of each regional office, and report to the next Council and Conference on its findings and recommendations.

**Technical Backstopping:** The report identified only one instance where resource shortfalls were an obstacle to full implementation of the Review, i.e., insufficient resources to hire additional staff for technical backstopping. In this particular instance, however, the improvements called for in the Review dealt with internal organizational structure and coordination with other UN agency personnel, not simply staff size. It is not clear from the report whether FAO has actually refocused its staff resources so as to increase its technical involvement and reduce the number of staff with administrative project support functions.

**Field Inspection:** The report describes the various internal mechanisms in place to address management issues affecting field operations. The United States notes that these mechanisms do not incorporate the recommendations of the FAO Conference, the Programme and Finance Committees, or the Groups of Experts. The United States continues to believe that the importance of the FAO's Field Programme justifies an institutionalized field inspection unit which reports to the FAO membership.

**Support Costs:** In paragraph 105, the report refers to FAO's decreased "earnings" from UNDP support costs. Under the successor arrangements, FAO's so-called "earnings" will increasingly depend on FAO's ability to demonstrate a relative advantage in technical and analytical expertise at the sectoral and/or subsectoral level over other multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations.

As FAO points out in paragraph 24 of C 91/4-Sup.I, the expected decline in earnings from administrative and operational services (AOS) could be offset by increased earnings from technical and analytical support to programmes and projects (TSS-I and TSS-II). Furthermore, since AOS are heavily subsidized by the Regular Budget, a gradual reduction in AOS, matched by a corresponding reduction in administrative and operational staff, should result in significant Regular Budget savings. These savings could be used to strengthen FAO's technical and analytical capacity.

We realize, of course, that a precipitous shift from agency to national (or UNDP/OPS) execution/implementation over the next few years would require either: (1) increased "transitional" financial support from UNDP; or (2) an increase in the Regular Budget subsidy to AOS, if FAO reductions in its AOS capacity cannot keep pace with the decline in demand.

We do not believe such a precipitous shift is likely: (1) changes would affect only new projects (or a maximum of 20 percent of projects per year); (2) the UNDP Governing Council has insisted that UNDP make the shift gradually; and (3) governments themselves will decide how, and how much, of a given activity should be implemented by agencies or by the government itself.

As my comments on the report demonstrates, the United States believes in the potential for a restructuring within the FAO that will improve its technical and policy analysis capabilities. We are encouraged by the measures, particularly in the area of priority-setting, which the FAO has already undertaken. The progress thus far gives us confidence that the FAO will continue to work toward the full implementation of Resolution 10/89.

The Review focuses largely on measures within the FAO to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness. Now, however, the United States delegation would like to turn the Conference's attention to our responsibilities, as

Member Nations, for achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in the procedures and processes by which we govern the Organization and its Committees.

The United States believes that streamlined meetings and improved decision-making processes in the Technical Committees and the Council would: (1) enable the membership to provide more effective guidance to the organization as it responds to issues arising in the world agricultural sector and the UN system; and (2) assist all member states, particularly those with small delegations, to fulfil their responsibilities as members of FAO's Governing Bodies and Technical Committees.

The United States would look favourably on proposals for streamlining Committee, Council and Conference procedures, which could be implemented on an experimental basis during the coming biennium. These changes might be then proposed for Conference consideration in 1993. The United States welcomes the views of other Member Nations on this issue.

**Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** Je voudrais remercier M. Shah pour l'excellent exposé clair et concis, qualité à laquelle il nous a toujours habitué dans ses travaux. Nous sommes heureux que les comités financier et du programme soient satisfaits des progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 10/89 de la Conférence.

Nous voudrions aussi remercier le Directeur général et le Secrétariat pour leurs efforts et pour ce que le Directeur général compte mettre en oeuvre, aujourd'hui comme à l'avenir, pour une parfaite application des recommandations découlant de l'examen du budget et des opérations de la FAO. Le Plan à moyen terme élaboré par le Directeur général confirme les nouvelles mesures qui visent à entreprendre une évaluation et une étude périodique des travaux de l'Organisation. Les activités entreprises par l'Organisation dans le cadre de cet examen, malgré les moyens réduits mis à sa disposition, sont vraiment dignes d'éloges. Et je pense qu'il n'y a plus lieu désormais de parler d'un nouvel examen des opérations de la FAO, après les coûts énormes supportés par l'Organisation, et les efforts intenses déployés par un grand nombre de responsables qui se sont joints au travail des experts.

Lorsqu'on parle de la transparence, après tous les éclaircissements et les informations prodigués par l'Organisation comme suite à l'initiative du Secrétariat ou à la demande de certains pays membres, tout débat devient inutile; la transparence étant totale.

**NAN-SHAN (China) (Original language Chinese):** May I begin by thanking the Secretariat for preparing document C 91/21, which is a very clear document, and thank you, Mr Shah, for your very clear introduction. We have noted that, notwithstanding the major financial difficulties facing FAO, progress has been achieved in implementing the Conference recommendation in a number of important fields. In this connection, I would like to express my satisfaction: At the same time we hope that all Member Nations will honour their financial commitments so that there can be effective follow-up to the Review. Document C 91/21 has a wealth of information in it and I do not intend to comment on it in detail. What I would like to do here is to

emphasize the importance of strengthening FAO's country policy work. We hope that FAO will continue to strengthen its work in this particular field.

Document C 91/21 states at paragraph 75 that it is planned for the 1992-93 biennium to hold two regional meetings which will examine the consequences for developing countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa of the changes in agricultural policy of international significance stemming from the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and other policy developments, such as the European Single Market and changes in national policies under way in eastern Europe and the USSR. We believe that, with the present international situation changing rapidly, this work is of particular importance. At the same time we hope that FAO will also organize a study on the consequences of these changes on developing countries in Asia and the Pacific area.

**Haruo ISHII (Japan):** First of all, we should like to thank the Secretariat for their efforts in preparing document C 91/21 which shows us that respective activity of high priority areas continuously contributes to FAO's goals. We are, however, disappointed about some aspects of the explanation in the document, because it has not referred to the problem in the implemented activities and the level of achievement of the goal. We believe that all Member Nations expect FAO, through FAO's Review, to contribute further to the development of food and agriculture and the rural development of the whole world and Member Nations, as well as meeting the need for technical assistance by developing countries.

We also regret to see that FAO has stressed the shortage of resources as a conclusion. We believe that FAO's Review is aimed at discussing FAO's role in the food and agriculture sector, identifying priority areas and examining the objectives and strategy of FAO in order to strengthen FAO's capacity. In line with this discussion, we did not premise that Member Nations would bear an additional burden for the implementation of FAO's Review.

Therefore, FAO should at first carry out its strict internal restructure, aiming at the restoration of financial stability.

**José Elias LEAL (México):** La delegación de México ve con particular atención este documento que es producto indirecto de la Resolución 6/87 del 24° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia en 1987.

Apreciamos su contenido y consideramos que responde a los requerimientos de la Resolución 10/89 del 25° periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia en 1989.

Resulta gratificante percibir con este documento que el tiempo transcurrido desde su gestión no ha sido en vano, si bien advertimos que ejercicios como este, por su naturaleza, deberán ser validados por el trabajo continuo de los Estados Miembros y por su concurrencia a los compromisos suscritos con esta nuestra Organización.

En el marco de este documento encontramos una Estrategia a largo plazo y un Plan a plazo medio que sitúan a esta Organización en una posición adecuada para responder a necesidades presentes y futuras, con el natural respaldo en la experiencia acumulada.

Recordamos la importancia del apartado referente al desarrollo sostenible y medio ambiente, destacando que México participó en la Conferencia FAO/Paises Bajos sobre Agricultura y Medio Ambiente, experiencia que, en lo nacional, nos alienta en la incorporación del componente medio ambiente en los procesos productivos del sector agropecuario y forestal, y en lo internacional seguramente contribuirá a enriquecer la contribución de la FAO a la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo.

La parte relativa a la elaboración de políticas nacionales es de interés indudable por ser un ámbito de acción determinante para el desarrollo de la agricultura y de la alimentación que a su vez determina la ubicación de los países, en particular en el concierto internacional.

Consideramos importante la cooperación que la FAO ha emprendido con otras instituciones en lo que a diseño de política se refiere destacándose el documento de la ONUDI, del PNUD, del Banco Mundial, del FMI y del BID. La mayor coordinación que la FAO ha emprendido en este ámbito es de carácter trascendente.

El examen de las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y la atención de los programas de campo, son también tópicos importantes del documento.

Se consideran muy importantes los puntos relativos a las relaciones con los organismos de financiación y el apoyo a las negociaciones comerciales sobre agricultura, ya que la viabilidad financiera y comercial del entorno internacional son determinantes para la agricultura y el desarrollo rural de un país en particular.

Como se ha indicado anteriormente, del Examen surgieron diversas recomendaciones importantes y útiles que gradualmente fortalecen a la FAO, no obstante que para completar la aplicación de las mismas se necesitarán recursos adicionales que permitan la ejecución plena del Examen de la FAO.

**S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand):** We thank Dr Shah for his very lucid introduction of this topic. I do not propose to speak at length on the subject, as many of the topics coming under the umbrella of the Review have been discussed, as has already been stated in separate items, both in this Commission as well as in Commission I.

The re-introduction of the Medium-Term Plan is a welcome step in the process of planning and prioritization in FAO's programmes and activities. New Zealand supports the broad priorities set out in the document. FAO has an important role to play in the area of environment and sustainable development. Protection of the global environment is, without doubt, the greatest challenge facing us today. We are pleased that FAO is participating actively in the UNCED process.

While environment and sustainable development have now gained the prominence they deserve, we still need to ensure that the considerations permeate at all levels of decision-making and analysis. This is the challenge facing organizations such as FAO as well as national governments.

New Zealand supports the importance accorded to policy advice and the support that FAO can provide to the multilateral negotiations on trade liberalization. We cannot emphasize sufficiently the importance of policy

advice as a means to promote better resource allocation, improved efficiency and long-term economic growth. The comments made by earlier speakers about the need to monitor and evaluate the quality of policy advice are shared by New Zealand. To avoid repetition, I share the views expressed by the United Kingdom delegate about the advantages of closer liaison and cooperation with the World Bank and other agencies to ensure better resource utilization and cooperation.

We shall be monitoring FAO programmes and activities with close interest in this area.

In our earlier statement we expressed general satisfaction at the contributions FAO has been making to the GATT negotiations, particularly in the area of international harmonization and reduction of technical barriers to trade. The proposed GATT agreement on sanitary and phytosanitary measures provides a closer relationship between trade organizations and the specialized agencies such as FAO. We hope that FAO, in recognition of this situation, will move expeditiously to strengthen FAO's Secretariat, particularly in the plant protection area to ensure progress on harmonization.

To conclude, we should like to re-state our general satisfaction at the outcome of the Review and our commitment and cooperation in the years to come.

**John Bruce SHARPE (Australia):** Australia is generally pleased with the early efforts being made to implement the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations and would wish to see the full implementation of the Review's recommendations occur as quickly as possible. The Review has obviously had a very positive result and there would be benefit in keeping this Review process going in the future.

We note the progress which has been made in a number of the priority areas, including sustainable development and environment, policy advice, support to agricultural trade negotiations, Codex and the planned role of the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat.

The progress made in each of these areas was also welcomed in the report of the September joint meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees when they considered this document.

As a member of the Finance Committee, Australia had an input to the Report on the Review. Therefore, we would not wish to take up the time of this Conference by going into further details.

However, there are a couple of areas which we should like to mention specifically: Australia was among all those countries which congratulated the Secretariat on the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan, which, of course, we considered to be one of the major outcomes of the Review. We reiterate that congratulation; we think it was a fine document.

We made a fairly detailed intervention when the Medium-Term Plan was discussed earlier and our views are contained therein.



Australia would also wish to be associated with the Nordic countries and the United Kingdom concerning the views they expressed on the reform of the UN Development System and Member Nations involvement therein.

We would also wish to be associated with the views of the United States concerning the streamlining of FAO Council Committee and Conference procedures. We fully endorse the views of my predecessor in the list of speakers, New Zealand, our very close neighbour, concerning FAO's involvement in the GATT negotiations and the reduction of technical barriers to trade.

On the question of the use of additional resources to meet emerging needs and to carry out other recommendations of the Review, Australia would be pleased to see this eventuate if they are available from the finance agencies and institutions referred to in Resolution 10/89 or if there were countries who had surplus resources and were prepared to make them available on a voluntary basis for these purposes.

However, consistent with the approach we have adopted on increased country contributions in other Agenda Items, we would not wish to see the provision of additional resources become a mandatory obligation on Member Nations. If funds from the sources mentioned are not forthcoming, we consider it important for FAO to place an even greater emphasis on priorities, to evaluate its existing activities and, where possible, discard those that may no longer be relevant in order to release resources.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** Our Agenda provides for discussion of documents which are of fundamental importance to the activities of the Organization. The carefully-weighted statements, my delegation believes, clearly reveal the seriousness and the initial success of the efforts of the FAO Secretariat to adapt the Organization as well as possible to the challenges of the 1990s and to strengthen its role and its effectiveness.

Document C 91/21 lists the measures for the implementation of the FAO Review which are intended to serve that end. In summary, the objectives are: greater transparency in the preparation and carrying out of programmes; a closer link between Headquarters and field level; the integration of cross-programme activities and priorities into the work of FAO, in particular in the context of the Regular Programme and Field Programme; optimum coordination with other UN Organizations, NGOs and, in particular, recipient countries; and increasing transfer of responsibility to states and their national organizations in programme implementation.

In the view of my delegation, in all these points the implementation of the FAO Review follows on from past decisions, including Resolution 10/89.

Accordingly, one is totally entitled to say that the process of reviewing FAO activities is in full swing. In the conclusions to document C 91/21 I believe that all this is convincingly depicted. However, there is also mention there of the critical problem facing the Organization in regard to further prosecution of the reform and the financing thereof. The contradiction is a manifest one. On the one hand the reform costs money. Yet it must not be carried out in a way which is detrimental to programme priorities. If funds are not available to implement the recommendations, this could impair programme effectiveness in the longer term.

It is the view of my delegation - and in saying this I find myself at one with some delegations which have already spoken - that measures such as improving cooperation with other organizations and institutions and coordination with FAO, decentralization in regard to particular activities, proper setting of priorities, and the use of FAO's comparative advantages -all of those should entail certain savings. For that reason, I should like to ask what results, in terms of the implementation of reforms, have been achieved with the financial means used to date? What compromise is the Secretariat prepared to entertain to eliminate the contradiction to which I have referred? As my delegation sees it, those are questions which cannot fully be answered on the basis of this document.

I should like to support the suggestion from a number of delegations - and here we find ourselves totally in agreement with the Secretariat - that the review of FAO's activities should be pursued consistently in the longer term. I should like to say a word of thanks to Mr Shah and his team for the very good document and also for the introductory presentation thereof. Like some delegations in their statements today, I believe that if the recommendations are pursued consistently this Organization will be able to achieve results which will let us move forward. I should like to reaffirm what Mr Shah has reiterated on a number of occasions, that is, that this is a matter above all for Member Nations.

**Mohd. Zaki GHAZALLI (Malaysia):** The Malaysian delegation would like to register its general satisfaction with the progress made so far in FAO's implementation of the Conference recommendations in Resolution 10/89 linked to the FAO Review despite the financial constraints faced by FAO.

My delegation welcomes the Director-General's proposal in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1992-93 to allocate funds for support to the very critical multilateral trade negotiations, as mentioned in paragraphs 116-123 of document C 91/21. Malaysia hopes that the financial situation of FAO will soon improve in order that FAO can pursue its efforts to implement the Review of FAO's goals and operations.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** A notre tour, nous désirons remercier le Secrétariat pour son rapport sur les suites données à l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO.

Comme nous l'avons déjà dit lors des discussions au point 15 de l'ordre du jour, la réalisation la plus tangible de la Résolution 10/89 a été la mise en place du Plan à moyen terme. Ce résultat est important mais ce n'est pas le seul. Ainsi que le souligne le présent rapport des pages 8 à 17, un gros effort est en train d'être fait par cette organisation pour ce qui concerne les avis en matière de politique nationale.

Quarante ans d'expérience en matière de développement agricole ont révélé que les causes principales des échecs des projets et des programmes de développement étaient dues à des politiques nationales et internationales inappropriées. Outre les fonctions dont elle a trop souvent fait l'objet au profit d'une industrialisation pas toujours réussie, l'agriculture a aussi souvent souffert de politiques de prix et de politiques de revenus inadaptées.

La délégation du Royaume de Belgique continue de penser qu'à la demande de ses Etats Membres, la FAO doit pouvoir jouer le rôle de société de conseil en matière de politique économique et sociale liée à l'agriculture, et ceci en collaboration avec d'autres institutions internationales. A priori, je rejoindrai ici ce qu'a dit le délégué du Royaume-Uni.

Concilier intérêts nationaux et interdépendance internationale n'est pas une tâche facile. Ce que l'on a appelé la réforme et qui est en fait la revue montre cependant que l'Organisation a déjà trouvé trois éléments de réponse à ce dilemme:

- l'approche multidisciplinaire des problèmes liés au développement agricole
- la régionalisation des programmes pour faire face aux fléaux transnationaux et contribuer au développement des solidarités régionales;
- et enfin l'adoption de codes de conduite et de normes internationales dans les domaines liés à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation.

Ces réponses vont dans la bonne direction. Le document C 91/21 contient beaucoup d'autres réflexions intéressantes dans domaines pour lesquels la FAO devra sans doute jouer un rôle accru et pour lesquels cette organisation devra sans doute adapter sa structure. Nous ne répéterons pas ce qu'ont déjà dit beaucoup d'autres délégations, parce que, hélas, si ma délégation est satisfaite des premiers résultats de la revue, elle est aussi très inquiète sur ce qui concerne son financement.

Au paragraphe 9 du document, on nous rappelle que le coût initial de cette étude était de 27 millions de dollars. Il se trouve que ce montant est équivalent, à peu de chose près, à celui dont le Budget 1992-93 a été diminué vendredi dernier.

A ce stade, j'aurai donc une double question à poser:

- où le Secrétariat compte-t-il trouver les ressources pour mettre en oeuvre les recommandations de la réforme pour la période 1992-93?
- et quelles sont les priorités moins prioritaires qui devront être sacrifiées au cas où les ressources extrabudgétaires se révéleraient insuffisantes, étant entendu que l'équilibre entre le rôle normatif et le rôle opérationnel de cette Organisation doit être préservé.

**Jean-Pierre POLY (France):** Ma délégation s'est exprimée à différentes reprises à ce sujet, pour se déclarer toujours, dans l'ensemble, satisfaite à la fois des résultats de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO et de la bonne volonté manifestée par le Secrétariat pour mettre en application les conclusions et recommandations de cet examen. C'est pourquoi cette intervention sera particulièrement brève.

Ma délégation souhaite toutefois souligner tout d'abord l'importance qu'elle accorde au Plan à moyen terme qui permet d'inscrire les activités de notre Organisation dans une perspective à long et moyen termes, d'autre part l'intérêt qu'elle porte à la nouvelle procédure budgétaire, celle du Schéma sommaire projet de budget qui doit faciliter le cadrage budgétaire dans la perspective d'une adoption du Programme de travail et budget par

consensus, même si les tractations actuelles en marge de notre débat budgétaire concernant le prochain exercice ne confirment pas pleinement cette appréciation.

Je rappelle, à cette occasion, que la délégation française considère que l'adoption du Plan à moyen terme devrait permettre de revenir d'ici quelque temps à une procédure budgétaire allégée, expression de ce Plan glissant sur la période biennale concernée.

Ma délégation souligne le rôle accru que doivent pouvoir jouer les représentants de la FAO dans les pays, dans la perspective notamment d'une évolution des activités de notre Organisation, du rôle d'appui technique vers un rôle de conseil en politiques agricoles et alimentaires, comme l'exige le contexte désormais bien établi de l'exécution nationale des projets.

Enfin ma délégation, comme d'habitude, encourage le Secrétariat à poursuivre l'effort entrepris, avec jusqu'à présent la participation de la France, pour la mise en place d'un système de gestion informatisé des activités opérationnelles de la FAO, auquel le Programme ordinaire doit désormais consacrer une priorité sans équivoque.

**Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** My delegation also is grateful to the Director-General for his comprehensive Report on the Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations, and to Mr Shah for his presentation on this item.

Pakistan made a detailed intervention on the interim report submitted to the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council. We have also had the opportunity of commenting on the various aspects of the report in conjunction with other related issues in our interventions in other Commissions under various Agenda Items. Therefore, like other delegates, we wish to be brief and will confine ourselves here to a few major points.

We wish to start by joining numerous other delegations in commending FAO and the Director-General on being able to report such good progress despite the severe limitation of resources which the Organization faces during the ongoing biennium.

The Pakistan delegation has been closely involved in the negotiations leading to the consensus between Member Nations at the Twenty-fifth Conference Session over the findings and recommendations of the experts who carried out the review. This consensus was significant, not the least in being the trendsetter in encouraging better understanding and respect for each other's viewpoints between Member Nations. My delegation therefore has great pleasure today in noting such trends being happily carried further to issues as important as the Programme of Work and the Budget level, the admission of Regional Economic Integration Organizations to membership of the FAO and, prior to the Conference, on issues such as the revised governance structures of the World Food Programme.

In general, the Pakistan delegation welcomes the progress on all aspects of the Review Report, and in particular wishes to welcome the assistance in country policy work and in developing nationally based expertise.

The FAO Country Offices would certainly have an important role to play in this regard and therefore implementation of the recommendations of the Review in relation to the Country Offices is endorsed by us. We do, however, express our concern that contrary to the viewpoint of the experts and a predominant number of Member Countries the FAO Regional Offices have been de-emphasized to accommodate the requirements of the Country Offices. This is a matter of great concern to us and we hope in the following biennium this trend will be reversed.

Mr Chairman, my delegation further notes with satisfaction the increased involvement of FAO in structural adjustment and economic reform policies and exercises and would wish this role of FAO to be further enhanced, particularly in attending to the negative impact of such economic adjustment measures on agricultural production and food security in developing countries.

The delegation of Pakistan also welcomes the listed focus on technical cooperation amongst developing countries and ECDC. The Newsletter noted at paragraph 70 in this regard has been found to be most useful by a number of developing countries and we look forward to an increase in the number of issues and more expanded versions of such newsletters.

We would wish to know from FAO what is being done to promote greater use of services of technical experts from developing countries in missions being sent abroad by FAO. We would like FAO to explore the possibilities of enrolling and using the services of more experts from developing countries. The delegation of Pakistan supports the emphasis given to integrating environmental and sustainability concerns in all areas of activities of FAO but would wish to record, what a large majority of countries had underlined during the Twenty-fifth Conference deliberations that for this purpose more extra-budgetary resources should be sought.

It is disappointing to note that while we have gone forward with large-scale cuts on the approved Budget for 1991-92 and are going ahead with a negative growth budget for the forthcoming biennium, no significant extra-budgetary resources for such programmes were provided and cuts had to be imposed on other programme elements which were equally important.

We welcome the involvement of the Technical Committees in the Field Programme Review and would recommend also extending this to the Regional Conferences to the greatest extent possible. We, however, do not feel the need for further comprehensive reviews by the Council and Conference following detailed reviews already carried out by the Technical Committees. We would recommend that the reviews in the Council and Conference be confined to reviewing the reports of the Technical Committees and the Council respectively, both in the interest of saving time and economy in costs. However, Mr Chairman, my delegation totally agrees with the delegation of the United Kingdom in underlining the recommendations of the COAG on the financing of technical participation from developing countries in Technical Committee meetings and would request that serious consideration and examination of this recommendation be made.

On the same note, while my delegation welcomes measures taken to strengthen cooperation between FAO/Codex and GATT, here we also feel that to enable developing countries to be appropriately represented and properly

participate in Codex Alimentarius Committee sessions, efforts should be made to support the participation of representatives from developing countries in Codex Alimentarius Committee sessions.

We wish to recall that the experts had felt that the comparative advantages of FAO lay in the diversity of its activities and the complementary of the roles it plays which should be maintained and equally strengthened. This viewpoint was endorsed by a vast majority of Member States during the various stages of examination of the experts report including the Twenty-fifth Conference. We feel strongly that this diversity and complementarity of roles is essential for FAO and should not be disturbed due to the interests of prioritization. In our view it would be incorrect to presume that FAO can undertake the large menu given to it following the Review by adjustments within the existing resources available to it. We must be realistic and hope that those Member Nations who are in a position to pay should try to strengthen the hands of FAO to implement the Review recommendations by the provision of additional resources outside the Regular Budget.

Finally, we wish to note that the experts had generally endorsed the importance and usefulness of the Technical Cooperation Programme in responding to the needs of developing countries as well as the important contribution to the other activities of FAO, i.e., policy advice, data collection and so on. It was for this reason that the Member Nations, following the consensus on the findings in the Review Report in the Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference, adopted Resolution 9/89 for restoring the previous high levels of the TCP allocations and working towards enhancing this to a figure of 17 percent of the total budget allocation. A large number of countries, in expressing their view over the Programme of Work and Budget proposals for the coming biennium and during the Review of the Field Programme earlier on in this Commission, had expressed their disappointment over the continuing low level of TCP and in fact a further drop in the TCP level. We hope that this position will be rectified in the next biennium with strict adherence to the Conference Resolution.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** I intend to be very brief, as many of the issues covered by the Review are coming up before this and other Commissions as separate and individual items, and my delegation has been, and will be, commenting in detail during the discussions on those issues. Mr Chairman, I have sought the floor primarily to express my delegation's satisfaction with the progress made in implementing the recommendations linked to the US\$3 million exercise, namely the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations.

On a scale of 1 to 10 the Director-General of FAO would find a place somewhere near the upper end of the scale with regard to the policy initiated on various points arising out of Conference Resolution 10/89. If there has been a shortfall it is not on account of any lack of intentions on the part of FAO to implement the recommendations of the Conference but is attributable to the limits of resources available to FAO.

During the biennium not only the much promised additional extra-budgetary resources but the failure even to pay the assessed contribution by a number of Member States created severe liquidity problems for the Organization. The outlook in terms of the Programme of Work and Budget for the years 1992-93 also does not look very different inasmuch as this Commission has

recommended a Budget level for the next biennium which is lower than the current biennium in programme terms. I am, however, sure that with the promised payment of the assessed contributions the financial position of the Organization would improve and the momentum which has been created with regard to the phased implementation of the various recommendations of the Conference, linked to the Review, would be carried through also in the next biennium.

We also hope that the financing agencies and institutions will be willing to provide additional extra-budgetary resources to enable FAO to undertake Special Action Programmes and other selected appropriate activities. The Conference has already seen some concrete evidence of the improvements brought about following the Review; the introduction of the Medium-Term Plan, the greater involvement of FAO in GATT negotiations, greater orientation of programmes on environment and sustainable development concerns and increased policy advice activities and so on, are pointers to the fact that the Organization has risen to the occasion and is gearing itself to meet the challenges of the 90s.

It is also gratifying to note that there has been effective follow-up on the report submitted by the management consultants leading to improved efficiency, accountability and cost-effectiveness in the Organization.

**Earl W. WEYBRECHT (Canada):** In the same way that Canada attached high importance to the conclusion of the Resolution on the Review of FAO at the last Conference, my delegation considers the implementation of this Resolution to be of equal importance. We are pleased therefore that we have before us the Report of the Director-General on the Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations.

We would note that this report was reviewed by the Programme and Finance Committees at their joint session in September. Canada had an opportunity to comment briefly on the report at that time. My delegation concurs with the assessment of the two Committees that expresses general satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the last Conference linked to the Review. We are also reassured by the remarks made in paragraph 10 of the report that it continues to be the firm intention of the Director-General to implement the decisions arising out of the Review exercise as promptly as possible. Many of the points in the report will be discussed as separate Agenda Items in the Conference and so my comments will be rather brief.

Canada considers the introduction of the Medium-Term Plan to be an important outcome of the Review process. We are pleased therefore that this Conference had an opportunity under another Agenda Item to examine the Plan for the period 1992-97. The introduction of this Plan, combined with the decision to establish, on a permanent basis, the submission of an Outline of the Programme of Work and Budget to the Finance and Programme Committees, will provide for a thorough budgetary process, assist in priority setting, and we believe facilitate a consensus on budgets.

Canada feels that substantial progress has been made in focusing the work of FAO on the priority areas identified within the framework of the FAO Review. In particular we welcome the steps taken at an early stage to give higher level attention within the Organization to FAO's role in relation to sustainable development including the appointment of a Coordinator on

Environment and Sustainable Development with cross-sector responsibilities. The report highlights the important contribution that FAO is making to the UNCED process and the work of the Organization will be influenced by the outcome of this important Conference. Similarly, we consider, that substantial efforts have been made to focus attention on the role of women in development and these efforts will need to continue and be enhanced. The proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget also contain provisions to strengthen further some of the other priority areas identified, including the strengthening of FAO's role as a world agricultural information centre, as well as efforts to strengthen the Country Offices. Importance will continue to be attached to FAO's work in support of the GATT, including in particular the work in relation to Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention.

The decision to have FAO's Technical Committees examine in detail the field operations of FAO was another important outcome of the Review exercise. The experience in COAG, COFO, COFI and the CFS has perhaps been somewhat mixed and it may be too early to draw any further conclusions. However, we hope that these Committees will place emphasis on this area and devote the time necessary to examine the field activity in detail. The linkage between the Regular Programme, along with the need to monitor developments in the implementation of new arrangements with the UNDP, will need to be taken into account.

Resolution 10/89 was directed at two of the three main elements of the Review exercise. Brief reference to the third element, that is the Management Review, is made in document C 91/LIM/22. However, we find these very brief comments provide little perspective on what steps have been taken to implement the outcome of the Management Review, and we would hope that at some point a more detailed report could be produced by the Finance Committee. We have noted the comments made on Field Inspection. The Review teams have looked at this area and recommended a more independent form of inspection, whereas the Conference had urged the Director-General to strengthen the process of Field Programme evaluation through the work of the evaluation service. We would still see merit in strengthening the Evaluation Unit as urged by the Conference.

On the question of resources, my delegation can associate itself with the comments made by the Nordic countries that reform should not be regarded as an additional cost factor. We are encouraged, therefore, that substantial progress has been made since the last Conference, despite the particularly difficult financial situation. As well, we can support the comments of the United Kingdom and the United States that we, as Member States, need to look at how best we can improve our own working methods in various Bodies in FAO; including the point raised by Norway on the need to encourage greater participation of technical experts in the various Technical Committees.

In conclusion, my delegation considers that much has been done to implement Resolution 10/89, and that there is the recognition that more still remains to be done. The Report of the last Conference stressed the need for an ongoing dialogue in order to better support the objectives, of the Organization. In the face of rapid changes and new challenges, my delegation supports such an ongoing dialogue to ensure that every effort is made to continue to strengthen the Organization.



**Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo):** Je serai bref étant donné que sur nombre de questions abordées ici, nous avons déjà exprimé notre point de vue dans d'autres circonstances.

Cependant, j'ai tenu à prendre la parole pour manifester ma satisfaction quant à la manière dont sont mises en oeuvre les conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects et opérations de la FAO.

Cette satisfaction est d'autant plus grande que nous avons, à la vingt-cinquième session, planché souvent des nuits pour aboutir aux conclusions que nous connaissons.

Je dois simplement regretter que cette mise en oeuvre se soit heurtée à un manque évident de financement. Ceci est d'autant plus regrettable que le Budget 1992-93 n'incite guère à l'optimisme avec les amputations dont il a fait l'objet au cours de cette session.

Nous espérons que ces amputations ne se répéteront plus, sinon elles risquent de mettre en péril le long processus budgétaire actuellement mis en oeuvre, dont on nous a souvent dit qu'il facilite le consensus.

Nous pensons que le Plan à moyen terme devrait désormais simplifier ce processus budgétaire en le rendant moins coûteux.

Étant donné ces aléas, nous nous interrogeons également, comme bien d'autres ici, sur le fait de savoir comment le Secrétariat entend faire des progrès encore plus substantiels dans la voie de mise en oeuvre des conclusions de cet examen.

Nous serons heureux d'entendre M. Shah, bien entendu, sur ce sujet. Nous espérons en tout cas que les difficultés nées du financement de ces conclusions ne seront pas de mise au cours des prochaines sessions.

**Mohammed Saleem KHAN (Pakistan):** I apologize for taking the floor again. Looking at my written statement, I missed one line; I would not like to repeat - may be if you would like me to repeat it?

What I wish to state is while sitting here I heard some delegates speaking about further continuation of this Review and reform exercise, and my delegation very strongly feels that now is not the time to reopen this Review exercise, and that now is the time we must consolidate what we have done and find the resources to consolidate on it.

This is what I really missed from my first statement, and I would request that this be put at the end of my statement. If it is wished I could put the same in writing.

While I have the floor, Mr Chairman, in my capacity as Chairman of the Asia Group, I would like to tell our colleagues from the Asia Group that there will be a meeting of the Asia Group, on Friday 22, at 12.45 hours in the Ethiopia Room in Building C.

The meeting rose at 12.30.

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/II/PV/12

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE  
12ª SESIÓN

(19 November 1991)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

19 Implementation of the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations (continued)

19. Mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO (suite)

19. Aplicación del examen de algunos aspectos de los objetivos y las operaciones de la FAO (continuación)

**François ROHNER (Suisse):** J'aimerais remercier le Secrétariat pour les documents qu'il nous a présentés ce matin. L'exercice que nous avons mené tous ensemble depuis 1987 et qui a abouti en 1989 à la fameuse Résolution 10/89, non seulement était utile et opportun, mais à notre avis absolument indispensable, face surtout aux défis des années 90. Il s'agissait, et je cite, "d'imprimer à l'Organisation une nouvelle orientation et de lui conférer un regain de dynamisme afin qu'elle puisse continuer à jouer un rôle de chef de file dans l'agriculture mondiale dans les années à venir".

L'exercice n'a, il est vrai, pas été bon marché. Il nous a en effet tous, Secrétariat et membres, intensément occupés pendant bien longtemps, à juste titre me semble-t-il. Les trois millions de dollars nous ont toutefois paru de l'argent bien placé vu l'importance de l'enjeu de l'examen et l'ordre de grandeur des budgets gérés par l'Organisation. Nous nous félicitons de l'effet ou plutôt des multiples effets qu'a déjà eus l'examen.

Plus important encore que le ou les documents qu'il a produits jusqu'à présent nous paraît cependant le processus de réflexion qu'il a déclenché au sein du Secrétariat tout autant que parmi les membres de l'Organisation; un processus qui va certes devoir se poursuivre mais qui a déjà eu des premiers résultats très prometteurs dont je mentionnerai avant tout le Plan à moyen terme que nous avons examiné ici en détail la semaine dernière et au sujet duquel ma délégation a été très heureuse de constater qu'il existait un très large et solide consensus.

Il s'agira maintenant de traduire ce Plan avec détermination dans les programmes et activités de l'Organisation, ce qui devra certes se faire par étapes avec des objectifs clairs et précis.

Nous nous attendons à ce que le prochain Programme de Travail et Budget, de même que le Programme de terrain qui seront préparés pour 1994 et 1995 reflètent, beaucoup plus clairement que cela a pu être le cas pour l'exercice que nous avons discuté la semaine passée, les priorités du Plan à moyen terme et démontrent en détail les mesures prises en vue de concentrer les activités de l'Organisation sur des domaines dans lesquels la FAO détient ses véritables avantages comparatifs. Ceci impliquera nécessairement la réduction, voire l'abandon, d'activités dans des domaines de moins grande priorité.

Nous ne mettons bien entendu pas en doute la grande diversité des besoins des pays en développement à laquelle doivent répondre leurs partenaires internationaux. Nous avons tous intérêt, je crois, à ce que les entités des

Nations Unies concentrent leurs activités dans des domaines de leur compétence en cherchant à obtenir le meilleur résultat et impact possibles de l'utilisation de leurs ressources qui demeureront toujours limitées.

Pour ce qui est du financement de l'ensemble des mesures proposé par le Secrétariat, dont le coût est estimé à 87 millions de dollars, nous estimons qu'avec une situation financière rétablie ce coût devrait pouvoir être pleinement absorbé dans le nouveau budget.

Concernant les différents domaines prioritaires que le rapport passe en revue, je me limiterai à ce stade aux quelques remarques suivantes.

Tout d'abord, le rôle de l'Organisation en matière d'analyse des politiques sectorielles et sous-sectorielles du Conseil, et de l'avis sur ces politiques et la coordination des aides. Le rapport nous donne quelques informations utiles sur le type d'activités entreprises à cet égard. L'Organisation doit, à notre avis, renforcer sa capacité dans ce domaine si elle veut pouvoir jouer son rôle pleinement, pouvoir exploiter ses avantages comparatifs.

Nous sommes heureux de voir qu'une collaboration plus étroite est en train de s'établir avec le FMI, la Banque mondiale et les autres Banques régionales de développement. Nous encourageons la FAO à poursuivre ses efforts.

Les mesures prises dans les domaines de l'environnement et du développement durable, du suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, et les autres domaines prioritaires sur lesquels le rapport met l'accent ont toutes notre plein appui.

J'aimerais maintenant en venir aux activités de terrain. La nouvelle procédure mise en place, qui prévoit l'examen des Programmes de terrain par les Comités techniques n'a, à notre avis, pas encore eu tous les résultats souhaités. Les raisons en sont bien connues: les débats sont souvent restés trop généraux, trop formels aussi. Nous sommes heureux d'apprendre aussi que le Secrétariat est en train d'étudier des mesures en vue d'améliorer le processus, processus qui ne devra pas se limiter à l'examen des progrès réalisés mais devra également porter sur l'orientation future des activités, à la lumière du Programme à moyen terme.

Nous appuyons en outre la proposition faite ce matin par les Etats-Unis, soutenue par d'autres, concernant la nécessité d'une revue des méthodes de travail, aussi bien au niveau des Comités et du Conseil que de la Conférence. Le Comité du Programme, défini dans le rapport au Conseil sur l'examen, souligne, à notre avis à juste titre, l'importance d'un dialogue continu entre Etats Membres en vue de renforcer la pertinence et l'impact de l'action de la FAO, dialogue que nous souhaitons voir se renforcer dans des réunions formelles comme celle-ci tout autant que par des consultations informelles.

Nous souhaitons aussi qu'à l'avenir l'instrument des consultations informelles soit utilisé plus souvent aussi entre Etats Membres et Secrétariat, pour discuter de questions plus complexes, sujets nécessitant souvent une discussion plus approfondie. Je prendrai pour exemple la proposition faite par le Secrétariat d'amalgamer la revue du Programme

ordinaire et du Programme de terrain dans un seul document. Il nous apparaît en effet qu'il serait utile d'avoir un examen approfondi sur cette question.

Ma délégation continuera à prendre une part active dans le renforcement de l'Organisation. Nous suivrons la poursuite de la mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 10/89 avec une très grande attention.

**Hassoune JILALI (Maroc):** Permettez-moi, au nom de la délégation marocaine, de féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité des documents soumis à notre Commission aussi bien dans le cadre de l'actuel point de l'ordre du jour que dans celui de ceux qui l'ont précédé.

Les félicitations de la délégation marocaine sont aussi adressées à M. Shah pour la qualité et la clarté avec lesquelles il a bien voulu introduire les documents.

La Résolution 10/89 relative à l'Examen de certains aspects des buts et opérations de la FAO, qui avait été adoptée en 1969 dans une ambiance de consensus général, décrit clairement les décisions et recommandations à mettre en oeuvre afin de définir pour la FAO une plate-forme d'action solide, des orientations clairement définies et des objectifs dont les cibles sont soigneusement arrêtées.

A ce titre, notre délégation note avec satisfaction les grands efforts déployés par la FAO pour la mise en oeuvre - dans les limites de ses mandats - des directives et recommandations de cette Résolution.

Ces efforts ont fait qu'une gamme importante des actions à mettre en oeuvre a été réalisée en 1990-91 malgré les difficultés financières de notre Organisation.

Ces réalisations, tel que cela ressort des documents C 91/21 et C 91/LIM/22, et tel que cela se dégage de l'exposé de M. Shah, ont concerné des domaines tout aussi importants les uns que les autres.

Compte tenu du fait que ces domaines font actuellement l'objet d'examen par les autres commissions de cette Conférence, ou par la Commission II à l'occasion d'autres points de l'ordre du jour, la délégation marocaine se limitera dans cette intervention aux commentaires ou suggestions suivants.

En ce qui concerne l'aspect "environnement et développement durable", il n'y a aucun doute que l'ensemble de la communauté internationale est convaincue des problèmes extrêmement graves engendrés par la destruction de la nature qui se fait à une allure inquiétante. Il s'agit donc là d'un grand défi, celui de sauvegarder ce qui reste de la nature, de mettre tout en oeuvre pour restaurer ce qui a été détruit, d'avoir constamment présente à l'esprit la notion de programmation des actions de développement dans un cadre environnemental sain et protégé. La FAO, les autres organismes concernés et les gouvernements nationaux n'ont d'autre alternative, pour la sauvegarde de l'espèce humaine elle-même, que celle de faire face à ce défi en y consentant rapidement les sacrifices nécessaires. L'un des forums internationaux les plus à même de canaliser ces sacrifices et de les orienter est la FAO. Il est donc nécessaire que cette organisation soit fortement soutenue dans les actions qu'elle mènera dans ce cadre.

En ce qui concerne les suggestions de la FAO relatives à la diversification des cultures en Afrique, la délégation marocaine souhaite que les pays membres encouragent la FAO à faire le nécessaire pour traduire ces suggestions en propositions concrètes. En ce qui concerne les problèmes de relations FAO-PNUD, quelles que soient les discussions en cours actuellement entre le PNUD et les autres organisations, il faut être vigilant pour ne pas oublier l'expérience que la FAO a acquise dans beaucoup de domaines en ce qui concerne précisément, pour ne citer que cela, les actions sur le terrain.

En ce qui concerne l'amélioration de l'information sur les opérations de terrain, la FAO dispose d'une banque de données importantes et variées sur des thèmes précis. Dans la mesure où les thèmes ont trait à des questions techniques de caractère régional, la délégation marocaine propose que la FAO prévoie à l'avenir de faire bénéficier de ces études l'ensemble des pays concernés de la région. Ceci pourrait être réalisé à l'occasion de séminaires desquels ressortiraient les recommandations qui pourraient découler de ces études. Cette procédure permettrait d'éviter de reprendre dans un pays donné la réalisation de projets déjà exécutés dans un autre pays sur des thèmes identiques.

La délégation marocaine souhaite conclure son intervention avec l'espoir que soient redonnées à la FAO des bases financières sûres et stables qui permettraient, entre autres, de donner un nouvel élan à la mise en oeuvre des conclusions de l'examen de cette Organisation; car, s'il est entendu que la mise en oeuvre de la Résolution 10/89 puisse avoir un caractère graduel, il n'est pas souhaitable qu'elle dure longtemps au risque de voir ses effets et impacts diminuer d'intérêt et d'actualité, compte tenu de la grande vitesse avec laquelle évoluent les problèmes auxquels elle est sensée apporter des solutions, et de l'envergure de plus en plus étoffée et épineuse des défis à relever.

La mise en oeuvre des décisions et recommandations de la Résolution 10/89 a permis d'avoir un Plan à moyen terme de la FAO qui a suscité le plus grand intérêt auprès des pays membres et autour duquel un consensus a semblé se dégager.

Qu'est-ce qui nous empêcherait, M. le Président, maintenant de rechercher un consensus semblable en vue d'arrêter l'échéance à laquelle devra être achevée la mise en oeuvre précitée et de décider du montant des crédits à réserver à l'opération dans le cadre du budget 1992-93?

**Neil PIERRE (Guyana):** We should all once again join in extending our felicitations to the Secretariat, not only for the good quality of the documents before us and the manner in which the matter has been presented, but also in view of the exceedingly difficult circumstances in which this particular matter has had to be considered and implemented.

We note at the outset the statement contained in the document on the impact of the financial situation affecting the implementation of the Review recommendations. We can only hope that all financial commitments to the Organization will be honoured in a timely and consistent manner.

The Medium-Term Plan has been discussed at great length by this Commission. We believe that its implementation is a clear indication of action in the right direction. We support the view that biennial reviews and updating of the Medium-Term Plan should be effected.

We welcome the current emphasis on sustainable development and the environment in FAO's work. We particularly commend the participation in preparations for UNCED and the external coordination of the Organization's work in this area. The multi-disciplinary coordination mechanism now in place within FAO itself is a highly desirable development in the view of my delegation.

FAO's country policy work is also to be commended, especially since structural adjustment programmes now being implemented in most Third World countries all have well-known implications for agricultural, rural and sustainable development.

In this area particular emphasis must be placed on cooperation and coordination with other institutions. We urge that greater efforts should be pursued in streamlining FAO's cooperation and coordination with other inter-governmental agencies, in particular the UNDP and the Bretton Woods institutions.

We see the strengthening of Country Offices and the decentralization of some activities as a welcome initiative from the Secretariat. We note in particular that preference will be given to countries with large field programmes and structural adjustment assistance in the light of the scaling down of posts identified for the strengthening of FAORs.

Finally, my delegation welcomes the support to agricultural trade negotiations and trade and commodity advice that has now been included in FAO's focus.

My delegation would like to commend this report, and to urge continued progress towards the full implementation of the Review recommendations.

**Antonio BROTONS DIE (España):** Expresamos nuestra felicitación por la excelente exposición del documento C 91/21 que sirve de debate en esta Comisión, y que nos ocupa en este momento.

Queremos expresar nuestra conformidad con los progresos que ha supuesto el Examen de los objetivos y operaciones de la FAO, que ha llevado a un sistema de prioridades de acciones del organismo en los ejercicios futuros, concretados en un Plan a Plazo Medio con finalización en 1997. Todo este proceso será tanto más fácil de llevar a cabo en cuanto desaparezcan las dificultades financieras de la Organización. No nos cansaremos pues de instar a los países que tienen cuotas pendientes, a que las satisfagan con prontitud.

Algunos países parecen hacer coincidir el resultado del análisis de objetivos y actuaciones de la FAO con un aumento en las dotaciones presupuestarias de la Organización, y esto no es a nuestro criterio, sino que más bien se trata de esclarecer los objetivos prioritarios a los que debe atender la Organización, lo que no debería presuponer nuevos costes adicionales necesariamente.

Creemos que los distintos países interesados en las actuaciones concretas de la Organización, deben participar cada vez más en el seguimiento de las actividades de la FAO, en orden a conseguir la mejor asignación de recursos para cubrir los objetivos marcados.

Como ya hemos señalado en anteriores ocasiones, las asignaciones encaminadas a evaluar el resultado y eficacia de los proyectos, cuentan con nuestro apoyo decidido, en aras de poder conseguir un sistema eficaz y permanente de seguimiento de objetivos que, a través de indicadores convenientemente elegidos, bien identificables y fácilmente medibles, puedan proporcionar información concreta a la consecución del objetivo en tiempo y costo.

Queremos indicar finalmente, que en este proceso se deben tener presentes siempre las recomendaciones que formulen los distintos Comités especializados de la FAO, en las materias específicas como son Agricultura, Montes, Pesca, Productos Básicos, etc. y muy especialmente, las de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

**CHAIRMAN:** That brings us to the end of the list of speakers and I give the floor now to Mr Shah to answer.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation) :** I particularly appreciate the fact that we had the lunch hour before I was called upon to respond because although I make my best effort to respond at any time you call on me to do so, the debate on this Item has been a particularly thought-provoking one and I wanted to reflect well on the manner in which I respond to it.

There are eleven points which I have grouped which I think cover most, if not all, of the questions raised and the comments made.

The first point is that I cannot but express on behalf of the Director-General and on behalf of all my colleagues our gratitude for the very high level of satisfaction which has been expressed over the Report the Director-General has submitted to you - satisfaction with the scope of the report, and with the extent to which the Director-General has been able to report on achievements, despite the financial problems. The financial problems were really of two categories: first, that there were no additional resources appropriated to implement the recommendations of the Review, and secondly - perhaps even more striking in their impact - the fact that the approved Programme of Work and Budget for this biennium has been under stress both because of the delays in receipt of contributions and because of the unbudgeted costs which have required us to retrench. But the message which comes through the debate and which is very important to the Secretariat is the recognition in the Conference, and at all stages in the discussion of this report which preceded your own discussion, that the manner in which the results of the FAO Review have been implemented has brought about many significant changes to your Organization. It has brought about changes which have been remarked on not only in this debate this morning and this afternoon but changes which have been remarked upon in your debate on the other Agenda Items, and not only in this Commission. You have recognized the changes which have come about in the manner that we, the Secretariat, work with you; in the manner in which we give you material such as the Medium-Term Plan; or proposals on improvements in the Programme



Budget Process; or substantive policy documents on the international development strategy; or on programmes for the environment and sustainable development; plans of action for women in development; people's participation in development; this is, I think, something recognized from your interventions, Mr Chairman, and shows how the Review has led to an enhancement of the policy focus between yourselves as Member Nations and between yourselves and the Secretariat. This has led to changes also within the Secretariat which have been commented upon; stronger coordination within the Secretariat, improved methods of work. So, we take a great deal of encouragement from this very first point which I would draw from your debate.

The second point is about costs - the cost of the Review. There have been different perceptions. On the one hand, there are some saying that one should not think of the Review in terms of the cost; one should think of it in terms of the benefits but I would beg to point out, let us do both. Let us not ignore the costs of the Review. There were certain identifiable financial and budgetary costs and these were reported to you. These were funds which were expended. Why close our eyes to them? By the same token, let us recognize that there are benefits which result from this effort and perhaps this point was very well taken by the Programme and Finance Committees in their joint meeting, and here I refer to paragraph 1.22 of their report which is before you in document C 91/LIM/22 and I quote "The Committees felt that the Review and its follow-up constituted a well-timed investment, with the ultimate aim of strengthening FAO." As far as the Director-General is concerned, Mr Chairman, he has to recognize that the Review has a cost, both direct and indirect, and he trusts that these costs have certain benefits which you are in a position to assess.

The third point, which has come up repeatedly in the debate is about the perception of individual Member Nations with regard to this FAO Review and this is a matter which goes back not only to the last Conference when you decided on the results of the Review but: it is a matter which goes back to the preceding biennium; it goes back to 1987; it goes back to the months and years when you were debating among yourselves on what sort of Review to have. Here I would like to be modestly very clear. There are some Member Nations who have always referred to this process as the reform of FAO and even this morning we heard references to the reform.

The Secretariat is obedient to the Conference, and so far as the Secretariat is concerned the Conference entitled the matter "The Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations" and for that reason we, in the Secretariat, will always refer to it as that and for shorthand refer to it as the FAO Review.

I mention this because the debate also led to another recurrent trend and that is that there was some evocation of the concepts which have already been settled in the past years and particularly at the last Conference. I do not close my eyes at all to the fact that there are certain Member Nations whose representatives have expressed their conviction that the Review process is a never-ending one and they wish to continue it and they see it as something which they will continue. Fair enough, I have full respect for them but there are other Member Nations who have recalled what was the conclusion of the last Conference. The conclusion of the last Conference in the report dealing with "the Review of Certain Aspects of FAO's Goals and Operations" was in paragraph 240 "the Conference recalled that although the Review had been completed the dialogue which had been

established among Member Nations during its session had been constructive and it expressed the hope that this would continue in order to better support the objectives of the Organization."

I refer to this, Mr Chairman, because once again I would like to be clear. The Director-General has responded to the FAO Review as was carried out leading to the adoption of Resolution 10/89 and he has reported, as directed by that Resolution, on the action taken in the context of those recommendations. Mr Chairman, we believe in the Secretariat that it is important to bear this framework in mind on this subject because, on the one hand, you Member Nations may rightly feel that the future is eternal, the Organization may not be eternal but has some few years ahead of it and improvements are never-ending. Fair enough but, on the other hand, we cannot - if I may use the term, flog a dead horse, I should say that we should be careful not to embark on issues which were not in the context of the FAO Review in order to continue it artificially.

Mr Chairman, this is a matter of understanding among Member Nations and it is also a question of some self-restraint for your own benefit in order to maintain an orderly process in this Organization. Why do I mention it, Sir? I mention it because during the debate there were some references by individual Member Nations to suggestions which they had made over the past years, suggestions which had been thoughtfully considered by the last Conference in arriving at its decisions, and which were set aside; they were not accepted; they did not lead to individual recommendations and I give two examples: one was the idea of a Field Programme Committee. This Field Programme Committee was not a decision of the FAO Review and yet it has been referred to. Another example is an Inspection Unit reporting to the Governing Bodies. Again this was not a matter which was a decision resulting from the FAO Review. Of course, Mr Chairman, I bow to the right of all Member Nations to refer to matters they consider appropriate and which the Chairman permits in the debate but I mention, very respectfully, that these are matters not covered in the Director-General's Report because they do not constitute the context of the FAO Review as he was directed by the Conference to follow-up on.

The fourth point, Mr Chairman, concerns the impact of the Review and a number of questions were raised. I will try to do justice to them although they were raised in slightly different forms, in slightly different concepts, by more than one delegation. One aspect was what priorities have been affected or have suffered in this biennium as a result of the redirection of resources for the implementation of the Review? This question was also put in a slightly different way by another delegation as to how the Secretariat managed to implement those recommendations which the Director-General did without the additional resources. The question is complex but I would like to explain the process in which we have all been involved during this biennium. The first point, Mr Chairman, is to recall that the Conference directed that the implementation of the recommendations arising out of the Review should only be carried out to the extent that resources were available and without affecting the priorities established in the approved Programme of Work.

The Director-General has sought, and I trust has complied with, this directive. However, even the implementation of the approved Programme of Work has suffered, as you know. The Conference will recall the reports of the Finance Committee that we had to absorb unbudgeted staff costs, technically called a negative staff cost variance, which is estimated at

US\$20 million for the biennium. The Finance Committee has also reported to the Council, and the Council to you, that the staff and non-staff currency losses exceed the funds which were available in the Special Reserve Account. At the last estimate I have quoted the figure of between US\$6 and US\$7 million. Now I go even higher to just under US\$8 million. Therefore, the implementation of the recommendations of the Review has had to concentrate on those recommendations which could be acted upon through changes in the means of work and through the use of existing staff resources.

The preparation of the Medium-Term Plan, the enhancement of policy work, the measures to give greater emphasis to environment and sustainable development programmes all fall within this category. We have not been able to implement the recommendations involving additional resources, to give the two most striking examples, the strengthening of the FAO representations with additional staff and additional expenditures for external training. This could not be implemented because in order to do so would have meant affecting the approved Programme of Work and the approved priorities.

Another question was raised also in this same overall subject of impact of the Review in terms of what savings have been derived from the implementation of the Review?

Mr Chairman, the basic result of the FAO Review, to our minds and in general terms, was aimed more at qualitative improvements rather than cost savings. This is certainly so if one looks at the Resolution 10/89 and the related part of the Conference report. Even in the case of the Management Review, which was undertaken by the Finance Committee, less than half of the recommendations were aimed at reducing costs. Most were directed at improving the time limits and accuracy of financial reporting, improvement of data security in EDP systems, improved personnel policies, faster recruitment, enhancement of staff skills, and so on.

Now whilst each one of these measures would have benefits which eventually reduce the cost of operations, at least indirectly, any quantification at this stage, and I frankly would not make the effort - I am incapable of doing so - any quantification at this stage would be more a matter of aesthetics, and I would not like to indulge in that with you.

On the other hand, there were some specific recommendations aimed at reducing costs. Examples include the reduction in costs through reliance on in-house printing: US\$750 000 saved as a result; or the use of automated systems to reduce bank charges, which are expected to save US\$80 000 per annum as a result. All of these actions relating to the Management Review were the subject of a report to the Finance Committee at their September Session, and this report included a schedule listing each of the recommendations made by the consultants, and it provided the following information:

The reference to the report of the Programme and Finance Committee; a brief description of the recommendation; the start and expected end date of action on the item; the status of implementation at the time we reported to the Finance Committee; the estimated cost of implementation and the benefits derived, or to be derived.

In this connection, I would make three points. The first, is that quite a few of the recommendations require the application of more resources than could be made available, and this was reported to the Finance Committee. The second is that the total identifiable costs are expected to exceed the identifiable savings, but the principal benefits will be seen as qualitative improvements. The third is that actions required would take place over a period of time and the Finance Committee asks that it be kept informed of progress.

This brings me to the point which was mentioned in the debate and which I recognize very well, which is that in these future reports, the Finance Committee could well arrange to cover in more detail these aspects of the question.

The fifth point concerns all the remarks made about policy analysis, policy work, improved collaboration with other organizations in this work, and the further impact of policy work on field operations.

The first set of remarks concerns the cooperation between FAO and the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in country policy work. This cooperation, if I may enlarge on the report which has been submitted to you, has resulted in tangible although modest results so far, and I would like to give some examples. The IMF has provided a policy formulation paper and other technical documents for internal use by FAO in preparation for the provision of policy assistance. In return, FAO provides to the IMF the results of its studies and field experience. In addition to these examples, which are given in the documents, close consultation with the World Bank has been initiated in relation to FAO's agricultural sector reviews in Jordan, Egypt, the Philippines and Bolivia, among a few other countries.

Plans are currently being finalized for the second World Bank/FAO consultation on issues of common interest. The consultation, involving senior officials of both Institutions, will be held in Rome early next year, and the World Bank has been invited to participate in several FAO national policy workshops. Of course, as I have said on other occasions, cooperation is a two-way process and it requires the will and the intent on both sides as well as benefits which are recognized by both sides.

There was a separate question concerning the World Bank and IMF's capacity and expertise in macro-economics, and whether FAO would presume to compete with them. No sir, we would not presume to compete with them, and we would also endeavour not to overlap with them. We do not attempt to overlap in the provision of macro-economic advice to any Member Nation. What we try to do is to assist member countries to understand the implications of macro-economic change on the agricultural and food sectors and rural populations. Thus our intent is to be complementary to the efforts of the World Bank and the IMF, in helping countries obtain the long-term benefits of structural adjustment while shielding or buffering the groups of populations which are most at risk against the short-term negative effects.

A series of questions were asked about what we have done to strengthen our capacity for country policy work. As has been reported in the document, we have in place a coordination mechanism for sector and structural adjustment policy work which increases the multi-disciplinary nature of the policy work that we do, which avoid duplication of efforts even within the Secretariat, and is intended to ensure greater consistency in policy advice as it is formulated by different Units in FAO.

Secondly, we have designed the policy information system which has been approved by the Director-General for implementation during 1992, which will not only support preparations for policy assistance missions but also provide closer integration of policy work between Country Office and Headquarters staff, which is another aspect which has been highlighted by a number of you.

Thirdly, some resources have been redirected within the policy analysis division to provide more direct support to country policy work; and fourthly, as you noted in the Programme for Work and Budget for the next biennium, two additional posts have been included and two other posts have been recommended for upgrading. Then the question arose of what is being done to evaluate and improve the quality of policy advice. The set of improvements which I have just described, the internal coordination measures, are intended to improve the quality of our work and the quality of our advice: but quality in whose eyes? The proof, as the old saying goes, will be in the pudding. The issue we are talking about is quality of advice in terms of what each of you have in mind, that is, your objective assessment of the quality of advice; or is it the quality of advice as recognized by the country to which that advice is given, and the use to which that advice is put in the formulation of the government's own policies? That to us is the key issue and that is what we will attempt to address.

Finally, Mr Chairman, on the subject of quality, in the final analysis one assessment of quality will be the number and the nature of requests that we receive from you, from member countries, for such assistance. A last adjunct to this question on policy advice was; has the work on policy increased during this biennium? The number of requests for assistance and the number of projects has increased during this biennium, while the resources have had to be not only static but they had to be reduced, so the resources available were only spread very thinly.

On the subject of cooperation with other institutions, the Inter-American Development Bank was also mentioned, and may I, in that connection, report that the text of a cooperative agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank and FAO has been approved at the technical level. The agreement covers work on investment projects and sector lending. An exchange of letters between the Director-General and the President of the IDB covers FAO's role in providing technical assistance to the Latin-American and Caribbean member countries on projects funded by the Inter-American Development Bank. The text of the letter has been agreed and we await the formally signed copy from the President of the IDB. The agreement will be submitted to our Governing Bodies for formal approval in 1992.

Mr Chairman, the sixth point covers questions regarding the Field Programme Management System. The first phase of the System, which is being supported generously by the Government of France, will be completed by the end of this year. The major outcome of this first phase is a consolidated computerized project data system for the management and the monitoring of projects in the pipeline, that is to say project ideas and projects which are under formulation.

The system will be ready for testing and what our technicians call a parallel run by the end of this year, and it is hoped that early next year the system will replace the existing pipeline systems that we have. The new project data system will be fully interfaced with both FINSYS and PERSYS

providing the project data necessary for the operation of these two administrative systems. In turn, this interface will facilitate retrieval of financial and staff data from FINSYS and PERSYS for the use of Field Programme management and monitoring. The new system will also allow retrieval of project data by technical sector or by special themes such as cross-sectoral themes, environment, sustainable development, women-in-development and so forth.

Further development of the Field Programme management system will depend on the availability of financial resources and will be implemented using a phased approach based on user priorities but let me indicate what the major activities to be carried out in the next phases would be. Firstly, to complete the interfaces with FINSYS/PERSYS for overall Field Programme management; secondly, expand the project data system to cover aspects of project implementation; thirdly, develop interfaces with other systems such as procurement and contracts; fourthly, to develop data transmission between Headquarters and Field Offices; and fifthly, to coordinate with our computer centre for the enhancement of FINSYS/PERSYS in order to better utilize data from these systems for the Field Programme. It is clear, Mr Chairman, that with such an ambitious Agenda, the work will have to be undertaken within resources which are available and allotted, and this will be done to the maximum extent possible with the on-going work. The duration of the whole project will of course depend on the magnitude of additional extra-budgetary resources which may be obtainable.

The seventh point: let me turn from the Field Programme to the examination of the Field Programme by the Technical Committees, because this was also touched upon fairly frequently in the debate. One of the wisest responses that came from the debate itself was from those who said that we have had the experience during this biennium for the Technical Committees, such as Committees on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, reviewing the Field Operations in their sector. The experience, in your view, has been mixed, but the experience surely is considered sound enough to be worth developing and to be worth improving. This really requires a joint effort, firstly on the part of the Secretariat in providing better documentation but, secondly, documentation which would lead to a richer debate, to more of a policy debate and to clearer conclusions. We in the Secretariat know that our Governing Bodies will give us such a debate, but the effort will have to be from both sides.

Related to the Technical Committees was a comment about the level of attendance by experts. I am very careful, being from the Secretariat, in commenting on this matter; we feel that it is the prerogative of a Member Nation to put whomsoever it wants on this delegation for any intergovernmental body. If I were on a national delegation, whichever country I belonged to, I would not accept criticism from other Member Nations on the quality of my delegation. On behalf of the Secretariat, we note that there are Member Nations who wish there to be greater expertise on national delegations, and the debate this morning recalled that there was an offer to facilitate the attendance of such experts on national delegations, we are acting on this. My colleagues in the Development Department in their dealings with Trust Fund donors have taken this matter up. I consulted them during the lunch hour. To date there has not been a positive response but we all recall very well that the United Kingdom suggested this possibility and expressed its willingness to make funds available under Trust Funds for this purpose, and my colleagues will be pursuing this matter with the authorities concerned.

The eighth point is the strengthening of FAO Representatives, and there are two aspects I picked up from the debate. One is strengthening of the offices of FAO Representatives; how is this going to be done? Secondly, what is the qualitative change in the future of these offices? The strengthening that is envisaged for the next biennium is in the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, which you are about to approve. Let me point out that the strengthening has included such a substantial programme increase for FAO Representative Offices precisely because we were not able during this biennium to carry out the strengthening which was called for under the FAO review. So you see also in the Programme of Work and Budget - and this is only one example - how the Director-General has been led to make proposals which stemmed directly from the FAO review. This strengthening of the FAO Representative Offices has to be seen in a qualitative context: the qualitative context of change, the changes which are happening and which will accelerate under modified field programmes, the changes which will come about as a result of the new UNDP support cost arrangements. Again, let me give you one example. This morning it was very wisely suggested that perhaps the staff mix in the offices of the FAO Representatives should be reconsidered, that instead of having administrative officers and programme officers, perhaps we need more substantive expertise of people with an economics background, of people who would be able to help in policy advice and help in programme formulation. I fully accept that. The Secretariat agrees that these are the kinds of qualitative changes which will come about, and we see them already in the way we select programme officers. In recent times, my colleagues tell me, the programme officers who are selected for these offices are increasingly chosen for their broad economic background rather than for any specific, narrow technical or administrative competence.

This leads me to my ninth point, about technical backstopping. The technical backstopping of the Field Programme and the importance which is attached to it is undisputed among you as Member Nations and by us as the Secretariat. This is the *raison d'être* - as we have all repeatedly stressed - of the Field Programme, for the FAO technical expertise to be utilized for the benefit of Member Nations in their Field Programme. If the Report of the Director-General has not gone further into this, it is precisely because the arrangements that we have for technical backstopping and the resources that we will have in the foreseeable future are a function on the one hand of the Programme of Work and Budget that you are about to approve, and on the other hand of all the changes which are going to come about in the Field Programme. What is going to be the extent of the Field Programme in any one country which will progressively be handled through national execution? What is going to be the extent of that Field Programme, nationally executed, for which the government concerned will call upon FAO for technical backstopping? As we realize, and as I think distinguished delegates realize, these are questions with no immediate answer nor with any clear-cut answer, and that is why all the arrangements for technical backstopping of the Field Programme will have to be high on our Agenda of attention and will have to be closely looked at at every stage of programme implementation, both of the Regular Programme and of the Field Programme. However, as regards the Regular Programme, I would only draw attention to the fact that we are making provision for increased resources for Field Programme support. In the 1991 biennium the provision for Field Programme support under the technical and economic programmes of agriculture,

forestry and fisheries was just under US\$25 million; in the next budget, at the rate given in the document, it is US\$29.6 million. So this is a matter to which we attach a lot of importance, as we attach importance to the strengthening of evaluation work and of feedback.

Under other items of your Agenda the Commission has had the opportunity to see the results of further evaluation work, and this is a matter to which the Director-General continues to attach importance. So you may rest assured that we will make every effort to increase our action in this field, but also with regard to feedback. Feedback, as I have humbly suggested at previous conferences, is not a matter which can be dealt with merely by administrative fiat, by the issuance of an administrative instruction.

The feedback of evaluation is a question of absorption of the results of the evaluation. There are two major ways in which this is being done, I must say, with some visible results, at least to my satisfaction.

First of all there is the information data base on evaluation which is kept by my colleagues in my office in the Evaluation Service; not only kept by them, but promoted by them as regards its use throughout the Technical Divisions.

Secondly, there is greater attention to feedback from evaluation in the work of the Field Programme Committee which is headed by the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department, and in which all the Operations' Heads and other colleagues participate.

The tenth point, which also related to the Field Programmes, was the reference to the Year Book on field operations, field activities, and we are grateful that this document is found to be useful. Some improvements were suggested, such as, that information on projects could be given by sector, and not only by country and funding source. It is the kind of improvement into which we will look; we will do our best. I hope that there was no other commitment which was expected from me immediately.

The eleventh point concerns references made by a number of delegates to the methods of work of the Governing Bodies. On this, I want to say very respectfully that I am not reacting because this is not a part of the conclusions of the FAO Review as we have them nor is it a part of the Director-General's Report on the conclusions of the Review.

I have taken a lot of your time, Mr Chairman, but I hope I have done justice to the questions. We remain in your hands.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Shah, for very full answers to the many questions raised here.

Are there any further comments before I try to sum up?

There being none, I should like to make two general comments at the beginning: one is that I consider this an important item which should be very carefully reported by this Commission to Plenary. I say this because I think a lot of the points which have been made here could have much



influence on how FAO conducts its work in future years. While it may make sense with other items on the Agenda to keep the reports brief, I think here you should spend more time on it. That is my recommendation, because it can be a guideline for your future work.

The second point I want to make - and here I touch on one of the points Mr Shah made - is that I have had the feeling throughout this debate, as in the debates in this Commission on the other main items, that to speak frankly, the climate in relations between delegations and the Secretariat has become much better during this Conference than it was before. I think this is important. This is something which, from both sides, we should try to follow up in future.

I have written down a number of points. They may or may not correspond to what Mr Shah has said. So, I think the Drafting Group should take all the points made into consideration.

My first point is a very general one. In my view this discussion - and I have attended a number of Conferences, some controversial ones - was at a very high level, with many views very clearly expressed. Most of the views expressed here pointed to future reform as a continuing process. I know there are some delegates who feel that this should now come to an end, but, please, I have been sitting in my Ministry for fifteen years rationalizing the Ministry, and there is no end to that. My successor is doing the same. Even so, we should take due regard that we do not spend too much time on reform processes. However, there will always be a follow-up because the world is changing.

My second point is that I have noted what Mr Shah has said - and he has referred back to the Director-General - that the attitude on the part of the Secretariat to all these reform questions is very flexible. I think that is also important for the future.

Much has been said about money and costs. Mr Shah also touched upon that. Views have been very varied. Some delegates have been complaining that there has been too little money for the Review process, and others have said that one can do a lot without its costing more money. I suppose the truth is somewhere in between.

I noted what the delegate from Morocco said. It is important to secure a good financial basis for what FAO is doing to change its structure in future. I think that is a very important point. But, please, we should remember that reform or review or whatever you call it is not necessarily a question of money, it is a question of something more than that.

My fourth point is with regard to the many comments which have again been made here on the Medium-Term Plan's concrete priorities. I noted one delegate saying, and I think it is a very good point - I cannot remember who - that the Medium-Term Plan, which is a main item in the Review Process improves governance or, to put it in plainer terms, improves the possibility of having actual dialogue between delegates and the Secretariat. I think that is also a very important point.

My next point is on the Technical Committees, on which Mr Shah also commented. I think that this is again an important point. What has been done in the past year, was, in my view, only a first attempt at introducing

new elements into the discussions of the Technical Committees. In practical terms, both delegates and the Secretariat could do much to improve this new method of working together.

My sixth point was again mentioned by at least one delegate, but touched on by others: that what is happening now is, to some extent, a relinquishing of project execution in favour of policy formulation. Again, I think this is an important point.

My seventh point, on which many commented, was the increased cooperation within UN Organization and banks. Mr Shah has commented very broadly on this question. Again, I think it is an important point.

My eighth point is with regard to Country Offices and decentralization. You touched on that and I think you have covered the main attitudes of the delegation here.

My ninth point is the role of Regional Offices. A few delegates have referred to this question. I remember one delegate saying that it would be a good idea to have a report, at least for the next Conference, on this particular question. I do not think we are always speaking the same language on this matter. Maybe some clarification would be useful.

My last point - and up to now what I have been saying has been very much to the Secretariat, how they should perform - is that I think it was clear from the debate that quite a number of delegations accept that Member Governments, through their delegations here at the Conference, and at other Governing Bodies, could perform better. We could be better prepared, sometimes. I will now leave the summary of this particular matter.

Are there any comments?

If not, the debate on Item 19 is concluded.

We now have to move on to the other business. It would be extremely useful if we had the Chairman of the Drafting Committee with us. We will adjourn for five minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 16.10 to 16.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 10 à 16 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.10 a las 16.25 horas

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 1

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PREMIERE PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 1

**CHAIRMAN:** We continue with the two draft reports, and I call on the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Document C 91/II/REP/1 contains the draft report approved by the Drafting Committee on the Programme of Work and Budget, which is the most important Agenda Item of the Conference. I wish to inform you that the report was adopted by the Drafting Committee in a record short time. Usually the adoption of the report of the Programme of Work and Budget takes many long hours, sometimes even up to midnight or the small hours of the morning as delegates take pains to register different shades of opinion on various aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget. During the adoption of the report yesterday, however, it took us barely 30 minutes to adopt REP/1. I believe that the reason why the report was adopted with such expediency was because it records the common views of the Commission: It reports the consensus that has been achieved in the Commission, and likewise the Secretariat has taken great care to record faithfully the proceedings in the Commission.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the Chairman of the Drafting Group for the welcome news. Let us hope that we can perform as well, if not better. We will take REP/1 paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 2

PARAGRAPHE 2

PARRAFO 2

**Igor MARINCEK (Suisse):** M. le Président, ma délégation propose à la fin de la troisième phrase, dans le paragraphe 2, juste après "d'assistance des Etats Membres" que l'on ajoute les mots suivants: "auxquels le système multilatéral est appelé à répondre le plus efficacement possible".

Ainsi, la phrase complète se lirait comme suit: "Mais ils se sont aussi traduits par de nouveaux défis et une diversification des besoins d'assistance des Etats Membres auxquels le système multilatéral est appelé à répondre le plus efficacement possible".

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I think the Commission can well consider the new addition proposed by the Swiss delegate. It is actually up to the Commission whether to adopt it or recommend it.

**CHAIRMAN:** I will read it out slowly again. After "Member Nations" in the third sentence add "to which therefore the multilateral system is required to respond as efficiently as possible".

Are there any comments?

Paragraph 2. as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 2, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 2. así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 3  
PARAGRAPHE 3  
PARRAFO 3

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** This will be the second of three comments. In the last sentence, just add to the paragraph: "et de relever les défis futurs": ceci à la fin du paragraphe 3.

**CHAIRMAN:** "and face up to future challenges" is the proposed addition to the last sentence. Are there any comments? This is accepted. Are there any other comments on paragraph 3?

Paragraph 3. as amended, approved  
Le paragraphe 3. ainsi amendé, est approuvé  
El párrafo 3. así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 4 TO 23  
PARAGRAPHERS 4 A 23  
PRRAFOS 4 A 23

Paragraphs 4 to 23 approved  
Les paragraphes 4 à 23 sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 4 a 23 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 24. INCLUDING RESOLUTION  
PARAGRAPHE 24. Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION  
PARRAFO 24. INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, may I only provide a clarification? The Resolution, which will be included in paragraph 24, will be submitted to the Plenary tomorrow morning as usual reflecting the budget rate which the Conference will be asked to adopt. But the text of the Resolution is, as you have said, Sir, the text as given in document C 91/LIM/39.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Shah. I hope that is quite clear to everybody. You have to vote in Plenary on the Resolution.

Paragraph 24. including Resolution, adopted  
Le paragraphe 24. y compris la Résolution, est adopté  
El párrafo 24. incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Paragraphs 25 to 30. including Resolution, approved  
Les paragraphes 25 à 30. y compris la Résolution, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 25 a 30. incluida la Resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 31 AND 32

PARAGRAPHE 31 ET 32

PARRAFOS 31 Y 32

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** Mr Chairman, I said to you I had three points and this is concerning 31. At the end of 31 it could also go into 32 but I think it would be better at the end of 31- if you will add the text which I will read to you in French.

"Certains pays auraient cependant préféré que la proposition 4, c'est-à-dire la proposition de regrouper le Programme ordinaire et le Programme de terrain sur l'exécution et un rapport d'évaluation des programmes, ait fait l'objet d'une discussion préalable approfondie entre Etats Membres et Secrétariat avant de proposer la mesure envisagée à la Conférence pour décision".

**CHAIRMAN:** May I ask the opinion of the Chairman of the Drafting Group?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Mr Chairman, I think this amendment reflects the views of certain delegations, and not necessarily shared by other delegations and I think the point is whether the Commission agrees to record it in this way in such a lengthy manner but it is up to the Commission to give its decision regarding this. This does not reflect any decision or any view that has to be attributed to the Commission at all.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** Mr Chairman, it is not usual for me to request the floor at this stage but in complementing the remarks of the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Sir, may I respectfully point out two things: firstly, whether this addition proposed by the distinguished representative of Switzerland can refer to some nations or one is a matter for you to decide; the second point is that the intent of the amendment, which is that the matter should first be discussed between Member Nations and the Secretariat, has already been fulfilled because the Director-General's proposals were submitted to the Programme and Finance Committees in a very specific and very detailed document, Reference for the Programme Committee, PC 64/2, for the Finance Committee FC 22/3. All the suggestions were covered in that document. The two Committees jointly agreed fully with those suggestions and so recommended to the Council.

The Council was fully apprized of the suggestions by having before it not only the report of the Programme and Finance Committees and the report of their joint meeting on the subject, but also the full text of the Director-General's proposals. The process was completed by you, the Conference, having in document LIM/9, the view of the Council, the views of the two Committees, and the Director-General's proposals as given in his document, so I would respectfully submit that the intent of this amendment has been met.

**CHAIRMAN:** Could I have the reaction of the delegation of Switzerland?

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. In proposing this addition to the paragraph, we want to underline that first of all there has been no real discussion. In fact there are two proposals which are in front of the Committees and in front of the Council. One is the Budget Programme Process and the other is these propositions from the Director-General. The first one has been discussed amply and also for quite some time. The second one came as quite a surprise to us, at least for those countries who are not on the Finance Committee and Programme Committee and on the Council. They came to our attention here in the Conference and we think this is a point which would merit a deeper discussion. We have merely heard delegations address this point in the Commission; there were maybe two or three delegations discussing it. I would not call this a deep discussion, and when we were expressing ourselves on the process, which we think has started in a very positive way, we considered this question of determining how we wanted to organize our work; and I would like to recall that Mr Shah expressed just before that, that the way members want to organize their work is something he would not like to comment too much about. I think he is very right when he says so. I think this is a point which in fact is very important to us members and we do not have the impression that we know what decision has really been reached. We do not want to say with our amendment that this decision is necessarily bad. We just have not made up our minds. I think in such questions it would be useful to make up one's mind to have this discussion with the Secretariat who would explain it, not just make a proposition but explain it. We have not heard an explanation.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think I should remind the delegate of Switzerland that at the beginning of the discussions I pointed out that there were two points to be covered, the budgetary process and these proposals by the Director-General; so I think it has been made clear at the beginning of the discussion that it was comments on both issues which should come out.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** At this point I would like to draw your attention, as I understand that this paragraph 31 - I think the Drafting Group intended just to list the measures as proposed by the Director-General. That is all, as I understand it. I think what the delegate for Switzerland had to propose - if we accept it - should come as a new paragraph, to put in another paragraph. It should not be in this paragraph, because that, I understand, is only to mention the measure proposed by the Director-General.

**CHAIRMAN:** I must say I am a bit worried about this proposal because it is a lengthy one to add.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I would like to support what you just said. In the beginning you gave that explicit distinction between the two headings of the discussion. I remember myself that I asked you once whether we were already dealing with that second situation because we wanted to say something about it. It was very well spelt out here in this Commission meeting and discussion and I had the impression that many countries did not speak upon it just because they thought it was a good arrangement for the budget process, and when I was asking this I said immediately there is no need for me to discuss it because it is a good thing. I had the impression

that was the feeling of the Commission. If I am wrong, I think Switzerland should correct me and therefore I think that we may be able to stick to the original draft and not to insert a paragraph.

**CHAIRMAN:** I had the same impression, because I pointed it out clearly at the beginning of the discussion. Therefore my proposal to the delegate of Switzerland is, let us leave this in the Verbatim and not have a long discussion about the addition, where some people think one thing and some other people think other things.

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** Maybe what you say is wise, but let me just make an additional comment. Maybe there was some point that was not very clear. At the beginning it was suggested that the debate should be divided up into two parts. I think the delegations have not really followed that line. That is also maybe the reason why the delegate of the Netherlands has not come back a second time. You have addressed the questions at the beginning of the debate; it is very clear, and my delegation has missed speaking on that point. It is clear we have said we have addressed that point in the debate on the Review, and you know very well there were many points which were closely interrelated and it was a matter of judgement where to address it. There has not been a second round and we also did not want to be the only ones to open this second round, so it was not a very clear situation.

I must say that the proposal of the delegate of Thailand to bring it maybe into paragraph 32 instead of having it included in 31, where the decision of the Conference is reported, seems to be a very good one.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think we still have a problem, I thought, it may be wrong, but I thought at the outset that the situation was made quite clear. It is up to delegations to comment or not comment on all the issues included in one item, and I feel that we are getting toward or close to reopening our debate, and the debate is closed; that is for sure. Therefore I would much prefer - I understood the delegate for Switzerland could accept that this will be included in the Verbatim and is something you can build on. Is that all right? So, on that we accept paragraph 31.

Paragraphs 31 and 32 approved

Les paragraphes 31 et 32 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 31 y 32 son aprobados

**CHAIRMAN:** I take it that REP/1 has been accepted as a whole with the changes indicated already. It is so accepted.

Draft Report of Commission II. Part 1. as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II. première partie, ainsi amendé.  
est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II. Parte 1. así enmendado, es  
aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

**CHAIRMAN:** We move on to REP/2 and we take it up the same way.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** With regard to REP/2 which was adopted by the Drafting Committee last Friday, I should like to inform the Committee that we had no great difficulty in adopting the draft report, and it also took us a very short period of time in spite of the fact that all the views of the various groups were duly represented in the Drafting Committee.

Therefore, I hope that the Commission will also be able to adopt this report without much difficulty.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 9

PARAGRAPHE 9

PÁRRAFO 9

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** Sorry, Mr Chairman, I have a very small change in paragraph 9 in the fourth line in the French. It is instead of "Planification à long terme: Programmation à long terme".

**CHAIRMAN:** I think that presents no problem. The small change is adopted.

Paragraph 9, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 9, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 9, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraphs 10 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 27 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé,  
est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II. Parte 2, así enmendado, es  
aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** The two reports will be forwarded to Plenary, REP/1 tomorrow and REP/2 on Friday. It remains for me to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the excellent work we have been doing. The Drafting Committee



will meet again tomorrow morning in Plenary at 11 o'clock on REP/1. The Journal may tell you something else. Commission II meets tomorrow afternoon at 14.30 hours to deal with Item 22 and the first Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Ambassador Don Nanjira has promised to conduct the meeting.

The meeting rose at 17.00 hours.

Le séance est levée à 17 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.00 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/II/PV/13

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Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

### THIRTEENTH MEETING

### TREIZIEME SEANCE

### 13<sup>o</sup> SESION

(20 November 1991)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Daniel D.C. Don Nanjira. Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Daniel D.C. Don Nanjira. Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 13<sup>a</sup> sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Daniel D.C. Don Nanjira. Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

22. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations:

22. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales :

22. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales:

22.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

22.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO

22.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

22.2 Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations

22.2 Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales

22.2 Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales

**CHAIRMAN:** I call the meeting of the Commission for this afternoon to order. Our distinguished Chairman has asked me to chair the meeting this afternoon. The introduction is going to be done by Ms Killingsworth, who is the Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs.

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, Relations and Consultations with International Organizations is a standing item on the Conference Agenda, as you know. Its purpose is to keep Member Nations abreast of developments in FAO's relations with other organizations both within the UN system and outside it. As you have said earlier, the Secretariat has submitted to you document C 91/9, which covers recent developments in the UN system, and C 91/9-Sup.I, which reports on relations with IGOs and INGOs.

I would like to say a few words first about the document dealing with the UN system. We are seeing an increasing focus in UN fora on what we might call cross-cutting issues, which by their nature involve various if not all the agencies and programmes in the system. In addressing these issues, the Organization is working with many others, and in our reporting to the Conference under specific items of the Agenda we are also covering the question of cooperation within the system on those issues. You will have already noted also in considering the Medium-Term Plan last week the wide range and expected development of this type of cooperation within the framework of our various technical programmes. So we have not in the document before you attempted to be exhaustive or to cover questions which are already being discussed under other items of your Agenda, such as environment and sustainable development or operational activities for development, to name but two. A report on the same subject was presented to the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council last November and further information was provided to the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June this year. As much of that information is still relevant and also complementary to what we are reporting now, the report submitted to the June Council has been included as an Appendix to C 91/9. Some of the issues which are covered in this documentation have moreover also been taken up

during this session of the Conference under other items, and I might mention here the Uruguay Round, the Common Fund for Commodities and large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, so I will not touch on these at this point.

To add to the information contained in the documents on other items, there is very little I need to say. The documents are in fact produced as closely as possible to the date of the Conference to ensure that they are as up-to-date as possible. A number of the questions covered here are before the current session of the General Assembly, but, as the General Assembly is still discussing them, we have no decisions to report to you at this point.

One major issue for Member States of ECOSOC and the General Assembly this year has been the question of the response of the UN system to emergencies and disasters, and its humanitarian assistance. This year has seen an unprecedented number of emergencies and FAO has been actively involved, within the framework of its mandate and available resources, in responding to them. The activities reported in the document under this heading, however, are not designed to provide an exhaustive account of what the Organization has done but primarily to illustrate the way in which FAO has assumed its role in cooperation with other organizations in assisting Member Nations to face emergency situations.

Beyond the issues currently before the General Assembly, I would like to say a few words about one or two other matters covered in the document. One is the World Summit for Children. As discussed at the June Council, one of the major aspects of FAO's response to the Declaration and Plan of Action which emerged from the World Summit last year are the preparations for the joint FAO/WHO International Conference on Nutrition, which you will be discussing tomorrow. Also in the context of follow-up to the World Summit, FAO was one of the cooperating agencies for a Conference on micro-nutrient deficiency diseases, the title of which was Ending Hidden Hunger, and which was organized as a follow-up to the Summit in Montreal in October. Another follow-up was a recent meeting of humanitarian and development NGOs on the World Summit for Children, Moving Toward Action, and in this FAO also participated actively.

I could give a brief update on preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment, which is to take place from 26-31 January 1992 in Dublin, Ireland. Preparations for this Conference are at a fairly advanced stage. It is hosted by the Government of Ireland and is co-sponsored by 24 UN organizations and specialized agencies, including FAO. The World Meteorological Organization is organizing it, but the Conference is guided by an inter-agency Steering Committee, of which FAO has been a member since the beginning. The preparatory activities are also coordinated with the UNCED Secretariat with regard to the subject of freshwater in Agenda 21.

Invitations have been sent out to all Member Nations of the UN, requesting designation of high-level experts to participate in the meeting. A number of NGOs and IGOs are also invited. FAO attaches great importance to this Conference, which will discuss freshwater management issues in a comprehensive manner, taking into consideration the development needs and environmental protection imperatives, and constituting an important input to the preparations for the UN Conference on Environment and Development next year.

Touching briefly on ongoing activities of the Organization in the UN system as a whole, FAO continued during the present biennium its active participation in the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and the subsidiary machinery of the ACC.

The Director-General attended all four meetings of the ACC itself, and FAO has worked with the other agencies on all of the Subsidiary Bodies, but I would point out in particular the Consultative Committees on administrative and substantive questions. During the biennium FAO held the Chairmanship of the Committee on personnel questions, and subsequently, of the Committee dealing with Finance and Budget. Since the outset FAO has also been the lead agency for the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, and at present also holds the Chair on the Joint United Nations Information Committee.

The ACC participates in joint meetings with the United Nations Committee for Programme Coordination once a year in October. The 1990 Joint Meetings are reported on in the document before you. I would just add that the subject for the 1991 meetings was the International Development Strategy and the role of the United Nations system in its implementation, although some discussions also took place on subjects which might be discussed at ECOSOC in the coordination and the high-level segments of its single regular session in 1992.

The FAO statement to the Joint Meetings placed stress on the special efforts which had been made by the Organization to contribute to the International Development Strategy, and that was, as you will recall, through the specially prepared Long-term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector which was considered by the FAO Council last November at its Ninety-eighth Session.

Going on to C 91/9-Sup.1, I should like to say on, that as well, the information provided on FAO's relations with IGOs and INGOs is selective rather than exhaustive.

The major forms of ongoing cooperation with these organizations are those foreseen in the Basic Texts and in the agreements reached with them. That involves the exchange of information, reciprocal participation in meetings, consultation on matters of common interest. It would obviously not be possible to report on all that was done in this area in one short document. What we have attempted to do, as in the past, is to highlight certain activities which are of particular intrinsic interest, and which are also illustrative of the scope and range of FAO's relations with the IGO and INGO sectors.

This time we have also changed the format somewhat in order to give the document a regional focus. As you know, the Regional Offices play an important role in maintaining relations with IGOs and INGOs in the regions they cover, and recent years have seen a strengthening of many regional institutions with which FAO relates.

I would point out, however, that the regional break-down in the document is not a rigid or institutionalized one. For instance, some organizations which are global in membership are reported on one or the other of the regional sections, simply because the activities described took place during this biennium in those regions.

Some other forms of ongoing cooperation are dealt with in the concluding section entitled Cooperation at International Global Levels. The final paragraph of that section reports on the activities of the Ad Hoc Group of INGO representatives to FAO residing in Rome. That group took the lead, as it has in the past, in making detailed arrangements for the informal meeting of representatives of INGOs attending the Conference as Observers. This meeting is a traditional part of the Conference proceedings and it provides the opportunity for INGOs' views and suggestions on the activities and programmes of the Organization to be reported to the Conference. The meeting this year discussed the International Conference on Nutrition, Peoples' Participation on Rural Development, Sustainable Development and Environment, and also Modalities for Enhanced FAO/NGO Cooperation.

The report is presented to you in document C 91/INF/1.

I will conclude here, Mr Chairman, but of course I remain at your disposal for any further information or clarification which any delegates may request.

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** A mi delegación le complace participar en este tema: Novedades recientes en el sistema de la Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO. Este documento, en el Consejo y en la Conferencia, es siempre interesante, ya que dentro de la inexorable interdependencia entre todos los aspectos económicos, sociales y humanos, es conveniente conocer los hechos que ocurren en el sistema y que son de interés para la FAO.

En cuanto a la situación en el Golfo Pérsico, los representantes de Colombia encontramos muy acertada la participación de la FAO en las misiones inter-organismos y que en los programas de ayuda alimentaria el Programa Mundial de Alimentos haya ofrecido su asistencia de acuerdo con el párrafo 1.16, nos complace que la FAO siga asistiendo a todas las reuniones y participando en las actividades que pueden contribuir a la necesaria y justa recuperación de los países del Golfo, tan seriamente afectados por la reciente crisis.

En relación con los huracanes en Bangladesh y las inundaciones en China, es igualmente muy satisfactorio que la misión conjunta de FAO/PMA y los proyectos del PCT hayan estado al servicio de esos nobles países de nuestro Tercer Mundo, a cuyos representantes reiteramos la más plena solidaridad del Gobierno de Colombia.

Pensamos que esta Conferencia debe subrayar la honda preocupación por el deterioro de la situación de hambre y malnutrición en el mundo, tal como lo hizo el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación en su última reunión celebrada en Dinamarca.

En cuanto a la preocupación que nos causa el hecho de que la asistencia a los países de Europa Oriental pueda ser ofrecida a expensas de los ya escasos recursos que actualmente se dedican a los países en desarrollo, convendrá apoyar la Declaración de los Ministros Miembros del CMA, quienes se comprometieron a que la asistencia a Europa Oriental no afectaría el volumen de la ayuda al Tercer Mundo, y que estudiarían la posibilidad de incrementar a la OCDE hacia los países en desarrollo.

Es satisfactorio reconocer una vez más cómo el Centro de Inversiones sigue asistiendo a los países a elaborar proyectos de inversión que puedan recibir el apoyo financiero de los organismos de crédito.

El párrafo 3.2 indica una ligera recuperación en 1990 de los compromisos multilaterales para la agricultura que ascendieron a 7 900 millones de dólares en relación con los 7 200 millones de dólares en 1989, aunque aún no se ha vuelto al nivel de los 8 700 millones de dólares de 1986.

Se afirma que ese aumento considerable se debe al incremento de los préstamos a la agricultura por parte de los Bancos Asiático y Africano de Desarrollo. Nos llamó la atención que en el párrafo 3.2 no se hable del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Para encontrar nuestro BID tuvimos que pasar al párrafo 3.20 y constatar con gran tristeza que aunque el BID en 1990 aumentó el total de los préstamos concedidos, los préstamos destinados a la agricultura disminuyeron de 621 millones de dólares en 1989 a 319 millones de dólares en 1990, alta diferencia del 24 al 8, menos el 16 por ciento neto.

El cuadro que sigue en el párrafo 3.22 contiene el número de proyectos de agricultura formulados con asistencia del Centro de Inversiones de la FAO, que fueron financiados por diversos organismos de crédito. Ese cuadro señala lamentablemente que el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo es el último, a mucha distancia, entre todos los demás organismos de crédito.

El BID aparece tan sólo con dos proyectos por un monto total de 45 millones de dólares; el Banco Mundial con 4 058 millones; el Banco Africano con 427 millones; y el Banco Asiático con 515 millones.

Discutimos este tema cada vez que en el Consejo y en la Conferencia hemos venido preguntando hasta cuándo será el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo el único Banco Regional con el cual la FAO no tiene ningún acuerdo específico. Siempre se nos responde, ya casi. El párrafo 3.20 nos deja casi en la misma espera.

Se dice que está, que prácticamente ya está listo el acuerdo de cooperación entre la FAO y el BID referente a actividades de proyectos de inversiones y estudios sectoriales o de política. Pero antes de aprobar ese acuerdo, dice el párrafo 3.20, hay que allegar un número suficiente de iniciativas sobre proyectos hasta por un valor de 3 millones de dólares. Nuestra delegación se pregunta: ¿los otros acuerdos con Bancos Regionales están sometidos a esas mismas metas? ¿Quién ha determinado la cifra de 3 millones? ¿La FAO, el FIDA o las otras entidades con mutuo acuerdo? ¿Con cuántos millones en iniciativas se han allegado hasta ahora? ¿Estamos ya muy cerca de los 3 millones?

**F.A. Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** At the outset, I should like to extend our very warm thanks to the Secretariat for producing the excellent documents. Our compliments are also due to the Director of Inter-Agency Affairs for her clear presentations of the subjects.

As in the past, the documents contain a very useful review of the activities of other UN agencies which are of relevance to FAO, and also the Organization's relations and consultations with other UN Bodies. We have

always found these documents to be extremely useful and informative. A careful perusal of them does, indeed, update us on the major activities of the other UN and international Bodies.

In order to be brief, I shall confine my remarks to a few of the subjects covered in these papers. My delegation has noted with particular interest the part in Section 1 of document C 91/9 which deals with the UN response to emergencies and disasters, and FAO's admirable role following such calamities. Our particular interest in this aspect of the UN activities stems from the fact that it was only earlier this year that my country, Bangladesh, was struck by a severe cyclonic storm which left at least 150 000 people dead and a million homeless, besides causing enormous losses in terms of crop properties and cattle heads. We are happy to note that FAO, within its mandate and available resources, has responded to the emergencies and disasters directly and through UN systems initiative.

In this connection, my delegation would like to record its deep gratitude and appreciation to the Director-General and his Organization for mobilizing a prompt and effective response to the need for help following the severe cyclone in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

FAO also lent valuable support to the coordination of the post-calamity activities of other international Bodies, particularly the WFP and UNDRO. My delegation would also like to express its gratitude to FAO for its emergency and rehabilitation assistance to the TCP projects, to the agriculture and livestock sectors, and to the artisanal fishermen.

Getting back to the paper under consideration, we have noted with great appreciation FAO's valuable role in monitoring and responding to the serious food situation in some parts of Africa. We have also noted the very important support which FAO is providing to the developing countries through the FAO's investment centres in close consultation with other multilateral institutions lending for agriculture. My delegation hopes that the investment centre will be further strengthened in the future to enable it to take in hand more projects covering more countries.

**Akira NIWA (Japan):** With regard to driftnet fishing, as my delegation stated, if one kind of fishing method is banned according to the present proposal of one country, whose proposal is not based on a scientific basis but is a political one, other fishing methods such as coastal driftnet fishery and trawl fishery should be automatically banned. From this viewpoint we strongly anticipate FAO's initiative to approach these problems in a calm and rational manner based on scientific evidence.

My delegation therefore supports the idea formulated at the COFI meeting to hold an expert consultation and then to have an ad hoc intergovernmental consultation on the high seas fisheries data illustrated in paragraphs 4.20 and 4.21.

**Ms Riitta RESCH (Finland) :** On this Agenda Item I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Finland.



Under the Agenda Item Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO, I should like to inform the Conference about some of the ideas and proposals which we have formulated within the Nordic project on strengthening the UN activities in the economic and social fields. It was initiated in 1988 and was concluded and presented to the Secretary-General of the UN in May 1991. Subsequently, the report has been introduced in various multilateral and bilateral fora and has already been introduced to the Director-General and the Council of FAO.

Basically, the project was motivated by a concern to safeguard international solidarity and development: in an increasingly interdependent world. The main thrust has been an analysis of the role of the UN and of the operational activities of its various agencies in meeting the challenges and opportunities facing the world community. Even if the recommendations do not constitute an official Nordic Government position they do convey the general line of thinking of the senior level officials of the Nordic aid agencies.

The final report of this project contains similar elements to those emphasized by the Nordic countries in the Review of FAO's Goals and Operations. Some ideas are already under implementation in FAO. In some respects the Nordic project, however, goes further than the FAO review. In the FAO context the decision-making process and working methods in particular are a matter of special concern.

The Nordic/UN project focuses on the problems and possibilities of the UN system's operational activities on which more than two thirds of the funding available to the UN system is spent every year.

The most important findings in the Nordic/UN project are as follows: the need for a high level forum for Member Nations to discuss development issues and give overall policy guidance for the UN operational activities for development; the need for a more effective and executive governance of the UN operational activities to provide the organizations involved with necessary support and guidance on a continuous basis; and the need to improve the funding system of the UN operational activities in order to be able to meet present and emerging needs on a more stable and equitable basis.

The Final Report asserts that the specialized agencies of the UN have a crucial part to play in responding to the rapidly growing global challenges. The major specialized agencies, therefore, ought to strengthen their centre of excellence role in order to become better qualified and relevant within their respective mandates. This would enable them better to exploit opportunities to meet the needs of all Member Nations for advice and analysis. The new perspective for the agencies must also be adjusted to the changes resulting from increased national execution of technical assistance projects in the UN system.

There are two functions of the specialized agencies that stand out as being of particular importance. The first is the analytic and normative one, which should be stressed as a very important function in the work of the specialized agencies. The second relates to the agencies' capacity in operational matters where their advisory role should be enhanced and where their extra-budgetary activities must be organized in such a manner as to allow the Governing Bodies control of both areas of development and of the costs associated with these operations.

As far as the issues of governance and leadership are concerned, the Final Report suggests the establishment of a joint International Development Council to give high level policy guidance. The institutional arrangement is not yet spelled out in detail. The project also introduces the idea of creating a system of smaller Governing Bodies that should meet on a regular basis as a complement to the overall policy deliberations of the International Development Council. The central function of these Governing Bodies should be to translate the general policy guidelines from the International Development Council into operational terms. The membership of these Bodies should follow the principles of universality and equitable representation which would be combined with good and effective governance.

The Nordic project also addresses funding for the UN operational activities. The present funding system with voluntary contributions is not sufficient. The new system proposed in the Nordic project combines contributions from three sources: firstly, assessed contributions from all Member Nations emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between all members; secondly, negotiated pledges to cover the core operational costs; and thirdly, eventual additional voluntary contributions.

The Nordic countries are proposing that these aspects of operational activities are included as part of the reform process of the economic and social fields of the UN. As for the timetable and further action, the most appropriate venue for a comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the various interlinked reform issues in the field of operational activities seems to be the net high level meeting of the reformed ECOSOC in June-July 1992 with special focus on UN specialized agencies and funds. The Nordic countries intend to present a draft decision to this effect in the Second Committee of the General Assembly during its present session.

**Peter Gary FRANKLIN (Australia):** Apart from congratulating the Secretariat for the presentation of a very competent document, I wish only to comment briefly on those paragraphs of the report dealing with large-scale driftnet fishing, that is paragraphs 4.13 to 4.21 of document C 91/9.

Our views on the subject are already well known, and I will not repeat them on this occasion. However, I cannot let the opportunity pass without acknowledging the valuable work that FAO has done in response to the outcome of our last Conference and in response to UNGA Resolutions 44/225 and 45/197 on large-scale driftnet fishing and its impact on living marine resources of the world's oceans and seas.

Although not specifically mentioned in the report, we were particularly pleased to note the close collaboration of the FAO with the United Nations Office of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea in this work.

Having said that, it is our view that the FAO has now, as a consequence of this work, fulfilled its charter on this matter. We look forward to it concentrating its efforts in the future on those more general aspects related to high seas fishing identified at paragraph 4.20 and the course of action proposed at paragraph 4.21.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** The document C 91/9-Sup.1 will show once again how varied and broad are the working relationships within our Organization. They result and spring from the

complexity of the mutually related tasks and challenges which have been stressed frequently during this Conference. They are also due to the varied nature of the factors which have to be taken into account with regard to possible solutions of problems in agrarian production, nutrition and protection of resources.

For this reason, one thing seems very important to my delegation; on the one hand, the presence and involvement of FAO should be ensured wherever possible on account of its potential and the comparative advantage it has, to recognize and solve, in the best possible way, the problems that have to be tackled. The document also mentions a number of concrete examples such as Global Information and Early Warning System, TCP projects, with FAO inputs, measures to provide assistance in catastrophes and other such measures. On the other hand, for outsiders it is difficult to see and understand the network of cooperation and consultations which bind the FAO to a number of organizations and their sub-units and there thus arises a danger of overlapping and double work. For this reason my delegation welcomes any step which can help to make this work more directly related to the needs of recipient countries. What counts in the end is the success, not so much who provides it.

With regard to Item 2.7 of the document with reference to the Seventeenth meeting of the World Food Council, mention was made of the intention to establish an informal consultation mechanism relating the four Organizations and Bodies based in Rome. I would like to ask the Secretariat a question in this connection: what is the present situation with regard to this very important matter?

In Item 2.18, where the increasing role of FAO in the support and encouragement of technical cooperation between developing countries is mentioned, my delegation supports very much and agrees with this trend. We also support the proposal that we should draw useful experience from the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for TCDC and place it hopefully in an easily understandable strategy for TCDC in the 90s. My delegation has the conviction that FAO can give valuable support to the UNDP in this regard.

In conclusion I would like to refer to the well-known position of my delegation relating to the inter-relationship of international organizations. We expect a maximum amount of coordination and cooperation of the best kind within the UN system principally. The wrong kind of rivalry should be left out.

**Leslie J. BAJA (Philippines):** On behalf of the Philippine delegation let me thank the Secretariat for its informative report on FAO's Relations and Consultations with International Organizations. Our appreciation is also extended to the Director of Inter-Agency Affairs for her equally informative recitation.

The Preamble of the UN Charter seeks to promote social progress, better standards of life and to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples. The Philippines, therefore, commends the FAO for interfacing with other international organizations to uplift the economic and social standards of mankind. As we observe the International Decade for Natural Disasters, we welcome and appreciate FAO's quick and effective response to offset the effects of natural disasters.

Mr Chairman, with regard to large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing, the Philippines welcomes the important option initiated by the Director-General regarding this matter. The Philippines hopes that the provisions of UN Resolution 44/225 will be completely observed in all Regions in view of the wasteful results of driftnet fishing. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America)** : The United States would like to express its appreciation to Ms Killingsworth for the introduction she has just made and the document prepared for this Agenda Item. We have seen steady improvement in this documentation over the past several years. The United States considers the coordination of relationships among UN system agencies of paramount importance, especially during this era on the increased reliance on the multilateral system. The need has never been more urgent to delineate responsibilities, improved coordination and eliminate duplicative efforts within the UN system.

The global needs are too great to permit wasted efforts or resources in the UN systems' fight against hunger, poverty, malnutrition and environmental degradation. Furthermore, these efforts to link with non-governmental organizations link similar efforts by other UN agencies can go a long way toward extending the impact and reach of FAO's technical capacity. FAO's technical support to regional and sub-regional technical organizations and consultations can do the same. These functions truly call on FAO to be a centre of excellence and a source of technical expertise.

Before turning to the document at hand, my delegation would like to take the opportunity in this forum, as we have in others, to compliment the Nordic countries for the initiatives represented by the Nordic/UN Project. Its findings with respect to the issues affecting UN system operational activities for development are quite similar to the views of my own Government, although at this point we have not reached firm conclusions on the recommended solutions especially with respect to some of the proposals on governance and financing. We certainly believe there is much for members, and for Secretariats, to learn from and consider seriously as we continue to work toward the further improvements in the UN system. My Government appreciates the efforts the Nordic countries have made to broaden the dialogue on UN system reform.

Document C 91/9, the document before us today, describes the various consultations which FAO has participated in with its sister agencies during the past year. The document, Supplement 1, similarly describes FAO's consultations and coordination efforts within governmental and nongovernmental organizations. While both documents are informative, we would like to make two suggestions for future reports. Firstly, I would suggest that future reports be less descriptive and more analytical in terms of their significance for FAO and its programmes. What was, for example, the nature of the FAO contribution to the UN Plan for African Economic Recovery and Development? What steps will the FAO take to respond to the call of the World Food Council for the creation of an inter-secretariat consultative mechanism among the four Rome-based organizations? We think that coordination could easily be improved at the staff level here in Rome, as well as at the higher level.

Secondly, I think it is important to incorporate a UN system-wide perspective into the discussion of virtually all Agenda Items as has been done in the case of the environment to some extent. The current

presentation of this Agenda Item sometimes isolates rather than integrates critical subjects. I would suggest, for example, that the detailed section on the ACC for rural development in document C 91/9 could have been included in the documentation on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development and discussed under that Agenda Item.

The comprehensive discussion of the relationship between FAO's Investment Centre and other multilateral organizations might similarly have been addressed in the Review of the Field Programme. Perhaps FAO's relationships with UN system agencies in the area of technical cooperation among developing countries could be included in the Agenda Items on the Field Programme or even on the Medium-Term Plan. This approach might better clarify the relationship between FAO's proposals and activities and broader UN system objectives. Future reports on this issue would then only include UN-related issues not discussed under other Agenda Items, as I think was the intention in this particular document.

I would like in particular to say on the TCDC subject that it is worth noting, and might have been noted in the report, that this past February UNDP allocated substantially increased resources for technical cooperation among developing countries. The programming of these monies is now being planned. FAO may find consultation with UNDP on this particular issue especially timely.

I would like now to comment very briefly on one issue that we have already covered earlier in this session in other parts of this meeting, and then in greater depth on the issue of the UN response to emergencies. Mr Chairman, the issue of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing has already been discussed twice during this Conference. FAO's work on this issue provided much of the scientific basis for the discussions currently underway in the General Assembly. The UNGA is now in the best position to deal with this issue. FAO in turn can now focus on the larger issue of high seas fisheries.

The current debate in the UN system regarding reform of the emergency response capability illustrates firstly the current bottlenecks within the UN system, and secondly the potential for more efficient and effective collaboration among UN Agencies. Natural and man-made disasters in the past year have taxed the capacity of the current emergency response of the UN system. Complaints have been heard that the system is slow to respond, that various UN Agencies have overlapping responsibilities, that there is a lack of coordination among interested agencies, that appeals for financial assistance are uncoordinated and requests for assistance are often shopping lists, lacking any independent assessment of needs or priorities. The United States believes that the UN system agencies have done a noteworthy job in tackling the crises that have arisen this past year from the cyclone in Bangladesh to the famine in the Horn of Africa and the situation in the Persian Gulf. In all of these situations, however much the performance of the UN system could be improved as a whole, FAO has worked within the UN system to provide information and assistance consistent with its mandate and its areas of technical competence.

FAO and IFAD, working jointly within a framework that emphasizes the comparative strengths of each institution, succeeded in assisting governments to eliminate the threat of the screwworm in North Africa. FAO has played a particularly important role in preparing early warning assessments and, along with the World Food Programme, food-stock estimates

and needs assessment. These assessments provide the raw data on which policy assessments can be based. FAO's TCP could be used to assist Member States in advice on disaster-preparedness types of activities, for example enabling them to develop their own early warning capacity.

The United States believes, however, that reform of the UN emergency response is necessary and should be addressed as part of a broader reform of the UN Secretariat. We look to the election of a new Secretary-General as an opportunity for implementing these reforms, which are now under discussion at the UNGA.

If the UN and its specialized agencies are to fulfil the rising expectations that their performance this last year has inspired, they will have to consider this issue in relation to the consultations among international organizations, both in the field and at Headquarters, as among their highest priorities.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom)** : I too compliment the Secretariat for the paper C 91/9, and Mrs Killingsworth for her helpful introduction.

This is clearly an important paper which puts FAO and its work in the wider context of the United Nations and multilateral systems. A good deal of work has obviously gone into the preparation of this excellent tour d'horizon of recent developments in the UN system. Previous speakers have made some very interesting comments on it, and I do not want to repeat them, so I will try to be fairly brief and selective.

I think one of the main points, as I see it, arising out of the paper is the question of humanitarian assistance delivery, to which my United States colleague has just referred. Clearly 1991 has been an exceptionally difficult year for disaster relief and involved a re-examination of both national and international disaster relief delivery systems, as the paper makes clear, and we hope this is going to be an ongoing process both for the international agencies as well as the bilateral agencies. It is clear the the UN agencies themselves have a crucial role to play in these activities, not least FAO through its excellent Global Information and Early Warning System.

Perhaps I should add a slightly cautionary note here by saying that coordination among the UN agencies is vitally important, as is the importance, of course, of the UN specialized agencies using to the full their areas of comparative advantage and resisting the, I think one can say, obvious temptation of duplicating or outdoing each other's work.

Above all, the point I wanted to refer to is the renewed interest in reforming the UN's economic and social system, as exemplified in the Nordic study. My colleague from Finland made an excellent presentation on the Nordic study, which is a subject I referred to at greater length yesterday in this Commission. Therefore perhaps I should limit my remarks now to joining my United States colleague in congratulating the Nordic countries, as we have done in many other fora, on the excellent efforts they are making to take forward the debate on this crucial issue, which is not only going to affect the UN system but also the multilateral system as a whole, not just in this century but into the next century.

The other major area covered in the paper to which I want to refer is the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, TCDC. As the paper clearly recognizes, TCDC is an important instrument of development which encourages the developing countries to make better use of their own resources and institutions. As we see it, the virtue of TCDC is that by working together, developing countries can actually achieve results without having to over-rely on donor support. Ultimately, however, successful TCDC will rely on more national execution and the development of national expertise. Agencies such as FAO have a crucial role to play in developing such execution and expertise, that is to say, building self-reliance in developing countries. My delegation therefore very much hopes that FAO will be fully responsive to, and imaginative of, the development of this capacity in developing countries.

**Mansur SEGHAHER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** I think that this document C 91/9 is very clear and it places FAO within the context of international organizations. I shall be very brief because it is a very clear document, as I say, and it does not need any additional explanation.

My delegation supports the humanitarian role played by FAO, which is part of the UN system. The idea is to meet all the challenges put to it, the challenges facing developing countries which constantly suffer from poverty and hunger. The capital role played by FAO and by other organizations in the UN system - a role played also by the different UN agencies - in the fight against the different scourges, for example, the screwworm: all these efforts are exemplary. It is indispensable to give our Organization total freedom so that it can face the challenges of the future.

**Igor MARINCEK (Suisse):** Je remercie d'abord le Secrétariat des documents soumis et de ce point de l'ordre du jour que nous considérons en fait comme assez important car il a le mérite de mettre les activités de la FAO dans un contexte plus large, ce que nous apprécions. Le document que nous avons devant nous est plutôt descriptif. Il nous informe comme délégations, comme Etats Membres, autrement de ses différentes activités. Si nous l'avons ici dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, il serait peut-être souhaitable de pouvoir trouver à la fin du document quelques conclusions que le Secrétariat tire de ces activités, pour les activités de la FAO pour dire: voilà, ici, en fait, l'activité de la FAO pourrait se renforcer; là, elle pourra se diminuer un peu puisque d'autres organisations sont déjà actives. Donc, première suggestion de ma délégation.

La deuxième suggestion serait liée à cette première: pour pouvoir en bénéficier davantage dans les délibérations de notre Conférence, nous pourrions peut-être avancer ce point de l'ordre du jour, en discuter avant l'entrée en matière sur le Programme de travail et budget et sur le Plan à moyen terme pour justement en discuter un peu en connaissant le contexte dans lequel travaille la FAO.

**Ms K. KILLINGSWORTH (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs):** I think I can be very brief. First, before taking specific questions, some more general comments. We have taken very careful note of all the views expressed during the debate and the information provided by some Member Nations, and also the suggestions made for improvement of the document in the future.

First of all I would just note that we are, as I said in my introduction, in some difficulty in accommodating the need to be as complete as possible in our reporting, and at the same time not duplicating the reporting done under other items on the Agenda: so we have some difficulty in accommodating all suggestions for improvement of the document in this respect. We try every year to make it more analytical and more pointed than it was before. We have gradually, I think, tried to clarify the distinctions between what we report and what is reported under other items on the Agenda, but we sometimes have problems, because you can cut certain subjects either vertically - in a technical discussion - or horizontally if you are talking about activities across the system, with other agencies. So while we will definitely make an effort next time to make the document even more analytical and therefore even more useful to you, I think we do need to keep in mind that the document as it is presently conceived and as you presently discuss it, cannot pretend to be an exhaustive picture of what the Organization does in relation to other agencies, on the whole gamut of activities and the gamut of subjects which come within its mandate.

However, we have also taken note of the suggestions made by the United States in regard to the relationship, for instance, between the reporting on the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and other activities of the Organization concerned with WCARRD, reported under that item. In the future the issues might be a different one but we certainly will try and avoid duplication and facilitate your consideration of the various items.

We appreciate the support expressed, and I think this was a very general support expressed by all speakers, for the considerable efforts the Organization does make at all times to ensure proper coordination and close consultation with other agencies in carrying out its work, and I believe that although the document is selective in the subjects it has treated this time, it reflects the general approach which we have. I do not think there is very much I need to add with regard to the important work done by the Global Information and Early Warning System, the response of the Organization, through the TCP and other means at its disposal, to the emergencies which have taken place; the support expressed also for the work of the Investment Centre in cooperation with international financing institutions; work on TCDC and work on UN/PAERRD, and the Organization's role in addressing the issue of driftnet fishing.

There were one or two specific questions, and one of them was with regard to the Inter-American Development Bank, and I believe it was the delegate of Colombia who asked several specific questions. I would point out that the number of projects required before the FAO/IDB agreement will be signed is a request made by the Inter-American Development Bank itself. It was agreed that six possible projects should be identified to start off the joint activities. So far only two have been identified by the IDB and we are waiting for the Bank to propose further ideas. So in answer to the first question, we are not yet close to the US\$3 million. No similar arrangement exists with the other cooperating institutions but that is also because we already have a full, ongoing programme of work, as you will have noted from the document.

The main reason for the recent low-level of agricultural lending by the IDB is its recent reorganization and restructuring. The Bank staff wish to lend much more to agriculture. We have had consultations with them, hence the revised agreement with FAO, that, I believe, is the only specific question



I needed to answer because I would request the Chairman to ask Mr Shah to deal with the question of the inter-Secretariat mechanism among the four Rome-based food agencies.

**V.J. SHAH (Assistant Director-General, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation):** My colleague, Ms Killingsworth, is perfectly knowledgeable and competent to deal with this question also but, as I have been given some responsibility by the Director-General on this matter, I would like to share the information with you personally. Mr Chairman, distinguished representatives will remember that the idea for this mechanism was something which the Director-General suggested in the context of the FAO Review and his proposals before the Conference at your last session. Both you and he realize of course that coordination between the Rome-based institutions is an ongoing matter and well-developed in well-established fields: with IFAD since the creation of IFAD in the preparation and appraisal of investment projects with our Investment Centre; with the World Food Programme since its inception in technical support, policy collaboration and administrative services; with the World Food Council in collaboration on the formulation of policy analyses and documents which the World Food Council presents to its inter-ministerial meetings. However, the idea was that there should be a systematic and established forum to enhance this coordination. The idea was also very clearly enunciated in the proposal that firstly, if it was to work, it had to be supported by the respective Governing Bodies of these institutions. Secondly, if it was to have real meaning, it should deal with substantive coordination and not protocol matters or have meetings for the sake of it, which so many of you have cautioned us to avoid.

The final point is the present status. The Director-General has given me responsibility, as I said, to take on this matter and I intend before the end of the year to invite my counterparts from these other institutions to meet me and get the process going.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much, Mr Shah. Of course, I cannot let this opportunity pass without also attempting to say something in brief. A very useful discussion has taken place on one of the most important issues that this Conference has to discuss. All in all, although 11 delegations have spoken, 15 countries have participated in the discussion this afternoon because Finland spoke for Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland too. It has come out clearly from the interventions made this afternoon that the presence and involvement of FAO in the activities of the UN system, the UN family of nations, should be reinforced and enhanced. FAO has been involved and the membership would like them to continue to be involved, and on an even larger scale.

The next point I noted is that it has been remarked that there is an imperative need for an efficient network of coordination, consultation and collaboration, as the delegate of Germany said. This would avoid duplication of effort, and of course, the resources are very scarce, so this coordination is important. So we are very happy to hear what Mr Shah has just told us, that these agencies are set to coordinate more closely on substantive issues. So this is a very welcome area of activity by the FAO.

The importance of TCDC has been pointed out, and TCDC activities are at two levels. There is the South-South context and the North-South context, and it is necessary to enhance these activities because eventually the developing countries themselves have to take over many of these things, and cooperation and collaboration among themselves is very important. However, in order to do that, the developing countries definitely require the assistance of the developed countries. This is an area that needs to be enhanced.

FAO's work in the overall UN system of organization, according to what has been said, has been adequate. I have said this before: there is a call for FAO to increase its activities, but it has also been pointed out that, in order for FAO to enhance its activities, it needs the tools to do the job; it must have the resources it requires, and the call for FAO to do more at the same time requires that this Organization be assisted by the membership to carry out its activities. This has also come out clearly in the discussion this afternoon.

The Nordic contributions have also been recognized, especially their recent study, the UN Project. Some of us have read that study. It is a very useful study. I would ask, since this is a study for five rich countries, that you make copies available to those of us who have not read it yet. They were made available in Denmark - was it just a treat for being the host of the World Food Council? Those who have not yet received it would appreciate the opportunity of seeing it. It is a valuable contribution and is worth reading.

The question of natural and man-made disasters has been stressed. This is a very serious and challenging area for the international community, including FAO, and as the Nineties proceed, these natural disasters are on the increase. They are complex and on the increase. Obviously, the victims of these disasters are the developing countries and therefore they need the capacity to deal with them. This capacity must be provided at least with the assistance of the developed countries, so while gratitude is felt for the assistance received so far, a request has been made that in future, as these complex disasters occur, there should be a coordinated approach on an international scale to help countries like Africa, which is very vulnerable when these disasters arise.

These were some of the things that I was able to note as the discussion went on, and it has been a very useful discussion.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** The Drafting Committee meets immediately in the Mexico Room. Commission II will meet tomorrow morning at 9.30 hours to consider the next matter on your Agenda, Item 21, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme Pledging Target 1993-94.

The meeting rose at 16.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas.

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/14

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

### FOURTEENTH MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE 14ª SESION

(21 November 1991)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 10 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

21. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme Pledging Target 1993-94

21. Objectif des contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO pour 1993-94

21. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO: Objetivo de promesas de contribución para 1993-94

**CHAIRMAN:** The documents before us are C 91/LIM/5 and C 91/LIM/36, and there is a Draft Resolution according to the normal procedure with pledges under the World Food Programme.

Before I give the floor to Mr Ingram, I should like to say a few words; otherwise they will probably come too late in the process.

This is the last FAO Conference in which Mr Ingram participates as Executive Director. I have personally worked with Mr Ingram through his ten years of holding this difficult job as Executive Director. It has been a pleasure for me to work with you, Mr Ingram. During these ten years you have brought WFP into being a very active and important organization within the UN system, dealing with very substantial funds. During your terms you have solved some quite difficult problems in a way which, in my view, will also be good for the WFP in future years.

You have also done something else which I consider to be just as important, namely, you have made the CFA, the Committee dealing with WFP, into an important policy body. If one looks at food aid over the longer term it is very important that the CFA is being used and will be used for real policy discussions. I tender my sincere thanks to you for those ten years.

**James INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme):** Mr Chairman, let me thank you for those very nice remarks. I feel very touched.

It brings me great pleasure to address this Commission on the important subject of the WFP pledging target for the biennium 1993-94. The pledging target for WFP's regular resources comprises the food and money required to support our development projects and to meet the totality - I stress "totality" - of our programme support and administrative expenditure.

The FAO Council Resolution contained in the document before you, C 91/LIM/5, recommends to the Conference that for the 1993-94 biennium it agrees to maintain the target at a level of US\$1 500 million, the same as for the current biennium. This target has also been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council and more recently by the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It remains only for the Conference to take similar action.

Please note that the target does not cover resources for WFP's humanitarian work in support of the victims of natural and man-made calamities. This work is funded separately.

Last week the Conference discussed two important reports, namely the State of Food and Agriculture and the International Agricultural Adjustment Progress Report. Both these documents bear upon your consideration of this Agenda Item. They largely paint the picture within which WFP will have to operate until the end of the millenium, and probably beyond. The essential point to note is that, particularly in Africa, the gap between food production and food needs continues to increase.

This strongly indicates an increased need for food aid to help maintain essential food imports. What I would like to see is a much higher proportion of this food aid going not only to alleviate hunger but to promote economic development and local food production. I hope I can be forgiven for saying that the best way to achieve that goal is for much more food aid to be used to support WFP's development projects, the quality of which continues to rise and, if I may say so, compares favourably with similar interventions by others.

Mr Chairman, however, notwithstanding the increased need for food aid, these same reports indicate a stagnation or even a slight decrease in food aid deliveries to developing countries. That situation has impacted on WFP. As a result of reduced availability of food from donors, WFP has had to lengthen the duration of ongoing development projects and reduce the total value of new ones approved each year. While there has lately been some improvement in the situation we now anticipate that new commitments in 1992 will be about 10 percent more by value as compared to 1991.

I want to stress that the Programme is simply not able to respond as positively as it should to all the highly deserving requests being presented to us. For WFP development food aid has become a very scarce resource. During this Conference I have met personally with Ministers from many developing countries and I have been impressed by their appreciation of the value of WFP assistance and their desire to have more. Remember, these are all Ministers of Agriculture or Rural Development, yet they have shown awareness of the value of our support to the social sector as well as to their own areas of interest.

Mr Chairman, as I have mentioned, funds from our administrative expenditures come from monies pledged to the Development Programme. Generation of sufficient funds to cover these costs is only feasible if, in the aggregate, donors provide one third of their pledge in cash and the target is reached in full. In other words, one third of a smaller amount than the target will not cover our costs.

I would like to thank those donors who have made special efforts to increase their pledges during the current financial period of 1991-92, including some major donors who have increased the cash proportion of their pledges. However, we still have some way to go to reach the target. Thus, total pledges for the current biennium now amount of just over US\$1 billion of which US\$290 million, or 29 percent, will be paid in cash. But the biennium still has another year to run. I appeal to all donors to re-examine the possibility of increasing their pledges.

Mr Chairman, while WFP's Development Programme has stagnated there has been a veritable explosion of our work in support of disaster victims. The strain on our staff has been tremendous. Many have worked selflessly under hardship and sometimes in danger. Almost every day reports reach me of the heroism of our officers. During 1991 WFP staff will have brought succour to

upwards of 100 million people in need. To achieve this, approximately 4 million tonnes of emergency and development food aid will be shipped; quite comfortably the largest amount in our history. The transport-related expenditure alone will be over US\$300 million; an expense that is larger than the total budget of most United Nations organizations.

To move food and other aid quickly and efficiently into areas of urgent need, the Programme has made great progress in developing its logistics capacity. Currently at any single time throughout the year WFP has about 50 ships on charter. We manage trucking fleets composed of hundreds of trucks and trailers in several countries. A highly efficient system of air delivery, air dropping and even parachute dropping through WFP chartered and operated aircraft has supplemented truck deliveries in most areas of the Sudan, Ethiopia and Angola.

WFP logistic staff are also responsible for such managerial tasks as the coordination of port operations, port rehabilitation and the arrangement of primary transport of all emergency food supplies from a number of key ports. The effect of this considerable expansion of logistics responsibility on behalf of the United Nations system's bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations is a constantly increasing demand on WFP's services. Our logistic staff have shown extraordinary application.

A major example of the international community making use of WFP's logistics capacity is the current Sudan emergency. In this case WFP not only carries on its traditional role of food aid coordinator and information gatherer but has been called on to organize and handle delivery of the entire amount of food aid going into the country through Port Sudan. Thus, during the period March 1991 to February next year, WFP is expected to manage a total of 700 000 tonnes of food. In practical terms this means that all food aid is consigned to WFP, that WFP is responsible for the berthing of ships, the discharge of cargo, the bagging of bulk grain, the clearing of all food aid from the port, arranging of intermediate storage where necessary, and ensuring transport from Port Sudan to distribution hubs throughout the country.

It is of note that of that 700 000 tonnes only 37 000 come from WFP resources. In other words, statistics about WFP commitments and deliveries, impressive though they are, understate the extent of the critical role now played by this Organization in support of the humanitarian efforts of the whole international community. In complex emergencies our overall logistical support has, I believe, become indispensable to a successful international response.

Mr Chairman, WFP has had an event-laden year for which the Sudan example is but one of many interventions where dedicated men and women, professional, general service and local staff have made exemplary efforts on behalf of the Programme to feed hungry people and to pursue development objectives. Of particular note other than the Sudan are the efforts of our colleagues in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Liberia, Angola, Iraq and neighbouring countries and now in Cambodia. It is through their work and the work of their headquarters colleagues, who have played key planning and support roles in all of these operations, that the concept of the neutrality of food aid is slowly gaining ground and being increasingly accepted by both governments and opposition alike. Evidence for the acceptance of the

neutrality can be drawn from the opening of the Port of Assawa, delivery of food aid to such enclaves as Nasir in southern Sudan and in Angola where both parties agreed to food aid deliveries in each other's zones.

Once opposing forces recognize the benefits of the neutral use of food aid, food aid can sometimes help in promoting peaceful solutions. In Angola, for example, both Government and UNITA have agreed to demobilize troops who will receive food aid for their guns. This approach may also soon be applied in the Liberian regional emergency to bring people back into that country.

Mr Chairman, WFP's role in support of registered refugees has also grown apace. New working arrangements between the Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are to begin in 1992. WFP will progressively assume responsibility for providing all basic commodities and mobilizing all funds required for the transport and delivery, for the feeding of refugees, assisted by UNHCR. Donors and beneficiaries alike should benefit from the economies that this new arrangement should bring as well as the smoother flow of food. Equally all supporters of the United Nations system can take heart at the ability of organizations of the system to rationalize functions and promote a better division of labour.

Mr Chairman, although dealt with in a separate Agenda Item by Commission III, I do wish to say a few words about the amendments to the General Regulations of WFP. The reforms agreed upon were long overdue. Organizations cannot stand still and WFP could not stand still if its efforts in support of disadvantaged people were to be strengthened. In approving these amendments the Conference, along with the General Assembly, bring into being major improvements in the way in which the Programme is guided by Governments; how it relates to other organizations of the United Nations system and how it will manage its internal affairs. I am convinced all Governments in working for and giving their support to these improvements will be proud to have participated in this historic advance and I want, on behalf of the Programme, to thank you, the Representatives of Governments and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO most sincerely for their efforts in bringing about this satisfactory result. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers, I wish to bring to the attention of the distinguished delegates that the Director-General has examined in detail the factors which underpin the proposed Pledging Target of US\$1.5 billion for the year 1993-94 for the Regular Programme resources of the UN/FAO World Food Programme.

These factors impinge on both the supply side and the demand side of the food aid in question. On the supply side, as the analyses of FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System point out, several major factors are currently making for a tightening of the world food demand and supply situation, notably as regards cereals. The world cereal output this year has declined and will not fully meet effective demand.

The prospects are for declines in levels of stocks, notably in the major cereal exporting countries. Import demand is running higher; and prices of foodgrains on international markets have recently displayed sizeable

increases. Given past experiences, this latter factor may well lead to a contraction of the volume of food aid availabilities. At the same time, ocean freight rates have tended to increase.

On the demand side of the food aid equation, the food aid needs, including particularly emergency needs in sub-Saharan Africa, could decline somewhat in the year ahead on account of the improvement in food output in the Sahel and some of the countries in Africa most seriously affected by drought and civil strife in the past year. Yet, regrettably, the food aid needs of many countries continue to remain high, even not including the needs of millions of refugees, displaced persons and returnees.

For all of these reasons, the Director-General considers that a good justification could be made for recommending a higher pledging target than has been proposed. However, the Director-General is fully aware of the constraints which face the major food aid donor countries. He also notes that actual commitments to the Programme have lagged behind the established pledging targets.

The Director-General therefore concludes that the proposed target represents a pragmatic and sound level of resources, and urges its endorsement. In doing so, the Director-General urges that the target be met in full, and he stresses the importance of ensuring that one-third of the pledges should be in the form of cash.

The Director-General reiterates the view, expressed many times in the past, and particularly in view of the unrelenting needs for emergency food aid, that the International Emergency Food Reserve be placed on a sound and reliable footing and that its resources be enhanced.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I may add that the Council at its Ninety-ninth Session in June of this year unanimously supported the pledging target and adopted a Resolution for approval by the Conference as included in document C 91/LIM/5. The Director-General commends its adoption by the Conference.

**CHAIRMAN:** This Item is now open for discussion. May I have an indication of speakers, please?

May I say that for the further proceedings of this Commission it would be useful if we had indications of those who want to speak now, and not later. I am not closing the list but I think it: would be useful to know if there is anybody else now.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia):** Sr. Presidente, las introducciones adecuadas del Director Ejecutivo y del Dr. Dutia a nombre del Director General de la FAO facilitan nuestras intervenciones.

Es siempre muy grato ver en la FAO a nuestro distinguido y querido amigo, James Ingram. Todos sabemos como el Sr. Ingram viene trabajando con eficacia, dinamismo y consagración verdaderamente excepcionales. Usted y yo, señor Presidente, vinculados al PMA desde su fundación, sabemos cómo y cuánto la gestión positiva y brillante del señor Ingram ha contribuido a consolidar la posición de prestigio y respeto generales de que hoy goza el PMA entre todos los Gobiernos.



Señor Presidente, nos encontramos ahora en el C 91/LIM/5 frente al proyecto de Resolución que propone la modesta meta, el objetivo de 1 500 millones de dólares para el bienio 1993-94. Como lo dijimos ya en el CPA y en el Consejo, lamentamos que el mal ejemplo del crecimiento cero, se haya extendido también al PMA. Hablamos estado siempre en favor de un objetivo superior, porque el PMA viene realizando una labor excelente y ha demostrado su capacidad de manejar y distribuir cifras mucho mayores, porque además la situación es difícil para muchos países en desarrollo y porque la asistencia alimentaria, al tiempo que demuestra su necesidad, ha confirmado igualmente la eficacia con que el PMA la viene ofreciendo. El Director Ejecutivo nos ha dicho que el PMA no puede atender todas las solicitudes que se le presentan y nosotros queremos destacar el hecho fundamental de que, como lo ha dicho el Director Ejecutivo, esa asistencia alimentaria no debe ofrecerse con carácter pasivo de dádiva, sino que debe estar dirigida a promover el desarrollo económico y el aumento de la producción.

Esperamos que esta Comisión apoye el llamado que el Sr. Ingram ha hecho a los donantes, al tiempo que reconozcamos también la manera como esos donantes han permitido todos estos avances en el seno del PMA. Igualmente consideramos que en nuestro informe deberemos dejar constancia del reconocimiento que hacemos al personal del PMA por la forma abnegada, sacrificada y hasta con riesgos, como ha sabido afrontar las situaciones de emergencia.

Señor Presidente, después del largo proceso que ahora nos coloca frente a este proyecto de Resolución, pensamos que hay que actuar de manera realista, y por eso apoyamos esta propuesta con la esperanza de que se alcance ese objetivo y de que se cumplan las disposiciones reglamentarias, según las cuales una tercera parte de las contribuciones deba ser ofrecida en efectivo. Esperamos que ese objetivo se alcanzará y así el PMA se fortalecerá, para continuar cumpliendo su valiosa función de importante organismo al servicio del desarrollo.

Nuestro distinguido amigo el Sr. James Ingram ha estado - como usted lo recordó, señor Presidente - al frente del PMA como Director Ejecutivo durante diez años. Eso ha sido muy fecundo para el Programa, que ha alcanzado tantos niveles de prestigio, buen nombre y reconocimiento en toda la comunidad internacional. La manera como James Ingram ha dirigido el PMA, ha venido siendo plenamente reconocida como eficiente, dinámica, seria y muy positiva. El Sr. Ingram ha confirmado las excelentes condiciones que le distinguen como un magnífico administrador. Entre las actitudes sobresalientes del Sr. Ingram, debemos destacar la forma pragmática y eficaz como él propuso recientemente ciertas reformas al PMA. Esas propuestas han sido aprobadas en general y todo ello culminó en acuerdos entre los Gobiernos y la permanente cooperación del PMA con otras organizaciones, particularmente la FAO, cuyos servicios seguirán siendo esenciales para el PMA.

Después de haber terminado todo ese proceso, James Ingram decidió retirarse de la Dirección Ejecutiva del PMA y los representantes de Colombia pensamos que ese gesto, que esa actitud noble y altruista demuestra clara y plenamente que el Sr. Ingram hizo propuestas que a su juicio estaban destinadas a mejorar el funcionamiento de la Institución. Propuestas que tenían como objetivo hacer al PMA más eficiente, propuestas que estaban dirigidas a que el PMA pueda servir cada vez mejor a los países en desarrollo.

Al retirarse ahora, el Sr. Ingram confirma que esas propuestas estaban por encima de cualquier interés personal. Los representantes de Colombia destacamos esa actitud ejemplar que merece al reconocimiento y la gratitud de todos los Représentâtes de Gobiernos, que tanto nos preocupamos por el buen funcionamiento de la Organización.

Señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, nos hemos extendido en este reconocimiento a nuestro amigo James Ingram porque, como usted lo ha dicho señor Presidente, todos sabemos que su periodo va a terminar en abril de 1992. Es decir, ésta será la última Conferencia de la FAO ante la cual el Sr. Ingram se presentará como Director Ejecutivo del PMA.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, deseamos reiterar a James Ingram todos nuestros más sinceros y profundos sentimientos de admiración, simpatía y amistad. Hemos seguido de cerca la forma como James Ingram ha dirigido ese importante Programa. Somos testigos de la consagración, la inteligencia y la competencia con que James ha actuado siempre.

Estas palabras quedarán en las actas de esta Comisión. Trataremos de reiterar estos mismos sentimientos, aun con mayor entusiasmo, en la Plenaria de la Conferencia. Todo esto es tan sólo un mínimo y pálido reflejo de cuanto sentimos por James Ingram, y conlleva todos nuestros mejores y más sinceros deseos porque en el futuro, en sus nuevas actividades, nuestro amigo James Ingram goce de salud, paz, alegría, prosperidad y nuevos y crecientes buenos éxitos que seguramente seguirá logrando, porque James deja la Dirección Ejecutiva del PMA en plena vitalidad y afortunada lucidez intelectual.

Querido amigo James Ingram, los représentâtes de Colombia, que hemos compartido contigo tantas otras reuniones y Conferencias, sabemos muy bien que al terminar tu importante cargo, dejas una grata huella de respeto y admiración generales. Saldrás por la puerta grande, con la frente muy en alto, asistido por el afecto y la solidaridad de quienes te admiramos y queremos y acompañado por la satisfacción del deber cumplido.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** We have before us this morning the UN/FAO World Food Programme pledging target for the biennium 1993-94 for consideration and approval. We also have the recommendations of the CFA and the FAO Council to keep this target to US\$1.5 billion. We also heard Mr Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, and Mr Dutia giving the background and context of the CFA and FAO Council recommendations.

The Indian delegation is concerned at the zero growth that this level of target represents. While we supported this target in the CFA and FAO Council sessions, we still feel that, in the context of the increasing need for food aid in the 1990s, this level of pledging for the years 1993-94 will be grossly inadequate. We feel that, while pledging US\$1.5 billion may reflect the supply-side considerations, it fails to take into account the increasing demands being made on the World Food Programme for extending food aid, whether for meeting man-made or natural emergencies, development food aid or in support of structural adjustments being undertaken in an increasingly large number of developing countries and in the Eastern European countries.

At the moment WFP has committed food aid to the extent of 4.5 million tons for the next three years. As the pledging targets are expressed in monetary terms, it is doubtful if the pledging target of US\$1.5 billion will be sufficient to maintain the required level of aid, 1.5 million tons per year, bearing in mind the increase in food prices. We therefore join the FAO Council in its hope that the WFP resources be suitably augmented by substantial additional resources well beyond the pledging target of US\$1.5 billion. We support the call for making at least one third of the pledges to the regular resources being made in cash to enable WFP to meet the administrative costs and to opt for a larger volume of local purchases. The Executive Director of the World Food Programme should be encouraged to develop long-term solutions to the Programme's cash problems in consultation with major donors. On balance, my delegation recommends the pledging target of US\$1.5 billion for the 1993-94 biennium for the World Food Programme.

Before closing, the Indian delegation would like to put on record our appreciation for Mr Ingram's tenure as Executive Director of the World Food Programme. We fully share the views expressed by you, Mr Chairman, on the humane services rendered by Mr James Ingram in making the World Food Programme a very important and effective instrument in our common struggle against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We highly commend his leadership and contributions in redefining the role of the World Food Programme and gearing it to meet the challenges of the nineties and beyond.

**David JOSLYN (United States of America):** The United States supports the Resolution calling for a pledging target for the WFP regular resources of US\$1.5 billion for the 1993-94 biennium, as we did in the CFA. We all know that projected food needs are indeed increasing. At the same time the availability of resources for food aid are unfortunately limited. It is unfortunate that the sharp growth in emergency operations has forced us, like other donors, to shift resources towards meeting urgent relief needs. In view of the serious constraints, difficult priorities will have to be set. The decisions to set these priorities will not be easy. Additionally, recipients will be challenged with making even more efficient use of their own resources and donor assistance than possibly was the case in the past. However, together, under a strengthened and broadened CFA, donors and recipients will have to do all we can to make the World Food Programme an even more efficient and effective agency.

The United States recognizes WFP's concerns about the cash situation of the Programme, which clearly has serious implications for the future of the Organization. Several factors have contributed to the increase in the severity of the problem and they must be addressed. The United States will continue efforts to increase the proportion of our contribution to the World Food Programme made in cash, and we would encourage other members who are able to increase their contributions to do so. As you know, we will be dealing with this problem in more detail at the coming CFA, a discussion which will necessarily touch on burden-sharing within the entire donor and recipient communities.

Finally, I would like to associate myself with the laudatory comments made by you and the speakers before me concerning Mr Ingram's very successful tenure as Executive Director of the World Food Programme. Over the past year, we have worked extremely closely with the Executive Director and his

staff on most of the complex and difficult emergencies he described in his very eloquent and straightforward presentation, and we applaud their professionalism and dedication.

**Leslie ROSS BROWNHALL (Australia):** Australia has taken part in both the CFA sessions and the FAO Council session leading to the Draft Resolution. In this regard, we regret very much the circumstances limiting the proposed pledging target for 1993-94 to US\$1.5 billion, but we appreciate that setting the target at this level is probably the most realistic course. The pledge for the Regular Programme for 1992 and for the 1993-94 pledging period is currently under consideration by the Australian Government. Australia's pledge for 1991 is Australian \$45.4 million, which reflects the recent decision by the Government to at least maintain Australia's pledge in real terms. This of course has implications for the 1992 and 1993-94 pledging periods. We recognize the central importance of at least one third of the total pledge being paid in cash. This is particularly so at a time when the World Food Programme is facing a cash crisis because of the need for it to provide increased support for more cash-intensive and emergency operations.

In conclusion, we support the Draft Resolution currently before this Commission, including the injunction to donors to make additional contributions in recognition of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** M. le Président, les exposés éloquents et très objectifs faits par M. Dutia au nom du Directeur général de la FAO, et par M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, nous dispensent de nous étendre longuement sur le sujet pour justifier l'objectif de contribution pour 1992-93. Cet objectif est très en dessous des besoins, comme l'a démontré M. Ingram. Aussi, nous gardons l'espoir d'une mobilisation de ressources supplémentaires importante; nous souhaitons, M. le Président, qu'il se réalise, car c'est la seule voie pour que l'aide alimentaire puisse répondre simultanément et d'une manière satisfaisante à son double objectif que nous connaissons: Secours alimentaire d'urgence, et contribution aux programmes nationaux de développement. M. le Président, convaincue de la nécessité pour le Programme de disposer de suffisamment d'espèces, ma délégation ne peut que réitérer les nombreux appels lancés par le CPA, le Conseil et la Conférence, pour que le tiers au moins des contributions soit fourni en espèces et en services.

Enfin, M. le Président, nous ne pouvons clore notre intervention sans rendre un vibrant hommage à M. James Ingram, Administrateur hors pair comme l'a qualifié Son Excellence M. Bula Hoyos. Nous lui rendons hommage pour la façon avec laquelle il a dirigé le PAM, ce qui a permis au Programme de réaliser ces dernières années en tout cas des performances exceptionnelles, et ce malgré les difficultés nombreuses et variées rencontrées aussi bien au siège que sur le terrain.

M. le Président, nous faisons nôtres tous les compliments adressés à son endroit par vous, par la délégation de la Colombie, et bien entendu par toutes les délégations qui se sont exprimées avant nous. Merci M. le Président.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** Ma délégation ne peut qu'exprimer sa satisfaction à la présentation par M. James Ingram et M. Dutia des documents sur l'objectif des contributions au Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO du 1993-94. L'efficacité du PAM est indiscutable. Nous l'avons vécue et nous rendons à son Directeur exécutif notre profond hommage.

M. le Président, les besoins alimentaires dans mon pays persistent toujours, ainsi que dans divers points du globe, et ils sont encore de plus en plus croissants. A ce titre, l'aide du PAM à mon pays est indispensable, surtout en ce moment où nous devons accélérer principalement le programme de réintégration socio-économique des déplacés, réfugiés, et démobilisés de guerre dans le secteur agricole et non agricole de notre milieu rural.

Il faut reconnaître que durant les moments très difficiles, mon pays a pu bénéficier et continue à bénéficier d'une aide considérable du PAM, pays donateurs et bien d'autres, à l'égard desquels je témoigne, au nom de ma délégation, les plus profonds et sincères sentiments de mon Gouvernement.

Comme nous l'avions fait, M. le Président, au Conseil, nous approuvons la résolution de l'objectif de contribution de 1.5 milliard de dollars au titre des ressources ordinaires du PAM pour 1992-93, et nous souhaitons que cet objectif soit atteint, et qu'un tiers de leurs contributions soit versé en espèces. Je vous remercie M. le Président.

**Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador):** La delegación de El Salvador desea dar en esta oportunidad su pleno apoyo al objetivo de promesas de contribución al PMA para el bienio 1993-94 de 1 500 millones de dólares, ya que no siendo miembro del Consejo de la FAO no pudo darle ese apoyo en su oportunidad. Nos unimos al llamado que ha hecho aquí el Director Ejecutivo para que los países donantes aumenten sus promesas de contribución, para que continúen con ese apoyo que siempre han dado al Programa. Confiamos en que la generosidad de los donantes permitirá que se cumpla el objetivo que seguramente aprobaremos y que tendrán siempre presente la norma de que un tercio de la contribución debe ser hecha en efectivo, lo que permitirá al Programa funcionar en manera todavía más eficiente.

La labor que desarrolla el Programa Mundial de Alimentos es ampliamente conocida por todos nuestros países y es todavía más conocida por esa inmensa cantidad de personas a las que llega esta ayuda.

El Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha estado siempre presente en la región del istmo centroamericano. El PMA nos está ayudando intensamente en el empeño de los países del área por alcanzar la paz.

El Gobierno de El Salvador aprecia muchísimo la colaboración que el Programa le ha proporcionado en los últimos años, en los cuales la difícil situación que ha vivido mi país ha hecho que esta ayuda sea de incalculable valor.

El Gobierno de El Salvador y el pueblo salvadoreño desean, por mi medio, hacer llegar al Sr. James Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa, su especial reconocimiento por la atención que siempre ha dispensado a mi país, ayuda que indudablemente ha contribuido y contribuirá a que en un futuro no muy lejano los salvadoreños podamos vivir en paz y armonía.

Confiamos en que El Salvador y la región del istmo centroamericano continuarán contando con la valiosa ayuda del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

El Salvador espera poder contribuir en el futuro a los trabajos del órgano rector del PMA entrando a formar parte por primera vez en este importante comité.

**Art WRIGHT (Canada):** At the outset I should like to associate myself fully with the remarks that you have made and the eloquent testimonials of others concerning the exceptional contribution made by Mr James Ingram as Executive Director of the WFP during the past ten years.

Again this morning we have received from Mr Ingram, as we have so many times in the past, a very crisp, very concise and very pointed summary of the current situation facing the WFP. He has always provided us with that type of assessment which is extremely helpful in addressing the issues before us

I should also like to thank the Secretariat and particularly Mr Dutia for the manner in which they have introduced this item.

Canada supports the proposed Draft Resolution on the WFP pledging target of US\$1.5 billion for the biennium 1993-94. We believe that the target is realistic, whilst at the same time agreeing with all of those who have indicated how great the needs are and that these needs are growing. Obviously, if this target is to be met, it is essential that contributions from all donors be forthcoming in order to enable the WFP to carry on its very important work.

During the present biennium, and despite severe budgetary constraints, Canada has maintained the level of its contributions to the regular resources of the WFP, and we have been pleased to have been able to increase substantially the cash component of our cash contributions.

Indeed, the needs are growing, and the ability to meet these needs is very constrained. We are concerned, as are others, at the increasing proportion of food aid needs that is growing for emergency purposes. Obviously these emergencies have to be met, but, to the extent that resources are diverted for emergency purposes, there is less available for investment in the long-term development progress of the countries concerned. In the coming period both additional commodities and increased cash resources will indeed be required.

We appreciate the difficulties which the WFP faces in coping with this situation, particularly as it relates to the cash required. We look forward, however, to continued working with the CFA, with the assistance of the WFP Secretariat, and in a very good spirit of cooperation which has characterized the work of the CFA during the successful review of the General Regulations, in order to work together to propose adequate and sustainable solutions to the problems.

**Sra. Ana Maria NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba):** Hemos escuchado muy atentamente las explicaciones que el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, Sr. James Ingram, nos ha brindado en la mañana de hoy. Permítame,

Sr. Ingram, felicitarlo en nombre de la delegación de Cuba por la labor que realiza el Programa Mundial de Alimentos con vistas a ser una efectiva ayuda alimentaria a países que sufren déficit de alimentos, países en emergencias, refugiados y a países que por sus características especiales son menos favorecidos.

Agradecemos de igual forma las palabras del Sr. Dutia, palabras que facilitan nuestra tarea en la mañana de hoy al aprobar esta Resolución sobre los objetivos de contribución.

Mi delegación desea aprovechar esta nueva oportunidad para reconocer una vez más los esfuerzos del personal de la Sede y los funcionarios que incansablemente en los países, en condiciones de peligrosidad, laboran por cumplir y llevar adelante los objetivos generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

La delegación de Cuba en el 99° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO expresó también su preocupación por el crecimiento cero del objetivo de las promesas para el bienio 1993-94, teniendo en cuenta el ascendente proceso de demandas que recibe el PMA por parte de los países menos favorecidos. Hicimos un llamado en aquella oportunidad para que los donantes respondieran a las nuevas realidades del PMA. No era lógico que después del proceso de discusiones para que el PMA lograra una mayor autonomía y eficiencia en su gestión, nos encontráramos en el presente con un Programa Mundial de Alimentos más debilitado en recursos. Cuba apoya la Resolución que se nos presenta, aunque reitera y lamenta que los recursos no sean mayores.

Hacemos votos, no obstante, por el futuro del PMA, por sus nobles objetivos y porque continúe con la universalidad en sus proyectos.

Apoyamos los planteamientos elocuentes del Embajador de Colombia expresados en la mañana de hoy, aunque mi delegación no puede dejar pasar esta oportunidad para reiterar lo que ya también dijimos en el 99° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO. Se trata de nuestro reconocimiento al Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Le deseamos, Sr. Ingram, muchos éxitos para usted y su familia en el futuro, y reciba usted nuestro modesto reconocimiento y aprecio por su atención y su dedicación; por esa dedicación que ha brindado usted al Programa Mundial de Alimentos durante estos años.

**Samir ABU-JAWDEH (Lebanon):** Mr Chairman, you have so ably expressed the thoughts of high esteem every one of us would have wanted to voice regarding Mr Ingram's personal achievement throughout his tenure of office. We wish to join you and our colleagues in applauding his exceptional achievement.

Whilst endorsing the proposed Draft Resolution presented to us, we wish earnestly to urge donors to realize that their well-appreciated contributions are a remunerative investment in the international drive to alleviate hunger and enhance development in numerous countries. Returns will be a positive payback to the international community at large. Thus, their involvement should be reinforced, especially their cash contributions, in order to allow WFP to continue serving the developing

countries. We earnestly hope that future pledges for WFP will attain a higher level commensurate with the growing need for assistance to many nations around the world.

**F.A. Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** While expressing our concern over the zero growth of the pledging target for the 1993-94 biennium, my delegation supports the Resolution which establishes a voluntary contribution of US\$1.5 billion for the same period. We also fully support the call that one-third of the target be provided in cash. My delegation would also request all the donor countries and agencies to cooperate with the Executive Director in ensuring full attainment of the target.

Before I conclude, I should like to join you, Mr Chairman, and all others in complimenting Mr James Ingram for his outstanding service as Head of the WFP. Although this is not the occasion to bid farewell to Mr Ingram formally, we note that this is the last FAO Conference he is attending in his present capacity.

WFP is an Organization which is of great importance to Bangladesh. Besides providing emergency food assistance with admirable promptitude at difficult times like natural calamities, WFP is also an important partner in our development endeavours through its steady contribution to our food-for-work programme. We are aware of the valuable role of Mr Ingram in helping Bangladesh through the WFP activities. For that, Mr Ingram, we express our deep gratitude. Like all the speakers who have taken the floor before me, I wish you the best of everything, a very long and successful life, and God speed.

**Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras):** Después de escuchar la exposición del Sr. Ingram y el Sr. Dutia, nos preocupa la ayuda alimentaria que brinda el PMA en sus operaciones en pro del desarrollo agrícola y rural. Apoyamos el proyecto de Resolución del documento C 91/LIM 5, lamentando que el crecimiento cero abarque también al PMA. Hacemos un llamado a los países donantes para que cumplan sus promesas de contribución. Nuestro agradecimiento también por sus aportaciones.

Esperamos que todos juntos, con una Organización fortalecida, contribuyamos a que los pobres adquieran confianza en que pueden superar su pobreza por sí solos. Nuestro reconocimiento a todo el personal y en especial a su Director Ejecutivo, el Sr. Ingram, que durante su mandato ha resuelto problemas muy delicados. En nombre del Gobierno de Honduras nuestra gratitud.

Permítame apoyar lo expuesto por la distinguida delegada de El Salvador, especialmente en que el área de Centroamérica esté representada también dentro del CPA.

**Sugianto BRODOSUSANTO (Indonesia):** We note that the pledging target for the biennium 1993-94 has been set at US\$1.5 billion, which is equal to that of the current target for 1991-92. It means that no provisions have been made for an increase in the level of the target, while it is already known that the need for food aid will continue to grow in the near future.



In that context my delegation fully supports the Executive Director of WFP to intensify the consultations with donor countries on the matter of making greater efforts towards reaching the target, at least to such an extent that it should be more than that which has been realized heretofore; moreover, that the cash component should constitute 30 percent of the pledge.

My delegation is optimistic in the sense that the proposed target will be reached, and its optimism is based on two considerations. First, the world is witnessing the emergence of a new international situation in which an atmosphere of confrontation and cold war has changed into an atmosphere in which consultation and compromise have germinated and grown. As this trend continues, at a given moment in the near future larger funds and manpower may be transformed from armament purposes to other fields of more peaceful activities, with special reference to economic development and raising the standards of living of many populations of the world.

Secondly, at this stage the WFP is undergoing a process of restructuring, which is aimed at greater efficiency in the management, as provided for in the amendment of the rules and regulations. This should be interpreted as a result of understanding and accord reached on the part of donor countries and on the part of recipient countries. This kind of consensus will, we hope, strengthen the confidence of the donor countries and make them decide to make available larger sources of aid to the Programme.

With regard to document C 91/LIM/5, my delegation is in agreement with the Draft Resolution on the target for WFP pledges covering the period 1993-94.

My delegation wishes to join the previous speakers in expressing our appreciation and profound thanks to Mr Ingram for the good, warm and close relationship of WFP and Indonesia, and for his personal and substantial contribution to the work of WFP.

**Soumaila ISSAKA (Niger):** M. le Président, je n'ai malheureusement pas pu être présent au moment où MM. Dutia et Ingram ont présenté ce point. Je m'en excuse mais, à écouter les félicitations et les compliments qui leur ont été adressés par les délégations intervenues depuis que je suis là, il n'est sans aucun doute que cela a été d'une qualité remarquable. Je les remercie donc et je m'associe aux félicitations qui leur ont été faites à cet égard.

M. le Président, le Niger est membre du CPA et, en cette qualité, il a largement contribué au débat et à l'examen relatif aux objectifs de contribution au Programme. Nous allons donc plutôt limiter notre intervention à trois points qui nous paraissent essentiels dans le cadre de cette Conférence.

Il s'agit premièrement d'apporter notre soutien aux projets concernant l'objectif de contribution. Bien sûr, ma délégation comme tant d'autres regrette que cet objectif n'ait pas été envisagé dans une perspective de croissance. Mais les analyses du Secrétariat et les débats qui se sont instaurés à cette occasion au sein du CPA prouvent que ces chiffres sont faits en fonction d'un certain réalisme. Il est certain malgré tout que les besoins des pays bénéficiaires de l'action du PAM sont immenses, que les besoins en matière d'aide alimentaire iront croissant dans un proche avenir et même à court terme. Il est également important de noter que le Programme

a fait preuve de son efficacité et de sa viabilité tant en matière de lutte contre la faim qu'en matière d'utilisation de l'aide alimentaire pour le développement.

Donc, toutes ces considérations nous font regretter davantage le fait que cet objectif n'ait pas, comme nous l'avons dit, été envisagé dans une perspective de croissance.

Le deuxième point que nous souhaitons évoquer est le suivant: Nous désirons que tous les pays donateurs qui participent aux contributions du PAM puissent répondre favorablement de façon à atteindre cet objectif malgré le manque de croissance qui le caractérise. Nous lançons donc un appel dans ce sens et nous saisissons l'occasion pour leur adresser également toutes nos félicitations et notre reconnaissance pour le soutien qu'ils ont toujours marqué pour le Programme.

M. le Président, les nouvelles perspectives envisagées pour l'administration du PAM devraient permettre justement d'atteindre cet objectif de contribution d'autant plus que ces réformes, si on peut les appeler ainsi, ont pour souci et ambition principale une meilleure responsabilisation, une meilleure gestion du Programme, et également une meilleure supervision de la part des pays membres à travers l'organe intergouvernemental qui est compétent en matière de politique et d'aide alimentaire du Programme.

Nous pensons que cela devrait renforcer davantage la confiance des donateurs et des pays membres à l'endroit du Programme.

La troisième idée c'est que nous souhaitons également que la proportion de contribution en espèces puisse être atteinte, et que les pays donateurs puissent, dans leur contribution volontaire au PAM, avoir comme souci de permettre la réalisation du tiers en contribution en espèces.

Pour terminer nous nous associons à tous ceux qui sont intervenus pour adresser leurs félicitations et exprimer leur reconnaissance à M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du Programme, pour le travail important qu'il a effectué à la tête de cette Organisation, pour les résultats qu'il lui a fait atteindre, lui et tous ses collaborateurs, et pour l'avancée certaine que le Programme a eue sous sa direction. Nous lui en sommes reconnaissants, et nous tenons à l'exprimer de façon ferme à l'occasion de l'examen de ce point.

**Gamal Mohd. AHMED (Sudan)** (Original language Arabie): The delegation of Sudan would like to express appreciation to Mr Ingram, Executive Director of WFP, for the statement he made with regard to the Pledging Target of WFP. We would also like to thank Mr Dutia for his account of this matter on behalf of the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, my country's delegation supports document C 91/LIM/5 and its contents. However, we do feel some concern with regard to the question of zero growth in the budget for 1993-94 and we know that food-aid needs are increasing and that many countries have, for a long time, been suffering a deterioration in their economies and in their capacities and natural resources. This requires an increase in the volume of the Programme's intervention. My country supports the invitation made for contributions in

cash of up to one third so as to allow the WFP to meet its obligations and to be able to work better, in particular in the aid it provides to developing countries.

We also support, like other delegations who have spoken before us, the figure of US\$1.5 billion targeted for 1993-94, and we renew our appeal to donors to pay their contributions up to the amount set.

Now that we are talking about the World Food Programme, I would like to congratulate Mr Ingram. We have had dealings with him during a very difficult period in our country and we know that Mr Ingram is a very competent person. He is a man of extraordinary skills and ability as has been shown by his work as the head of WFP and elsewhere. I recognize that Mr James Ingram has introduced a number of changes into the WFP. He has been very effective in the provision of aid and he has turned the WFP into a very effective tool of development. We cannot express enough our appreciation and admiration of Mr Ingram, and I would like to convey to him the thanks and gratitude of all hungry people who have been fed thanks to the WFP. We wish him every success and a happy, long life.

**Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia):** Thank you for giving me the floor, Mr Chairman, to speak on this important item. Like other delegations who have spoken before us, the Ethiopian delegation would like to thank Mr Dutia, the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, on the Programme and the introduction of the document before us. We also endorse and support the pledging target presented in the Resolution and the document placed before the Conference, including the one third cash contribution.

In supporting this pledging target, our delegation felt that we should put it on the record that the principle of zero growth is placing its foothold on food aid at a time when the world's hungry and poor are growing. We are deeply concerned with the development of this situation and express our agreement with the concerns that have been clearly indicated by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, the representative of Cuba, the representative of Madagascar and the representative of India. We hope that this situation is looked into for a possible positive growth in future considerations.

It is particularly worrying to note that the pledging target being set is at the same level as that of the biennium before it when the global need for it is both critical and alarming. We are sensitive to situations of zero growth and feel its implications when we look at the critical food shortage that is being faced by our country and becomes even more painful when the contribution is lower than the pledging target itself. We hope to see that the pledges are contributed expeditiously and in full.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Ethiopian delegation would also like to express its voice of appreciation for the noble services that the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, has rendered during his term of office as the Executive Director of the World Food Programme.

**Daniel D.C. DON NANJIRA (Kenya):** Mr Chairman, this is a rather special meeting for several reasons. One is that we have on the podium two very important personalities who are retiring from public office. Many of us may not know that you yourself, Mr Chairman, are retiring. I happen to know

this and after such a very long association of yours with the UN, it is important that we also pay tribute to you for the excellent manner in which you have been guiding the work of this Commission. I remember I asked you how you kept fit over the years and you said that the secret is in hard work. Not many of us work so hard but as an example if you work hard you can always have the kind of energy that you have displayed. We are grateful to you and I hope that you enjoy your retirement and continue in other ways to make valuable contributions to the work of the UN.

The other personality who is retiring from public service is, of course, Mr Ingram. I happen to be one of those delegates who in the past year or so have been working closely with the WFP, because I happen to be the Chairman of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and I know the kind of assistance that Mr Ingram and his staff have given to us. I think the Ambassador of Colombia has said it when he mentioned that it has been a difficult period and the special qualities of Mr Ingram have been "These are my views. You are the Government Representatives. Decide." It is a rare thing indeed because the normal thing is to impose certain things on delegations and that is when the wrangling starts. When you get somebody who says "These are my views. I think this is what is good for the system but it is up to your Governments to decide", that is excellent. We, who have really worked in such an atmosphere, have been very grateful for the way in which Mr Ingram has guided the work of the World Food Programme.

I want to inform you, and I am sure you know this already, obviously the achievements that have been made in obtaining the basic texts amended, of course, have been made by the membership of the various countries but we must not forget really that the game was started by the Executive Director who thought that it was essential that this extremely important body did have the efficiency and the effectiveness it required in order to deal with the problems of emergencies and food aid. Food aid is required to deal with emergencies and food aid is an important tool for development. It was Mr Ingram who studied it and I think after a long discussion the membership took over and as soon as they took over, within one day, the job was done. You will see the importance of Member Governments participating in these discussions. Therefore, it is rare, is it not, Mr Chairman that Mr Ingram should retire when he has achieved this? Usually for human beings we want to be around to enjoy the things we have done at least under difficult circumstances but when we have achieved something and then go it is a rare quality and I think it deserves praise. Mr Ingram, we are grateful to you that you have made us see the importance of this Organization which serves all our countries and the people who inhabit them.

Mr Chairman, food aid is both a tool for development and it is obviously required to deal with emergencies. This is something that has been said here and, of course, I would like to repeat it myself. The problem we have these days is that emergencies are on the increase. They are complex and unless you have a system in place which is going to be consistent to deal with them effectively it is going to be very difficult, but I must say that Africa perhaps is the continent where the complexity of these emergencies has become a very difficult thing to deal with. The WFP has been very helpful. In the whole of Africa, for example, we have many problems. There is a very critical situation. The natural calamities are very negatively affecting the economies of these countries and millions of people are either dying or facing starvation.

Hence the importance of having an effective and efficient system in WFP to assist. Obviously WFP does collaborate with other agencies of the UN system; and obviously we have been grateful, but problems are on the increase and there will need to be a coordinated approach so that the problems of refugees can be settled.

The problems of the countries, for example, in the Horn of Africa, can be dealt with so that reconstruction and development can be restored to these countries, the refugees and displaced persons can be resettled and the food and agriculture situation of these countries can be improved. Obviously you cannot do this unless there is a systematic approach to these problems.

Recently, in July, Mr Ingram led a very, very successful Inter-Agency mission to the Horn of Africa, and with this mission, he visited my country where he held very useful discussions with the Kenyan Government; and, I am sure, with the Governments of the countries of the Horn. It was through that that the awareness of the need to deal with these problems has been really increased, and therefore it is gratifying that we are now dealing with a Resolution on pledging which asks for increased contributions to the World Food Programme.

Without resources, needless to say, projects cannot be implemented and therefore we are very pleased that the figure has been pointed out in these documents, which target we hope will be met very soon. We call upon those in a position to do so - and in particular the developed countries - to pledge, so that the resources required to enable this Organization can be made available; so that assistance can be given to the countries of the developing world that must be assisted if they are going to survive at all. As I have said, the situation is getting worse. The 1990s are full of calamities, and even beyond the 1990s we are going to have problems, hence the need for everybody to provide assistance.

I would like to pay special tribute to the staff of the World Food Programme, both those at Headquarters and in the field. They are a small organization but they have been working with competence and complete dedication, and we will always look forward to collaborating with them in the assistance which they provide to the needy peoples of the world.

Mr Dutia has made an introductory statement, of course, and my delegation is grateful to him for this statement, in which he has introduced the item; and we are also grateful to him for the documentation that has been made available to us.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I go back to Mr Ingram's situation. It has been said that this is the last FAO Conference that Mr Ingram will be attending. I think we know that he is still around here, and we will always look forward to getting at least the last assistance that we can get from him before he leaves the UN system.

**C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands):** I have pleasure in speaking on behalf of the European Community.

I will not speak on the substance of this Agenda Item. All of us have positively expressed our views on the target earlier, whether in the CFA, the Council, ECOSOC or the Second Commission. But we would like to add words of gratitude to Mr Ingram. We have worked hard with him to make of

the Programme what it is now. In reaching certain goals, not everybody was thinking along the same lines, but it was good that in such circumstances we could always have constructive discussions that led to decisions that were always aimed at improving the work of the Programme. The guidance of Mr Ingram in these discussions was indispensable; therefore once again we join in the good words that have been said, and of course also with the good wishes.

The brevity of two words sometimes seems not to be enough to express feelings of gratitude. Nevertheless I use them with the fullest sense of their content, and therefore I conclude with, "Thank You, Mr Ingram".

**Parviz KARBASI (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I would like to congratulate Mr Dutia and Mr Ingram for their statements. My delegation would like to support the Draft Resolution of C 91/LIM/5, and we agree with the pledging target for WFP.

My delegation would like to join with all the delegates, particularly the deserved words and praise which were stated by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia, Mr Bula Hoyos, to Mr Ingram.

I had the honour to be ex officio Chairman of the Working Group for the preparation of the new regulation for the World Food Programme. This gave me the chance to know Mr Ingram in more depth. I would simply like to say that Mr Ingram worked for the Organization, and did not let the Organization work for him but for the goal of the Organization and the poor people in the world. Mr Ingram, you should be sure that you are in the hearts of many, and many hungry people that through your leadership were fed and got work.

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to convey to you, Mr Ingram, and your staff thanks and full appreciation for all the efforts you have made; and God bless you and your family - health, success and happiness.

**Sra. Marta C. VAZQUEZ VAZQUEZ (México):** Seré muy breve. En primer lugar, la delegación de México desea felicitar al Sr. James Ingram y al Sr. Dutia por sus excelentes presentaciones. En segundo lugar, mi delegación apoya la Resolución contenida en el documento C 91/LIM/5 el cual contiene el objetivo de promesas de contribución para el Programa Ordinario del PMA, toda vez que el mismo estará orientado a continuar financiando la asistencia al PMA y a los proyectos de desarrollo. En tercer lugar, la delegación mexicana exhorta a los países donantes a que de conformidad con el Artículo 3(a)(i) de las Normas Generales del PMA, al menos una tercera parte de las promesas totales que se hagan al Programa se entreguen en efectivo a fin de que el PMA pueda continuar con sus labores y cumpliendo con los objetivos y funciones para los cuales fue creado.

Finalmente, la delegación mexicana se une al reconocimiento y homenaje hecho por las distinguidas delegaciones que me precedieron en mi intervención por la importante y dinámica labor realizada por el Sr. James Ingram, que sin duda será un ejemplo a seguir.

**Amor Ben ROMDHANE (Tunisie):** Je remercie M. Dutia de cette introduction extrêmement utile. Ma délégation a écouté avec la plus vive attention l'exposé du Directeur exécutif du Programme alimentaire mondial, M. Ingram. Nous aimerions remercier M. Ingram qui a évoqué tous les aspects de l'aide alimentaire, et nous voulons reconnaître à leur juste valeur tous les services rendus par M. Ingram, contributions extrêmement positives et qui ont fait de ce Programme alimentaire mondial un instrument très utile vers lequel se tournent tous ceux qui ont faim dans le monde, afin que leurs espérances soient comblées. Nous voudrions exprimer notre gratitude, nos remerciements, notre affection, à M. James Ingram pour les services concrets qu'il a rendus pour le palmarès du Programme alimentaire mondial, que ce soit sur le terrain ou ici, au Siège.

L'aide alimentaire, en fait, a atteint ses objectifs. Et sur cette base, la délégation de la Tunisie donne son approbation à la Résolution présentée à la Conférence, en espérant que cette résolution nous permettra de nous acquitter de nos tâches et que les objectifs de contributions seront atteints pour 1993-94. Nous pensons que l'aide alimentaire multilatérale présente de nombreux avantages, notamment lorsqu'elle est livrée par le Programme alimentaire mondial depuis sa création. Et nous pensons que ces contributions revêtent une importance capitale pour permettre au Programme de se poursuivre, de faire des investissements d'équipements, et de s'acquitter de son mandat qui est de distribuer de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Nous voudrions demander instamment aux donateurs de verser une partie de leurs contributions en espèces, à savoir un tiers, afin que ce Programme puisse aller de l'avant et remplisse son mandat.

Nous aimerions également profiter de l'occasion pour remercier les pays donateurs qui ont fourni leur soutien au Programme alimentaire mondial, et pour les contributions positives au développement des PVD, grâce à l'aide alimentaire. Merci.

**Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand):** I shall be very brief. The delegation of Thailand would like to endorse the Resolution Target for World Food Programme pledges for the period 1993-94. We also fully associate ourselves with the previous speakers in complimenting Mr Ingram on the success of the World Food Programme. After his retirement we wish him and his family all the best.

My final point is that my Government would like to register its appreciation of the work of the World Food Programme and other organizations in assisting the refugees who temporarily live in camps in my country. The World Food Programme, in cooperation with other international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, will continue to help the refugees to return safely to their countries in the near future.

**Mansur SEGHAYER (Libya) (Original language Arabic):** My country's delegation approves the Draft Resolution submitted to our Commission on the Pledging Target for the World Food Programme of US\$1.5 billion. This is the pledging target for the financial resources for the Programme for 1993-94.

Finally, my country's delegation would like to join all other delegations who have taken the floor to, in turn, thank Mr James Ingram and all who work with him for the valiant efforts which have been made to ensure the complete success of the World Food Programme. We hope this example will be followed everywhere.

**Michel MOMBOULI (Congo):** M. le Président, à en croire les Présidents et orateurs qui sont intervenus avant nous, M. Ingram et M. Dutia ont fait des exposés liminaires complets et fort intéressants.

Nous regrettons de n'avoir pas pu être dans la salle à ce moment-là, pour des raisons indépendantes de notre volonté. Mais nous croyons bien que tel a été le cas.

Le Congo est membre du CPA; il est également membre du Conseil de la FAO; et à ce titre, il est intimement lié au processus qui a conduit aux deux documents actuellement en cours d'examen.

Pour ces deux raisons, nous serons donc brefs. Pour en venir au sujet qui nous occupe, à savoir l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour 1993-94, nous voulons rappeler que le Congo est opposé au principe de croissance zéro, qu'il s'agisse de la FAO à laquelle le Congo contribue, ou qu'il s'agisse des programmes à but humanitaire tel le PAM, ceci par souci d'équité et en considération de la gravité de la situation alimentaire des pays en développement, dont les besoins sont de plus en plus importants face au nombre de plus en plus élevé de situations d'urgence.

C'est donc en toute logique que nous regrettons que dans le cas du PAM l'objectif de contribution pour le prochain biennium ait été fixé à seulement 1.5 milliard de dollars. Toutefois, par esprit de compromis et non de compromission, nous pensons que nous pouvons nous associer au consensus qui se profile en faveur de cet objectif de 1.5 milliard de dollars pour le prochain biennium 1993-94 du PAM. Dans le cadre de ce consensus, nous exhortons tous ceux qui peuvent le faire et les pays développés en particulier à contribuer généreusement afin que cet objectif soit atteint, voire dépassé.

M. le Président, comme mentionné dans les textes de base du PAM, nous aimerions réitérer la recommandation demandant que les contributions soient versées dans les proportions de deux tiers en vivres et un tiers en espèces, ce dernier tiers étant destiné à assurer la logistique qui doit faciliter la fourniture aux groupes cibles bénéficiaires de l'aide.

M. le Président, compte tenu de tout ce qui précède, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer en conséquence le projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis dans le document C 91/LIM/5.

Pour terminer, nous aimerions saisir cette occasion solennelle pour remercier M. Ingram de l'oeuvre colossale accomplie par lui pendant ses différents mandats successifs à la tête du Programme alimentaire mondial. Nous lui souhaitons santé de fer, prospérité et plein succès dans ses prochaines entreprises.

M. le Président, notre ami du Kenya nous a fait une révélation. En effet, nous ne savions pas que vous partiez en retraite. Et comme l'information nous est donnée maintenant, nous voudrions également que vous acceptiez



tous nos meilleurs voeux afin que, pour vous aussi, tout ce que vous allez entreprendre dans le futur réussisse et que, aussi bien votre famille que vous-même, disposiez d'une santé de fer.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your kind remarks.

**Oscar MAS HERRERA (Costa Rica):** Mi delegación quisiera unir su voz al resto de las delegaciones que han justamente alabado la excelente labor del Sr. Ingram a la cabeza del Programa Mundial de Alimentación.

Hace unos meses, mi país sufrió el embate de un terremoto que asoló la región atlántica y me consta cómo el PMA, con el Sr. Ingram a la cabeza se precipitó a colaborar con Costa Rica durante el siniestro.

Quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para subrayar de un modo específico la labor del Sr. Domingo Donida, oficial de alto nivel dentro del PMA, por su trabajo en general en favor de América Latina y específicamente en favor de mi país.

Sr. Ingram, la delegación de Costa Rica agradecida, le desea lo mejor para su futuro, que lo augura de estrellas.

**Ibrahima KABA (Guinée):** M. le Président, la délégation de mon pays associe sa voix à celles qui l'ont précédée pour renouveler son soutien au projet de résolution fixant l'objectif des contributions du PAM et soumis à notre examen. Nous saisissons l'occasion qui nous est offerte pour remercier les pays donateurs pour leur soutien indispensable, et féliciter M. Ingram pour ses services inestimables en faveur des plus nécessiteux. Mon pays, la Guinée, se souviendra toujours de l'apport efficace du PAM sous votre mandat, M. Ingram, au programme de redressement économique en cours. M. Ingram, nos meilleurs voeux vous accompagnent.

**Kiichi NARITA (Japan):** First of all, my delegation would like to apologize for coming late to this Commission this morning, when this very important Agenda Item was being discussed, and also for having missed the remarks made by Mr Ingram and Mr Dutia. Japan, as a member of CFA and FAO Council, approved the pledging target for 1993-94 without any problems. As my delegation said in the last CFA, it is very important for all donor countries to make every effort to achieve this target.

My delegation would also like to associate itself wholeheartedly with previous speakers in appreciating all Mr Ingram's efforts over the last ten years to lead the World Food Programme in the right direction.

**Ulrich KNÜPPEL (CEE):** M. le Président, j'aimerais me joindre aux paroles du représentant parlant aussi au nom de la Communauté européenne qui a exprimé notre haute estime pour le travail accompli par M. Ingram et son Organisation. J'aimerais par ailleurs remercier M. Ingram et M. Dutia pour leur introduction succincte mais substantielle.

Tout au long de cette année de crise alimentaire en Afrique subsaharienne, nous avons dû répondre en priorité à des situations d'urgence par le biais de l'aide alimentaire. Néanmoins, il ne faut pas perdre de vue la contribution que l'aide alimentaire doit apporter au développement économique et social équilibré et ce point à l'ordre du jour nous donne l'opportunité d'y réfléchir: l'objectif des contributions du PAM concerne principalement des projets de développement.

La Communauté estime réaliste la proposition de fixer l'objectif des contributions pour l'exercice 1993-94 à 1,5 milliard de dollars, soit le même niveau que celui de l'exercice en cours. L'objectif est réaliste si l'on tient compte des possibilités des donateurs, mais également de la capacité du Programme de soutenir des projets viables.

En ce qui concerne la Communauté Economique Européenne, je peux vous assurer qu'elle compte maintenir le niveau de son aide alimentaire pour les pays en voie de développement toujours en termes de quantités de produits. En outre, la Communauté sera toujours prête à une contribution substantielle en réponse aux éventuelles crises exceptionnelles. Je vous rappelle que cette année, la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres ont agi de cette façon dans le cadre de la crise africaine, en décidant un programme d'aide alimentaire et logistique supplémentaire d'un montant global d'environ 230 millions d'ECU. Il est toutefois difficile de s'attendre à une augmentation globale des ressources d'aide alimentaire destinée aux projets de développement.

En ce qui concerne les opérations du PAM, le défi de l'exercice 1993-94 sera de répondre mieux à des besoins toujours croissants et en utilisant d'une façon intégrée l'aide alimentaire et les autres formes d'aide.

Nous sommes conscients que les objectifs du passé n'ont pas été réalisés mais nous pensons qu'un objectif fixé à un niveau réaliste qui tienne compte des besoins et des capacités réelles de mise en oeuvre peut être réalisé.

**CHAIRMAN:** We have listened to 28 delegates speaking. I now give the floor to Mr Ingram to reply.

**James INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme):** We are of course gratified that the Commission is approving the Resolution. Targets are one thing; it is the fulfilment of targets that really counts and we look forward to receiving your pledges at the Pledging Conference next year. It is very important indeed that the target be reached, and I cannot emphasize that enough.

I would also like to thank the delegations for the remarks they made about the dedication of the WFP staff. Such successes as I have achieved, to which many of you have been kind enough to refer, owe everything to the support I have received from the offices of the World Food Programme. While this is my last meeting with the Conference of FAO, I am looking forward very much to the last session of the CFA, in which I will participate, which meets next month. So I am not going to share with you my final thoughts at this time; I will do so then. However, something was said by one delegate in his generous remarks that I would like to mention. He offered thanks from all the people who have been hungry and who have been

fed. Then another delegate said "those who have been fed and get the work". Of course, that is what is rather gratifying about being the Executive Director of WFP. When you go into the countries with which we work and see what is done and meet the people who "get the work", say, in a food-for-work project, you know that, while food aid may have its detractors rather unfairly on the whole, I think in practice, the work of WFP does get through to people.

That is rather something, because so much of what we talk about - development and aid, and so on - is, in fact, very abstract. A great deal of it does not get through. So, I should like to say that, for me, the real satisfaction in working with WFP has been that our work gets through to people.

I thank you, Mr Chairman, and I thank the delegates who have been so kind in their remarks about me and for their very good wishes for the future. I can only say what the delegate of the Netherlands said, many words do not necessarily mean that much, and I also say thank you to all of you.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you sincerely, Mr Ingram.

That only leaves it for me to summarize a little, which is not so difficult.

My first point is that there is complete agreement on the Draft Resolution which will be forwarded to Plenary. In the report, I think we should express the hope that the target indicated will be fulfilled, because this is really the crux of the matter.

My second point is that quite a number of delegates has been speaking about the cash component of the pledging target. Again, I think that should be underlined here.

The third point - and again it has been touched upon - is the balance between development projects on the one hand and emergency assistance on the other. It has moved over the past two years into a different kind of balance to earlier on. I think this should be mentioned.

My fourth point is on a question which was brought up by Mr Ingram on the fact that WFP is more than just a pledging target and the consequences; it is a much wider Programme with a large amount of logistic support to developers outside the Programme as such.

My last point - we cannot evade this, and I would not - in the Report we should say once again thank you to Mr Ingram and to his associates.

That concludes Item 21.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - QUATRIEME PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4

**CHAIRMAN:** C 91/II/REP/4 has been distributed to the Commission. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has kindly come here to help us, and I will now give him the floor.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I would say very briefly that the Drafting Committee took extra care to reflect the conclusions that have been reached by the Commission on this item, as well as the views which have been expressed during the debate.

All the different groups were, of course, represented in the Drafting Committee. We hope that the Report which is before you is acceptable to all members of the Commission.

That is all I have to say.

Paragraphs 1 to 18 approved  
Les paragraphes 1 à 18, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 1 a 18, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 4, was adopted  
Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, quatrième partie, est adopté  
El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 4, es aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** I wish to compliment the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

The meeting is adjourned until 14.30 hours this afternoon.

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/II/PV/15

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II

26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

### FIFTEENTH MEETING

### QUINZIEME SEANCE

### 15ª SESIÓN

(21 November 1991)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

Mr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 15.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Presidente de la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DEL INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

**CHAIRMAN:** The Fifteenth Meeting of the Commission II is being called to order. The first Item, as I said this morning, is the approval of the Draft Report - Part 3 on the Review of Field Programmes, Item 17, and the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, Item 18. I give the floor to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I come to you again on behalf of the Drafting Committee, and I have the honour to present to you the Draft Report on Item 17, the Review of the Field Programmes and Item 18, the Progress Report on the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development. We believe it is a good report inasmuch as it reflects the decisions taken and strikes a balance between the values and opinions expressed in the Committee. The Drafting Committee did not have any special difficulties in adopting this report, and I hope also you will be able to adopt it without any great difficulty.

**CHAIRMAN:** Now I present the Draft Report, Part 3, as a whole to Commission II. Are there any comments in addition? There are none: the report as a whole is adopted. It remains for me to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee once again for a good draft.

Paragraphs 1 to 38 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 38 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 38 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 3, was adopted

Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, troisième partie, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 3, es aprobado

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

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

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

20. Preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition 1992

20. Préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition de 1992

20. Preparativos de la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición de 1992

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and distinguished observers, I greatly appreciate this opportunity to inform Member Governments of the progress that is being made in the preparations for the

International Conference on Nutrition (ICN). Since the endorsement by the Council in June 1989, and the Conference in November 1989, of the proposal to convene an International Conference on Nutrition jointly by FAO and WHO, Member Governments have been kept informed of ICN preparations through various channels, including the Ninety-eighth Session of the Council in November 1990; the Regional Conferences in 1990; an official communication to all Member Governments issued in March 1991; the Eleventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture in April 1991; the Ninety-ninth Session of the Council in June 1991; and the Hundredth Session of the Council earlier this month. The Council's discussion at this last session on ICN is circulated as document C 91/LIM/3.

The paper before the Commission, C 91/27, summarizes the significant progress that has been made since the previous Progress Report to the Council in June 1991. The document before you provides information on country and regional-level activities, as well as on the technical and administrative preparations that are under way. I shall take this opportunity to provide an additional update on ICN activities undertaken since the document before you was prepared in August 1991.

The International Conference on Nutrition is proposed to be held during the first half of December 1992 in Rome. The Conference itself will be preceded by a preparatory meeting, which is planned to be held in Geneva at the end of August, in order that Member Governments can discuss the preparations for the ICN at a technical level, prior to their consideration by the Conference itself.

The ICN is the first global Intergovernmental Conference on Nutrition, the final outcome of which will be based on the preparatory activities organized at the country and regional/sub-regional levels. This will be accomplished by ensuring that extensive country-level preparations are undertaken, which will lead to the consideration, at regional and sub-regional meetings, of appropriate actions and strategies for tackling nutrition problems. These in turn will provide inputs into the global Plan of Action which will be considered for adoption by the ICN in December 1992. The Plan of Action is expected to recommend a broad range of actions to improve food production and supplies, health care, education and living conditions, in order to lead to better nutritional status for all.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response of member countries to the ICN, and especially by the many country-level activities that have been initiated as a result of the Conference preparatory process. As shown in document C 91/27-Corr.1, by 1 November of this year 115 countries had appointed ICN country focal points and were preparing country papers on their nutrition problems and needed actions. Since then, this number has increased further, so that as of today, 21 November, 122 countries have appointed ICN Focal Points and they are preparing country papers. Moreover, due to the multi-faceted nature of nutritional problems involving food, health care and other aspects, national inter-sectoral Committees or Working Groups with representatives from a wide range of Ministries, including Agriculture, Health, Education, Planning, Economy and Trade, have been formed in 73 countries in order to assist with preparations by the ICN. In addition, 68 countries have indicated that they have convened or plan to convene national ICN-related seminars or workshops.

These numbers are indeed encouraging. Of even more importance is the fact that in many countries these ICN preparatory activities are bringing the various Ministries, sectors and interests together to focus on nutritional problems and on what can be done to alleviate them through coordinated efforts in agriculture, health, education and social and economic development. There is thus a reasonable basis to hope that this inter-sectoral approach to nutrition that has been developed at the country level will not only help in the preparation for the ICN but will also facilitate the follow-up of ICN recommendations in the countries after the Conference is over.

Several governments have been able to effectively mobilize the technical and financial resources needed for their in-country preparations. However, many have had to make requests for assistance. FAO and WHO have provided some funds from the ICN budget to 29 country focal points in developing countries to assist in their country preparations. In addition, technical backstopping through country-project personnel, consultants, and Headquarters staff has been provided where possible, and FAO and WHO country representatives are working with country focal points. Moreover, 10 bilateral donors and UN agencies are providing assistance to countries for their preparations, including the development of their country papers and the organization of national seminars.

A key ICN preparatory activity will be the convening of joint FAO/WHO regional/sub-regional meetings in early 1992. The first meeting is scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 27-31 January 1992 and is intended to encompass the countries of Asia and the Pacific region. Additional regional and sub-regional meetings are scheduled for the months of February, March and April 1992 for francophone Africa, anglophone Africa, Latin American, the Caribbean, Eastern and Central Europe and the Near East.

The regional/sub-regional ICN meetings will integrate country-level and global preparations and help develop regional focus. Because of this, we place an especially high value on these meetings. The deliberations in the Governing Bodies have also clearly indicated that Member Nations also value this process. The regional/sub-regional meetings will provide an opportunity to review the nutrition situation in the region, to evaluate relevant policies and programmes and to discuss strategies for ensuring nutritional well-being. Relevant extracts from country papers and theme papers developed for the ICN will provide background for assessment of regional nutrition problems and strategies to address them. As I have mentioned already, the results of these meetings will provide input into the global Assessment Paper and the global Declaration and Plan of Action to be considered by the ICN. We hope that this approach will catalyze ongoing national regional-level commitment and action directed at improving nutrition, prior to, during and particularly after the Conference.

The FAO and WHO offices are using their scarce resources to organize the regional meetings, and some funds have been set aside from the ICN budget for this purpose. Some donor governments and NGOs have also provided funds for country delegations' participation. However, many countries still need assistance to participate in these regional meetings, especially if, as is hoped, representatives from more than one sector are to attend. I sincerely hope that delegations during this Conference will be in a position not only to confirm their commitments of financial support but also to indicate readiness to make more funds available for the regional and sub-regional meetings, for truly much more is needed. Once again, we are appealing to



donors to assist and thus give further momentum to the genuine "bottom-up" preparations for the ICN that have been initiated. The members of the ICN Joint Secretariat will indeed be very happy to meet with interested donor countries to provide further detailed reports on country and regional-level activities and discuss possibilities for supporting them.

At the same time that country-level activities are taking place, FAO and WHO are preparing a series of documents to address the key nutritional issues around which the technical content of the ICN is being developed. These documents consist of an overall assessment paper examining nutrition problems and programmes throughout the world, and a Declaration and a Plan of Action. In support of these, theme papers and case studies have been commissioned which will examine a number of issues such as: nutrition assessment and monitoring, improving household food security, protecting consumers through improved food quality and safety, improving caring capacity, preventing and managing infectious disease, promoting appropriate diets and healthy lifestyles, preventing micro-nutrient deficiency diseases and incorporating nutrition objectives into development policies and programmes.

Various national, international and non-governmental organizations are assisting in the preparation of these documents. For example, UNICEF, IFPRI (the International Food Policy Research Institute based in Washington) and the ACC/SCN Secretariat are preparing major theme papers, as are the Nutrition Institute of India, and the Food and Drug Administration of the US. Other sister UN bodies and non-governmental organizations are also providing specific contributions in their areas of competence for inclusion in the main documents. A meeting of the authors of the assessment and theme papers was held in Rome on 7-8 November 1991 to ensure complementarity of the papers and to coordinate concise coverage of all issues to be addressed.

We attach great value to constructive and effective involvement of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the ICN process. This is particularly important to enhance and support the country and regional-level preparatory and follow-up activities. We continue to encourage their active participation in various ICN-related activities, as well as those tying into the activities planned for 1992 World Food Day, which has Food and Nutrition as its theme. While a number of national NGOs are involved in country-level preparations, their ability to participate in the regional and the Preparatory Committee Meeting will depend on their ability to mobilize the resources required to attend. We had very useful discussions on ICN with the development NGOs of the EEC some two weeks ago. We also particularly value the input of the Rome-based International NGOs. They have been working with us during our preparations, and the ICN was a major Agenda Item in the FAO Conference-related informal meeting of international non-governmental organizations which was held on 12 November. The report of this meeting is circulated as document C 91/INF/1, in which paragraphs 7 to 14 summarize the discussion at this meeting on the ICN. The Secretariat will welcome comments from delegates on the possible ways of NGO involvement in the ICN in the light of paragraphs 34 to 36 of document C 91/27, as well as document C 91/INF/1.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the importance that we have attached to the valuable comments and advice we have received from Member Governments in their deliberations in the Governing Bodies at this Conference. We again look forward to your comments and guidance as the preparations for the ICN

proceed. Let me reiterate in closing that the ICN is not an end in itself and that the final success of the Conference can be measured by the commitment and follow-up actions taken at all levels to prevent and alleviate problems of malnutrition and hunger, following the ICN in December 1992. We have high hopes that this will be possible, especially as the preparatory process for ICN has generated a ground swell of country-level and regional and sub-regional activities in the vital area of nutrition. I thank you for your attention.

Christian BONAPARTE (Haïti): Je vous remercie de me donner la parole en premier lieu sur un point aussi important que la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Je serai cependant bref. Je tiens aussi à remercier M. Dutia pour sa présentation exhaustive du contexte et des différents éléments à prendre en compte à ce jour quant à la CIN. La mise au courant des préparatifs de la CIN a été bien menée et, de façon précise, notre délégation a examiné les différents documents soumis à la Conférence et principalement le document C 91/27. Nous nous félicitons aussi du travail fait par la Direction générale, et notamment la mise sur pied du Comité d'orientation mixte.

La CIN est importante, je crois, pour plus d'un pays, et particulièrement le nôtre. Mais elle n'est pas importante sur le thème. Je pense que son importance doit surtout résider dans le fait de pouvoir élaborer des stratégies, non seulement au niveau de la production, mais aussi dans la qualité de celle-ci. Et Haïti espère tirer des fruits de cette expérience et de la Conférence pour une meilleure productivité puisque l'engagement final est tout de même la productivité.

Je me permettrai maintenant aussi de citer un document de la FAO, un rapport spécial Culture et pénuries alimentaires d'octobre 1991, N /?/10 qui, à la page 34, donne des informations quant à notre pays; je cite:

"A la suite des événements de fin septembre, la situation du ravitaillement déjà précaire dans le nord-ouest du fait de la médiocre récolte céréalière de la campagne principale de 1991 risque de se dégrader encore au cours des prochains mois dans les zones urbaines. Cela est attribuable à l'interruption début octobre de l'aide alimentaire et économique des Etats-Unis et à l'embargo commercial imposé à Haïti par l'OUA le 9 octobre. Une assistance humanitaire comprenant des vivres et autres secours pourrait être nécessaire".

Laissez-moi vous préciser, M. le Président, que notre pays est déjà engagé. Et vous comprendrez, après la lecture de ce texte, que c'est une question qui est plus importante pour nous à plusieurs niveaux. Haïti est très concernée, surtout face à une carence d'informations et d'études sur les aspects nutritionnels, voire même sur la diète alimentaire dans notre pays. Nous avons essayé récemment de poser des jalons au niveau institutionnel et d'établir un bureau nutritionnel au sein de notre Ministère de l'agriculture. D'ailleurs, des pourparlers ont été entamés avec la FAO, lesquels ont été interrompus par notre situation sociopolitique désolante et toute récente.

Ce que je voudrais exprimer aussi, c'est que la suggestion sur les préparatifs au niveau régional et les moyens par le canal des réunions régionales et sous-régionales de la CIN est un excellent moyen et devrait bénéficier de la meilleure attention et des appuis extrabudgétaires, comme

précisé dans les articles 17 et 18 du document C 91/27. Nous espérons que nous serons présents à Genève en août 1992 et nous souhaitons que toutes les parties intéressées et les institutions engagées y travaillent dès à présent.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark) : I should first of all like to thank Mr Dutia and his collaborators for their comprehensive description on the item in front of us and for the preparatory activities for the International Conference on Nutrition. Although this item on the Agenda is mainly for information, I should like briefly to inform you of the proceedings in Denmark and, in particular, to express our general views on what ought to be the possible outcome of this item.

The elaboration of our national report is proceeding well. We have established a focal point at the Danish National FAO Committee under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. A close cooperation has been established between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

We have taken note of the efforts made by the Secretariat to involve the NGOs closely in the preparatory work.

Some 12 or 15 years ago Denmark and other Nordic countries attached a high priority to activities in the area of nutrition. Unfortunately, the interest has faded somewhat in our countries since activities in the UN system remained below our expectations. The procedures of the preparations are very elaborate and somewhat complex. After thorough consideration, Denmark has decided not to avail extra-budgetary assistance to the preparatory work outside Denmark. The reason is that we have difficulty in seeing sufficient justification for holding a worldwide Conference just for the sake of increasing the "awareness and dimension of nutrition and diet-related problems" and to "promote cooperation between various private and public sectors".

If approximately US\$2.5 million reserved at the Programme of Work and Budget, and at least the same amount from extra-budgetary sources, is to be justified, consensus on a global strategy or at least an action plan ought to be the goal of the Conference, as a general framework of the follow-up activities at national and regional level. Although we are very much looking forward to seeing the case studies and thematic papers, we find that the nutritional issues are already quite well analysed.

What we need now is a shared political responsibility for health and agriculture in order to enhance every human being's physical and intellectual capacity by improving substantially her or his nutritional status.

Assefa YILAIA (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation would like to thank Mr Dutia for his clear and lucid introductory explanation. I would like raise one question on which further elaboration would be appreciated.

The Ethiopian delegation has examined the document on the progress of the preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition. Our delegation is satisfied with the progress of the preparation and would like to thank

all those who contributed towards the success and the progress achieved. We hope that further progress will be achieved between now and the Conference in 1992.

Paragraph 14 of document C 91/27 refers to the need for financial and technical support needed by developing countries, adequately to prepare for, and participate in, the follow-up of ICN. Since it was explicitly indicated that sponsoring agencies are not in a position to provide this support, additional donor assistance was required. We would be interested in finding out if some success were achieved in this regard after the documents were despatched.

In subsequent paragraphs it is indicated that few countries have responded to the need for additional funding. Whilst appealing for this support, we should like to know how far this objective has been achieved after the documents, to which I have just referred, were despatched to Member Nations. I know that some corrections were made in the two documents which follow the document to which I referred, but none of this was dealt with.

Our delegation feels that the financial support will increase the participation of Member Nations both in the preparatory stage and in participation in the Conference itself. We hope that financial difficulties will not hinder the valuable participation of developing countries, including our own.

**Art WRIGHT (Canada):** We should like to thank the Secretariat for their concise document for the International Conference on Nutrition, as well as to thank Mr Dutia for his very clear update and concise introduction to this item. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Joint FAO/WHO Secretariat who, we know, are working very hard to make the ICN a success.

Canada's national paper for the International Conference on Nutrition involved an extensive consultative process led by the Canadian Department on Health and Welfare with participation from other Government Departments, notably the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Oceans, External Affairs and the Canadian International Development Agency.

We are also in consultation with a number of non-governmental organizations for their input on this important subject.

Following regional coordination, we anticipate that the Canadian paper should be ready some time in the next month.

Because the focus of this Conference is properly placed on nutritional issues in developing countries, Canada has decided to provide assistance for the preparation of country papers by four developing nations in South Asia. This assistance will be provided to the International Development Research Centre and the Canadian International Development Agency. We hope that we shall have sufficient funds to hold a sub-regional consultation in South Asia prior to the ICN.

As other delegates have mentioned, there continues to be a need for many countries to receive support in order to participate fully in the preparatory process. We wonder whether it would be possible for the Secretariat, either following this Conference or shortly thereafter, to be

able to circulate perhaps to Member Nations a list of those developing countries which have attracted similar donor support for their preparations and those which have not. I am not sure about the process involved here but this might facilitate the support of other donors for the participation of developing nations in the ICN preparatory process, which we know is highly desirable.

Document C 91/27 mentions in paragraph 31 that direct contribution to background papers from UNICEF, IFAD, UNHCR, UNU, WFP and IAEA have been forthcoming. We would appreciate receiving some details on these and any others, for potential contributions that will be coming from other international organizations.

The Canadian delegation would like to commend FAO for its follow-up to the nutritional aspects of last year's World Summit for Children and also to extend appreciation to the Organization on its part in co-sponsoring the Micro-Nutrient Conference which took place in Montreal last month. We see each of these steps as a logical part of the process leading up to the ICN Conference.

Canada particularly welcomes the important role which non-governmental organizations will play in the ICN. This has been mentioned in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the report. We believe that national NGOs have a very important role to play. We are delighted that they are being encouraged to send representatives to the various national, sub-regional and regional meetings, as well as to the preparatory meetings themselves. We believe that Headquarters' representation of international NGOs is also to be encouraged. We note that NGOs will be invited to Prep.Conf.1, in August 1992, as Observers. These are very welcome developments.

We believe that NGOs have much to contribute to the process and, therefore, we welcome the formation of an NGO/FAO/WHO Working Group, as referred to in paragraphs 13 and 14 of document C 91/INF/1, concerning the meeting of the informal group of international non-governmental organizations which was held on 12 November. We believe that NGOs should be permitted to participate actively and freely in the Working Groups associated with the PrepCom. simply because of their experience in addressing problems of nutrition in many countries. Their valuable experience does need to be integrated and we believe that their views will help us in the remaining preparatory process, including the development of the Assessment Paper, the Draft Plan of Action and Declaration, and throughout the Conference documentation.

Given the enormous task in preparing for the Conference, we fully understand that there has been little time to focus on the post-Conference follow-up, but we note the remarks of the Secretariat that this is a very important part of the process. Perhaps, the Secretariat could advise us on how the results of the Conference can be incorporated into the programming of FAO and other organizations.

Canada would also be interested in the Secretariat's views on how it might use the opportunity presented by the ICN to extend or re-focus its own activities in the nutritional field.

In the past Canada has expressed some reservations about the timing of this Conference, but we have accepted the views of the majority to proceed, and we are attempting to facilitate the process. We therefore welcome the

Secretariat's assurances that preparations are proceeding more rapidly than perhaps was anticipated some six months ago. Nevertheless, we still have some concerns that the tightness of the schedule poses a significant obstacle to the effective production of papers and the essential associated process of consultation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. We hope that progress is sufficient so that the primary purpose of the ICN, to focus on the nutritional requirements of the developing nations, can be adequately addressed.

This Conference represents an important development opportunity, and we strongly endorse the comments made by Mr Dutia in his introduction that the ICN itself is not the end of a process but rather the beginning of a more concentrated approach to nutritional issues. It is a step in the continuing process of strengthening the commitment and actions needed to alleviate problems of hunger and malnutrition, and we urge all Member Countries to ensure that we all make use of the process associated with this Conference and the Conference itself to advance the cause of improved nutrition in the developing world.

**Ricardo VELAZQUEZ HUERTA (México)** : Ante todo deseamos agradecer a la Secretaria por la presentación de los documentos relativos, y al Sr. Dutia por la excelente exposición que hiciera sobre el tema.

México ve con profundo interés la celebración de esta primera Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición a celebrarse el año venidero. Estimamos que es urgente e indispensable continuar con los esfuerzos para contrarrestar el hambre, la malnutrición y las enfermedades relacionadas con la alimentación.

México hará su mejor esfuerzo por el éxito de esta Conferencia, y nos complace informar que estamos completamente listos para hospedar la Conferencia Regional para América Latina en abril del año entrante. Faltan algunos detalles que precisar, pero creemos estar ya en condiciones de decir que estamos preparados para ello. Nuestra constante comunicación y coordinación con los órganos responsables de la FAO, nos hace ver con optimismo los resultados de la Conferencia Regional que se celebrará en la Ciudad de México. Utilizaremos como salones de sesiones los de la propia Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores de México.

Agradecemos al personal de la FAO, que ha estado en constante contacto con nosotros para este propósito, especialmente al Sr. de la Taille y al Sr. Lupien. Podemos decir que México designó desde hace meses un punto focal para coordinar los trabajos de la Conferencia Regional, recayendo esta responsabilidad en un organismo que en México se conoce como el CONAL y que es la Coordinación Nacional para la Alimentación, que tiene un nivel ministerial y en el que participan aproximadamente 16 instituciones nacionales involucradas con la alimentación y que desarrollan distintas actividades en distintos campos, bien sea de la salud, del comercio y de la propia alimentación y nutrición. Contamos con un Instituto Nacional de Nutrición que, nos da orgullo decir, está muy bien instalado y es uno de los mejores del mundo. Quien dirige esta CONAL es el Licenciado Carlos Torres Manso, quien estuviera la semana pasada en este foro presidiendo la delegación mexicana. Bajo la coordinación del CONAL se instaló el Comité Nacional para la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición el pasado octubre, con la participación de 21 organismos del sector público, social y privado.

De igual manera, en el mes de Octubre se celebró el primer Seminario Nacional de Evaluación de Programas Alimentarios y Nutricionales de México, con la participación de las instituciones responsables de conducir las políticas y los programas alimentarios nacionales. Hemos contratado ya grupos consultores para la integración del informe nacional y en este mes, hace una semana, del 11 al 13, se realizó el primer Seminario Nacional sobre Enfermedades Carenciales por Micronutrimientos en el Instituto Nacional de Nutrición, y está por celebrarse, del 24 al 29, el Seminario Técnico preparatorio de la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición en la ciudad de Morelia (Michuacán), a unos 200 kilómetros de la ciudad de México. En este Seminario Técnico, participarán aproximadamente 35 expertos en áreas interdisciplinarias relacionadas con el estudio de las causas y los efectos de la malnutrición.

Dicho lo anterior, precisamos estar listos para realizar la Conferencia Regional. Esperamos que sus resultados contribuyan a los objetivos de la Conferencia Internacional y deseamos firmemente que sus resultados puedan vincularse a aquellos de otras conferencias y otros programas internacionales que tengan que ver con el desarrollo.

**François ROUX (Belgique):** Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier le Secrétariat pour les efforts qu'il fait pour nous tenir informés sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, et permettez-moi ensuite d'informer à mon tour officiellement et de confirmer que le Royaume de Belgique a pris toute une série de mesures pour préparer cette Conférence. Le Ministère de la santé publique a été désigné comme l'organe responsable de la préparation de la CIN. Et par ailleurs, un Conseil National de la Nutrition a été créé par arrêté royal, et ce Comité est constitué de nos plus éminents nutritionnistes.

Enfin, un Comité ad hoc prépare actuellement la contribution belge à la Conférence, et celle-ci sera double: il s'agira d'une part d'une participation à la préparation du document de base; et d'autre part, d'une collaboration avec les autorités du Burundi pour la présentation de la situation et de la stratégie alimentaire de ce pays.

D'autre part, la Belgique a également décidé d'aider, grâce à une contribution financière spéciale, une quinzaine de pays en développement pour les aider à mettre au point le rapport national.

Par ces activités, la Belgique n'a fait en fait que se conformer aux indications qui avaient été formulées par le Conseil de la FAO lors de sa centième session, concernant la réunion du Comité préparatoire qui se tiendra en août 1992 à Genève avant la Conférence elle-même qui est prévue finalement pour décembre 1992.

En conclusion, nous continuons d'estimer que, pour que la CIN ait véritablement un sens, il est essentiel d'y associer la participation de tous les membres de la communauté internationale.

**C. Sivasothy POOLOKASINGHAM (Sri Lanka):** I should first like to congratulate the Secretariat on the excellent documentation prepared for this Commission today. I wish to express my appreciation to Mr Dutia for the summarized introduction which is both informative and comprehensive. The document before us contains a range of activities presently in

progress. While fully endorsing the Programme of Action envisaged in the paper, my delegation notes with great satisfaction the progress made so far by the Secretariat in coordinating the work with other international agencies, donor governments, NGOs and private sector organizations. In response to the recommendations made by the Director-Generals of FAO and WHO, my Government has initiated a national programme towards the preparation of the ICN.

The Nutrition and Poverty Alleviation Policy Division of the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation is the designated focal point in Sri Lanka. In view of the multi-disciplinary nature of the nutritional programme, my Government has established an inter-sectorial Committee to examine the magnitude of the nutritional problem. That Committee would advise and formulate a strategy at national level to overcome this problem. One main feature of the Committee is to plan a series of seminars at national level involving ministries, local Government bodies, NGOs and private sector organizations.

My delegation wishes to place on record our deep appreciation for the financial assistance extended to us by the International Development Research Centre of Canada, IDRC, intended for the preparation of the ICN Country Paper of Sri Lanka, which has been confirmed to us by the FAO/WHO -ICN Joint Secretariat.

I wish to quote Professor Agostino Pierro of the Istituto di Clinica Pediatrica of the University of Rome, who states the following:

"Malnutrition is still one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in childhood. It changes significantly body composition and increases susceptibility to infections and has detrimental effects on the brain, liver, skin, kidney and immunity system. Correct nutrition is particularly important for children because their energy requirements should be devoted not only to maintain the resting energy expenditure but also to support growing".

That is an extract from a report prepared by Professor Agostino Pierro on the malnutrition problems pertaining to our country.

Recognizing the fact that nutrition is the first and foremost step in the development of human resources, my Government has introduced a wholesome nutritious midday meal, free-of-charge, to every student - they number approximately four million - throughout the country.

Malnutrition and poverty go hand in hand. The poverty alleviation programme, namely Janasaviya, has been launched by my Government to combat poverty which has a direct impact on the problems of nutrition.

Creating an awareness of malnutrition cannot be confined to the normal mass media such as television, radio and newspapers, as those media channels are not always available and are often beyond the reach of the poorer sector in many developing countries.

My delegation wishes to point out that there should be a continued assessment of the progress at national, regional and international levels, and my delegation agrees that the ICN is not viewed as an end in itself, as



stated in paragraph 47 of the document. There should be progress beyond the ICN to continue this process, failing which all this important work would not generate the desired results.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** La delegación brasileña quiere informar que el Gobierno de Brasil estableció en septiembre pasado un Comité interministerial para coordinar la posición brasileña en la Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Este Comité está integrado por representantes de los Ministerios de la Agricultura, Salud y Acción Social y el Instituto Nacional de Alimentación y Nutrición.

Nuestra delegación quiere también informar que la respuesta al documento sobre el Estado de la Nutrición en Brasil, solicitada por la FAO, deberá ser concluida a fines de diciembre y enviada a la Organización.

**Vishnu BHAGWAN (India):** I thank Mr Dutia for his excellent introduction giving an update about the ICN. My delegation recognizes the importance of the International Conference on Nutrition as a means to strengthen the commitment to prevent and alleviate problems of hunger and malnutrition. We are pleased to note the substantial progress in holding this Conference. We appreciate the efforts made by FAO and WHO in this regard.

I am happy to report that in my country the focal point for that purpose is the Ministry of Food and an inter-sectoral Committee comprising the Planning Commission, ministries of rural development, civil supplies and public distribution, urban development, information and broadcasting, health and family welfare, agriculture and cooperation, education, women and child development have been set up. The international organizations such as FAO, WHO, UNICEF, NGOs and university faculties are also associated with the working group.

The country paper is expected to be finally ready by the end of December 1991. I should also like to record my thanks to the Director-General, FAO, for recently sanctioning a TCP project on improving street foods in Calcutta. We are also grateful to the International Development Research Centre, as well as the Canadian Government, for having agreed to give assistance in the sum of \$15 000 Canadian in this connection. Thank you for your kind attention.

**F.A. Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** Let me begin by complimenting the Secretariat on producing the document C 91/27 which contains a very clear account of the significant progress which has been made in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition to be held in Rome in December 1992. I would like to thank Mr Dutia for introducing the paper and updating us on the subject.

We have noted that the preparation for the ICN is progressing along two parallel tracks globally and at national levels. We commend the valuable guidance which has been provided to all these preparatory activities by the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat set up especially for this purpose and would put on record our appreciation for the work done by the Food Policy and Nutrition Division of FAO, under the guidance and energy of Mr Dutia.

My delegation is of the view that the International Conference on Nutrition is of particular importance to the developing countries. Bangladesh expects to benefit greatly from a participation in the ICN. We appreciate the efforts that are being made by FAO and WHO in securing support of the potential donor countries and other funding sources to the country-level preparatory activities where necessary, and hope that those efforts would receive favourable response from the donors.

We also are happy to note that non-governmental organizations will also be invited to attend the ICN and feel that this will enrich the spectrum of participation in the Conference. Mr Chairman, my delegation is in full agreement with the concluding remarks in the document that the ICN is not seen as an end in itself but rather as a step in the continuing process to strengthen the commitment and action necessary to prevent and alleviate the problems of hunger and malnutrition. The Conference would indeed provide the world community with the opportunity to confront these problems and relate them to the underlying issues of inadequate food, health care and inequitable social and economic development.

Before I conclude, Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to express its best wishes to FAO and WHO for every success in their joint sponsorship of the Conference which, as Mr Dutia said in his introductory remarks, will be the first global meeting on nutrition. As a developing country which attaches great importance to raising the nutritional level of the population, Bangladesh looks forward to benefiting from the global plan of action which will be adopted by the Conference.

**António MAGALHAES COELHO (Portugal):** La délégation portugaise félicite le Secrétariat pour le document C 91/27 - qui nous donne un bon aperçu sur les préparatifs de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. Mon pays a accordé une grande importance à la préparation de cette réunion, car la population portugaise est fortement motivée par les problèmes de l'alimentation et de la nutrition.

Depuis la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil de la FAO, a été constitué au Portugal un groupe coordinateur des travaux préparatoires de sa représentation à la Conférence.

Ce groupe-là est coordonné par le Comité national de la FAO et par la représentation au Portugal de l'OMS, et intègre des représentants des services publics et des activités privées (ONG), communication sociale, des représentants des consommateurs et d'autres activités liées à l'alimentation et la nutrition.

Ce groupe développe son travail avec intensité et a déjà recueilli toute l'information considérée importante et qui se trouvait dispersée dans plusieurs services.

En ce moment, le rapport national se trouve en phase de rédaction, et nous pensons l'envoyer au Secrétariat à Rome dans le délai fixé. Le Portugal a reçu une demande de la FAO pour étudier la possibilité de donner une collaboration technique et matérielle aux pays africains de langue portugaise sur ce sujet.

Les frais que la FAO avait estimés étaient vraiment supérieurs à nos possibilités actuelles. Mais en tenant compte des excellentes relations entre le Portugal et les pays africains de langue officielle portugaise, le Gouvernement portugais a décidé de donner une contribution positive. Dans ce sens, l'Etat Portugais supportera les frais de séjour au Portugal pendant une semaine d'au moins un technicien de chacun des pays concernés. Ce séjour sera destiné à approfondir les "items" des rapports nationaux. Le Portugal supportera aussi le séjour d'un technicien portugais spécialiste dans chaque pays, si l'on considère cette forme d'appui complémentaire.

Le financement de ces activités sera réglé par les "Accords" de coopération bilatérale entre le Portugal et chacun de ces pays. De cette décision, la FAO a été déjà informée.

En ce moment, nous sommes en train de préparer la première réunion à Lisbonne.

**Petr ZIZKA (Czechoslovakia):** We have studied with great interest the forwarded material, C 91/27. Czechoslovakia is among the countries that have been from the very beginning in favour of calling an International Conference on Nutrition because the Government of Czechoslovakia is looking for means that may lead to an improvement of the unsatisfactory state of nutrition in the country. Statistics of the health service point out an important incidence of diseases caused by poor nutrition and a shortened average age of the population of Czechoslovakia associated with an increased rate of mortality.

For these reasons, Czechoslovakia offered to be coordinator of the regional seminar that is to be held in March 1992 in Bratislava. A similarly positive approach from Czechoslovakia to the forthcoming Conference is the establishment of a national coordination centre at the Federal Ministry of Economy which will coordinate the attendance of Czechoslovakia in the International Conference on Nutrition. At present, the centre is preparing a national report on the situation in Czechoslovakia.

The report of the FAO Secretariat gives a relatively small number for the existing National Committees on preparing for the ICN. This reflects the difficulties several countries have to face in order to secure finances that will cover the costs associated with their participation in the Conference.

We feel that the preparatory Committee of the Conference should give more attention to publicity, using the mass media to inform the wide public that a Conference on nutrition will be held and to point out the importance of an international collaboration in the field of nutrition.

The National Coordination Committee of Czechoslovakia should greatly welcome the preparation of a uniform information translated into the individual congress languages and distributed to the wide public.

**Antonio CARPINTERO SAIZ (España):** Quiero en primer lugar y siguiendo el ejemplo de todos los delegados que han hablado antes que yo, felicitar tanto al Consejo como al Sr. Dutia, por los documentos que nos han presentado y por el Informe que han hecho de la situación actual de los trabajos en curso.

En España se acogió desde el primer momento con gran interés la iniciativa de FAO y de la Organización Mundial de la Salud, para celebrar esta Conferencia Internacional de Nutrición. Y voy a tratar de exponerles cuál es la situación del documento nacional en este momento. Además de diseñar un Centro de Contacto Nacional que está en relación directa con FAO, se ha elaborado una Secretaría de Organización conjunta integrada por el Ministerio de Agricultura y el Ministerio de Sanidad, que son los que están supervisando la realización de todo el documento nacional.

En mi país, esta Secretaría ha contratado a diversos expertos en los temas que el documento contempla, y está en estos momentos en fase de redacción. Estamos tratando de implicar también a los Organismos no gubernamentales, porque como bien recoge uno de los documentos, forman parte importante de esta Conferencia. Estos Organismos están prestando ya apoyo a las personas que elaboran el documento, y dentro del calendario previsto. Puedo anunciarles que el lunes próximo, hay un acto en Madrid en el que se va a dar a conocer a la opinión pública la situación actual de estos trabajos, y se va a tratar de concienciarles de los problemas que existen. Si conseguimos que toda la población española tome conciencia de los problemas que nosotros tenemos, habrá sido un logro importante.

Creo que éste es uno de los objetivos principales que persigue la Conferencia. Por ello, aunque mi país no va a aumentar los gastos presupuestarios fuera de España, fuera de la elaboración del documento nacional, desde luego vamos a contribuir en la medida de lo posible a que la Conferencia sea un éxito, y estamos seguros de que así será.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany) (Original language German):** Since the Ninety-ninth Council of the FAO, preparations for the International Nutrition Conference have in fact obviously been proceeding very well. The final decision on the Conference to be held in December 1992 is proof of this. The impression we have got of the progress made in preparation leads us to believe that document C 91/27 reflects quite carefully all the preparations, and my country would like to support it. We would also like to thank Dr Dutia for his presentation of this document.

At present the document can only make reference to general technical and organizational aspects of the Conference, but my delegation believes that the subjects mentioned in paragraph 26 really take on board the problems that the Conference should be dealing with, especially so far as qualitative problems are concerned in matters of nutrition, taking into account the social and economic factors involved, in order to propose measures which will help the poorer populations in developing countries.

In my delegation's opinion the Action Plan that has been proposed is extremely important. It should contain realistic and feasible objectives. This is the first Conference of this nature within the framework of the United Nations system and it is preceded by numerous national and regional meetings of experts. It is to be hoped that FAO and WHO will work together with the respective countries in organizing the preparation of well-condensed documents leading up to the preparatory meeting in August 1992, so that the Conference itself can take place at a solid expert level and therefore fulfil our very high expectations. Timely preparation of national reports would contribute to this objective.

My country will be preparing a document of this nature, referring to the situation of nutrition and nutritional problems in the Federal Republic, by the end of this year. The national focal points in the two responsible ministries have already been appointed, and NGOs will also be involved in national preparation. The measures mentioned in the document for the preparation of the Conference receive our delegation's support, especially the idea of dedicating World Food Day 1992 to the subject of food and nutrition. The experiences that we have had in Germany on World Food Day permit us to be optimistic on the success of this type of campaign. Activities revolving around World Food Day in developed FAO member countries should, in our opinion, be used in order to encourage appropriate national frameworks and organizations so that they are encouraged to undertake actions which would allow for a positive follow-up to be made with respect to the Action Plan that has been proposed.

In this respect, my delegation would like to say that the report on the informal meeting of the international non-governmental organizations, held during the Twenty-sixth FAO Conference on 12 November 1991, document C 91/INF.1, supports this document. May we point out that points 9 and 11 of this document contain specific proposals which my delegation would like to support.

**Michael CARROLL (Australia):** Australia strongly supports the initiative by FAO and WHO in developing the first International Conference on Nutrition, and we appreciate the quality of the Agenda paper and the excellent update provided by Mr Dutia.

As part of its contribution to ICN, Australia is presently preparing a country paper which takes account of the inter-sectoral aspects of food and nutrition in Australia. The paper includes input from a wide range of government and non-governmental organizations and will be completed in early 1992.

Australia is also developing a national food nutrition policy, over-sighted by a multi-sectoral Committee. As part of the consultation phase of the policy development, a National Conference is planned for March 1992. The aspects being dealt with in the policy process are consistent with the aims and objectives of the ICN, and the National Conference will therefore provide a forum for contributing to the ICN preparations.

Australia is also contributing to regional preparations for the ICN. FAO and WHO have organized a Regional Workshop on Trends in Food and Nutrition in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in Thailand in January 1992. Australia is providing financial support to assist participants from four developing countries in the region, to attend the Regional Workshop in Thailand.

Australia joins other delegates who have asked that the planning for the Conference should provide for a focus on outcomes and follow-up action to capitalize on the significant investment being made in the Conference.

**Jean-Paul RIVAUD (France):** Dès l'origine, la France a soutenu la proposition du Directeur général d'organiser en coopération avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Cette coopération, déjà bien engagée dans le cadre du Comité d'orientation mixte et du Secrétariat conjoint FAO/OMS est l'une des conditions essentielles de la bonne préparation et du succès de la Conférence.

Je ne m'attacherai pas aux finalités de cette vaste entreprise si ce n'est pour rappeler le souci de mon pays de la voir déboucher sur des actions concrètes, articulées autour d'objectifs précis correspondant aux priorités définies par les pays intéressés eux-mêmes, puis examinées et discutées au niveau régional.

Les dispositions prises par la FAO et l'OMS, décrites dans le document C 91/27, et telles qu'elles ont été présentées avec précision par M. Dutia, permettent de penser que les préparatifs de la Conférence sont engagés dans la bonne voie.

Beaucoup reste à faire à tous les niveaux - national, régional, mondial -et il ne nous reste guère plus d'un an avant la Conférence. Mais beaucoup a déjà été fait pour définir le cadre et les méthodes de travail, préciser les objectifs et les grands domaines de préoccupation.

L'essentiel, au stade actuel, est de conserver l'élan qui a été pris, sachant qu'en tout état de cause l'élément le plus important est de susciter de façon permanente et à tous les niveaux une véritable prise en compte des problèmes de la nutrition.

Je voudrais ici donner quelques informations sur les mesures préparatoires qui ont été prises en France en vue de cette conférence.

Depuis la décision prise par la Conférence de la FAO en novembre 1989, des réunions de coordination sont régulièrement organisées à Paris entre les administrations et les spécialistes de la nutrition de nos instituts scientifiques, afin de définir le contenu et les modalités des contributions de la France à la Conférence.

Le Comité interministériel de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation a été désigné pour jouer le rôle de point focal.

L'établissement du rapport national a été confié au Conseil national de l'alimentation, instance créée par les pouvoirs publics en 1985, au sein de laquelle sont représentés les principaux partenaires de la filière agro-alimentaire : ministères chargés de l'agriculture, de la santé, de la consommation, producteurs agricoles, professionnels de la transformation, de la distribution et de la restauration collective, associations de consommateurs, organisations non gouvernementales, personnalités scientifiques qualifiées.

Le Conseil national de l'alimentation a déjà consacré plusieurs séances de travail à la préparation de ce rapport afin de permettre à la France de le présenter dans les délais prévus.

Nous comptons en particulier mettre en relief dans ce rapport notre attachement à une politique nutritionnelle nationale qui ne se traduit pas par un dispositif centralisé, imposé par voie législative, mais qui repose sur le libre choix de l'aliment pour les personnes, la prise en compte des aspects culturels de l'alimentation et le respect d'exigences de qualité rigoureusement définies.

Dans le cadre des travaux préparatoires à la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition, il a été prévu de réserver une place importante à la concertation au niveau régional. La délégation française se félicite de cette orientation tant il est vrai que des pays voisins ont souvent des préoccupations communes et que les problèmes majeurs rencontrés en matière de nutrition varient considérablement d'une région du monde à l'autre, comme l'ont bien montré les conférences régionales de la FAO qui se sont tenues en 1990.

Au niveau européen, la coopération dans le domaine de la nutrition est déjà très intense et la France y participe activement, notamment dans le cadre de la Communauté économique européenne.

Sous l'égide du Bureau régional de l'OMS pour l'Europe une Conférence technique s'est déjà tenue à Budapest en octobre 1990. D'autres réunions régionales sont prévues ou envisagées pour 1992.

Quel que soit le dispositif retenu pour organiser la concertation au niveau régional, il est essentiel que soient assurées - sous les auspices de la FAO et de l'OMS - les conditions nécessaires à une prise en compte complète et équilibrée des problèmes et des politiques de tous les pays de la région.

La France porte un intérêt tout particulier à la coopération régionale engagée en Afrique dans le domaine de la nutrition. L'action à mener peut s'appuyer largement sur les travaux déjà réalisés et les structures déjà mises en place comme l'organisation régionale pour l'alimentation et la nutrition en Afrique et l'organisation de lutte contre les grandes endémies.

La France est disposée à apporter une contribution à la tenue de la Conférence régionale que le Sénégal s'est proposé d'accueillir à Dakar.

L'Office de recherche scientifique et technique en coopération, l'ORSTOM apportera son assistance technique et nous espérons que d'autres donateurs pourront accorder eux aussi un appui à cette conférence africaine pour lui donner toute la dimension qu'en attendent les pays de la région.

Enfin, la France continuera d'apporter son appui au Secrétariat conjoint FAO/OMS par l'intermédiaire du Programme des cadres associés.

**Leslie J. BAJA (Philippines):** At the outset the Philippines delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its comprehensive report, and Mr Dutia for his clear introduction of the subject.

The joint sponsorship by FAO and WHO of the ICN once again highlights the importance of working together by specialized agencies in pursuit of the UN's cause - or rather aims - of promoting the economic and social advancement of all peoples. The Philippines fully supports this joint undertaking, and the National Nutrition Council of the Philippines has been identified as the national focal point for this Conference.

The NNC is at present preparing a country paper which will provide an assessment of the country's nutrition problems, an analysis of their causes, and plans and recommendations for future action.

The Philippine delegation wishes to express satisfaction at the progress of the preparations for the ICN, which will provide the world community with an opportunity to look critically at the continuing problems of hunger, malnutrition and diet-related disease and how they can be most effectively addressed. We are pleased in particular about the progress at country and regional level and the involvement of non-governmental organizations in the public information campaign. As we are all aware, these preparations cost money which cannot be defrayed from the regular budgets of FAO and WHO. We therefore support the call for extra-budgetary funds.

In developing the Conference theme, the Philippine delegation agrees with the conclusion of document C 91/27 that: the focus should be not just on the scope and dimension of hunger and malnutrition but also, and more importantly, on the creation of awareness of the need to address the related and underlying issues of inadequate food, health and inadequate social and economic development.

**Takakata OKAMOTO (Japan):** I would like to express our thanks to Mr Dutia for his introduction to document C 91/27. The Japanese Government considers food security as a top priority in agricultural issues and appreciates the outstanding effort by FAO to ensure food security.

I am happy to inform you that my Government has designated it a focal point for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and we have started to prepare country papers. We are pleased to be participating at this Conference because of our experience of improved nutrition following the Second World War. We hope that ICN will be a trigger for developing concrete strategies for systems to ensure adequate nutrition for all people in the world.

**D.P.D. VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands):** My delegation thanks the Secretariat for document C 91/27 and Mr Dutia for his concise introduction on development in the preparation process for the ICN. On previous occasions the Netherlands delegation has expressed reservations regarding the organization of this Conference, at that time mainly because the delegation was not sure about the possible contribution of such a Conference to the mitigation of nutrition problems. In our opinion, the possible relatively modest outcome of this Conference in contributing to the solution of the nutrition problem would not warrant the high cost of the organization of such an event. On the other hand, the Netherlands delegation was also of the opinion that, when such a Conference is to be held, priority should be given to tackling the problems of countries with malnutrition and food shortages. The delegation did not favour dealing at one and the same Conference with the aspects of food surpluses in developed countries and problems of structural food problems in a considerable number of developing countries as well. These were the reasons why the Netherlands eventually decided not to participate in the financing of the Conference.

Since preparation for the Conference has started, we have followed it very carefully. During the last Council meeting and the COAG earlier this year both we and a number of other delegations expressed concern about the timing of the preparation process. From the document, which is a summary of the ICN country level activities in anglophone Africa, we learned that progress is being made, but much has still to be done at various levels to make the Conference a worthwhile achievement, which is something we all



want. In that regard, once again the Netherlands delegation draws to the attention of the ICN Organization Secretariat the need to take care that those who have responsibility for various aspects of the food sector will be committed to the Conference. This will be necessary to achieve a balanced approach to food supply and health aspects in the Conference.

Finally, it has been said at various previous meetings, and Mr Dutia has stressed it in his introduction, that NGOs can play a valuable role in the preparation process of the Conference and there is a definite interest in participating in it. In the days before the Conference I was approached by one of our NGOs regarding this matter and we will be most happy to investigate this with you further. My delegation supports the Canadian proposal for an international NGO working group.

**P. Natigor SIAGIAN (Indonesia):** My delegation appreciates the Secretariat's efforts in preparing this comprehensive document, C 91/27. We would also like to thank the Secretariat and Mr Dutia for the clear and substantive introductory remarks. We welcome the initiative of the Secretariat in drawing the attention of Member Nations to the agricultural potential for improving nutrition. We are of the view that countries should have the commitment and the political will to make available the resources necessary to improve the situation. Improvements in nutrition should receive high priority along with other health service developments, such as safe water supply, disease control, family planning, environmental health and sanitation and particular assistance should be given to low income communities in rural and urban areas. This improvement would require greater provision of medicines and medical equipment as well as the development of health insurance schemes for community self-financing of health services. My delegation is of the view that the community health centres should be the primary vehicle for delivery, especially for mothers and young children. Our experience in Indonesia has shown that organized activities in the community centres are also important fora for the extension of cultural services, to assist in the improvement of family nutrition and increasing household income and the campaign on home gardening. According to the study on health in rural areas in Java Island, Indonesia home gardens provide more than 20 percent of household income and more than 40 percent of a household's calorie requirement. Poor households tend to sell a higher proportion of their products in the local markets and these sales may account for the single largest source of income for such households. Therefore efforts should be made to strengthen these activities at community centre level because experience has shown us that this is a promising area and that it is a cost-effective way of guiding people's activities. We hope that this can be considered as an input for the forthcoming ICN meetings. In this connection, my delegation would like to support the view that ICN should place particular emphasis on malnutrition in relation to poverty and other manifestations of under-development.

In regard to the preparation for the ICN, we welcome the scope and content of ICN, we welcome the scope and content of ICN as stated in paragraphs 24 and 27 of this document. We wish to reiterate the views of the Twenty-fifth Conference that the ICN should have a regional focus in devising strategies and proposals. We wish to draw attention also to the recommendation of the Asia-Pacific FAO Regional Conference for improving household food security, which stressed the need to increase women's participation in training and income-generating activities and establishing method to promote greater productivity and higher incomes for women.

In Indonesia preparation for national country papers which cover inter-sectoral aspects is currently being undertaken and good progress is being made. All preparations, including the holding of a national seminar in December 1991, have been under the coordination of a National Preparatory Committee for ICN. The Indonesian focal point consists of experts and high-ranking government officials in nutrition-related institutions. We are looking forward to receiving the background document "The Assessment and Analysis of Trends and Current Problems in Nutrition", as this will be the basis for the preparation of our national seminars.

We warmly welcome the good intention of FAO to assist developing countries to enable their experts to participate fully and actively in this important global Conference. All possible efforts to ensure the attendance of experts from the developing countries would also be an important step towards a successful Conference. We note Mr Dutia's introductory remarks that the ICN itself is not the end but just the beginning of world cooperative efforts to combat malnutrition by working together in all related developmental sectors.

As a result of our request to the international agencies dealing with nutrition for assistance in projects and activities in Indonesia, my delegation is pleased to inform this Commission that the Indonesian National Preparation Committee has received close cooperation and assistance from WHO and UNICEF through its representative offices in Jakarta. USAID has also communicated a positive response in the way of possible assistance in the preparation of the national papers and for the holding of a national seminar in December 1991. Indonesia therefore wishes to express its thanks to them. We however still look forward to the possible support of the FAO and other donors in making it possible for our experts to attend both the regional and global ICN meetings. In this regard, we hope that extra-budgetary funds can be provided for FAO to make it possible to respond to this request by the developing countries. We wish all the best to FAO and WHO. The developing countries, including my own, have great confidence in the capability of FAO and WHO to make this important ICN Conference a very successful one.

**Ugo COLOMBO-SACCO (Italy):** The Italian delegation wishes to compliment the Secretariat for its clear and up-to-date report on the significant work being done in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to reiterate the main concepts of our speech at the last Council session. Very briefly, the Italian delegation confirms its strong support for FAO and WHO for the International Conference on Nutrition. Italy will certainly offer its help on various aspects of the preparatory process. Details concerning the extent of the financial contributions are being finalized and will be made known as soon as possible.

**J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America):** I would like to do two main things. First, I would like to give an overview to the Members of the Commission and the Secretariat of how the United States is organizing its participation in the Conference and, secondly, I would like to share some of our views on the work that has already been undertaken by the FAO/WHO Secretariat. The overall responsibility in the United States for preparing for the Conference lies with the Department of Agriculture and with the

US Department of Health and Human Services under the general direction of the Assistant Secretary for Food and Consumer Services at the Department of Agriculture. Preparations of these papers and case studies for the Conference are well under way. Government agencies have been asked to draft portions of the US country paper, with input from state, NGOs, industry and other private sector groups. The paper will focus primarily on domestic programmes but it will also deal with United States international activities, with the US Agency for International Development participating in that portion of the paper.

The United States country paper will be given broad review by non-government organizations, the academic community and the food industry, as well as the general public. We are following the basic format suggested by the FAO/WHO Secretariat. We plan to share this paper with our colleagues from the north, Canada, and to consult with them on it.

The US Agency for International Development has been in contact with a number of developing country governments - and we have just heard from one a moment ago - about ways in which the United States could assist them in Conference preparations. In addition, USAID is contributing to one of these papers entitled "Promoting Healthy Diets and Lifestyles".

The document before us here refers to the need to pay for various regional and sub-regional preparatory meetings. In the event that obtaining the extra funds proves difficult, we would suggest that one way to reduce costs for FAO members would be to consider re-scheduling the meetings so that they would be held in conjunction with the five FAO Regional Conferences next year. We believe that joint meetings would reduce duplicative discussion and achieve significant cost savings. We note that nutrition was an Agenda Item at each of the Regional Conferences in 1990 and that it is also scheduled as an Agenda Item again for the coming year.

The United States is actively soliciting specific proposals for future action, both domestically and internationally. While we feel that it is useful for the ICN to review assessments of nutritional problems and to set targets to overcome them, the Conference will only be a major success if nations agree on specific and concrete measures that they can undertake together in areas such as food safety, quality and labelling, the eradication of micro-nutrient deficiency diseases, and nutrition monitoring and education.

We are pleased to see the FAO/WHO Secretariat's efforts to involve other UN agencies and NGOs in preparations for the Conference. We encourage the Secretariat to take advantage of the expertise which exists in these agencies. We trust that they will make every effort to involve representatives of the food industry. We urge the Conference to recognize fully the importance of the private sector and actively to solicit its cooperation and involvement. Unfortunately, the document mentions the private sector only twice: firstly in a paragraph on limiting interventions at the Conference and, secondly, as a source of financial contribution.

Paragraph 35 suggests "selectivity in the representation of different classes of interest (food, agriculture, health, consumers, industry, etc.) as regards interventions possibly based on their contributions at the country and regional level".

We have some problems with this suggested approach, since North America may not have a formal regional meeting, a fact that would disadvantage our NGO and industry representation. We trust that an alternative mechanism can be found to contain discussion, but to keep it open and balanced among all interested groups.

The United States appreciates all the work that FAO and WHO have already done in preparing for the Conference. US agencies are actively assisting the Secretariat with technical preparations and we shall continue to offer our support. We have a great opportunity in the International Conference and the United States plans to do its part to make the Conference a success.

Finally, with respect to the issue made by the delegate of Haiti, we regret the introduction of a political issue in this technical Conference. The action mentioned is a collective action under the aegis of the OAS community.

**Ms Charlotte SEYMOUR-SMITH (United Kingdom):** The United Kingdom delegation thanks the Secretariat of FAO for the preparation of this document which reports on the progress in preparing for the ICN. We also thank Mr Dutia for introducing this Agenda Item to the present meeting.

The United Kingdom would have preferred to see the ICN postponed beyond its present scheduled date of December 1992, in order to allow for thorough country and regional preparation. However, it is now clear that postponement is no longer an issue, and we would therefore like to focus our comments on how FAO should follow through the ICN initiative after the Conference event itself.

In this respect we wish to stress two points: the first is that the problems of hunger and malnutrition must be addressed within the context of overall social and economic development. The major challenges lie in the areas of problem analysis, prioritization, policy analysis and management, within the context of the specific situations of individual countries.

The second point we wish to emphasize is that the role of the UN Agencies within the ICN process is to identify - on a country-by-country basis - the needs for human and institutional resources, and to develop a decentralized strategy to assist in strengthening these resources.

With regard to the continuation of the ICN initiative after December 1992, we would like to ask the Secretariat to inform the Conference what plans FAO and WHO have for using the country papers and focal points as a basis for the assessment of management capacity and human resources. Does the Secretariat have any information to share with us on who will take responsibility for this continuing process of country assessment? In particular, are there any plans for continuing coordination between FAO and WHO in this regard? The outcome of the ICN process and the country assessments will also need to be reflected in the prioritization of resources within the two Agencies, if the full benefits are to be gained from the considerable investment of time, effort and resources which are being devoted to this important Conference.

Finally, I am pleased to inform this Conference that, in response to the appeal by FAO for additional resources to assist the fullest possible developing country participation in the ICN preparatory process, the United Kingdom will be making a contribution towards this process.

**Manuel VARA OCHOA (Perú):** Agradecemos a la Secretaria por el documento presentado y la presentación del tema a cargo del Sr. Dutia. Valoramos los esfuerzos de la FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Salud en la realización de la próxima Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición a realizarse en diciembre de 1992 y sobre la cual tenemos la plena seguridad de que se va a desarrollar con el mayor de los éxitos.

En el caso del Perú, nuestros organismos públicos, institutos de investigación y privados, bajo la coordinación del Ministerio de Salud Pública, están trabajando intensamente en la elaboración del Informe Nacional que resuma la situación nutricional de nuestro país y sus posibles soluciones.

Estimamos que en este periodo de rápida transformación de las estructuras económicas y políticas la realización de la Conferencia va a constituir un hecho trascendental en la lucha por resolver los problemas de malnutrición, tanto en los países desarrollados como en los países en vías de desarrollo, dentro del contexto de que existe malnutrición por deficiencia y existe malnutrición por exceso.

Apoyamos los temas materia de la Conferencia consignados en el párrafo 26 del informe y hacemos llegar nuestra inquietud en relación con el capítulo de incorporación de objetivos de nutrición en las políticas y programas de desarrollo, a fin de que se pueda estudiar y recomendar la posibilidad del dictado como curso obligatorio del curso general de nutrición humana dentro del curriculum de las facultades de las universidades agrarias.

Finalmente, hacemos un llamado a fin de lograr la mayor asistencia de los donantes a fin de contribuir con el éxito de la Conferencia como una de las medidas más concretas de la FAO de prevenir y paliar los problemas del hambre, garantizando la asistencia de todos los miembros de la comunidad internacional a esta importante Conferencia.

**Mohammed IBOUMRATEN (Maroc) (Langue originale arabe) :** Je voudrais avant tout, au nom de la délégation Marocaine, féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents concernant ce point de l'ordre de jour, et remercier M. Dutia pour sa présentation exhaustive. La délégation Marocaine rend hommage aux efforts déployés par la FAO pour la préparation de la CIN.

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous tenir au courant des mesures prises par le Maroc en prévision de cette Conférence.

M. le Président, Le Gouvernement marocain a accordé à cette conférence toute l'attention qu'elle mérite. Il s'est empressé de créer un Comité groupant tous les ministères et institutions nationales s'intéressant à la nutrition pour préparer le rapport national, et en prévision de cette Conférence, ce Comité s'est réuni à plusieurs reprises pour prendre les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la participation effective du Maroc à la CIN.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais vous informer que le rapport national sera mis au point avant la fin de cette année. Nous espérons que la CIN aboutira à des recommandations répondant aux aspirations de la Communauté internationale et susceptibles de contribuer à l'amélioration de la situation nutritionnelle mondiale et surtout dans les pays en voie de développement.

**Zhong-Jung ZHANG (China) (Original language Chinese):** I should like to thank the Secretariat for preparing document C 91/27 and also Mr Dutia for his clear introduction.

The Chinese delegation appreciates the work done by FAO and WHO in preparing the International Conference on Nutrition. Before this Conference we have already mentioned at the Hundredth Session of the FAO Council that China is prepared to attend the International Conference on Nutrition. So I will not go into detail here. China will actively take part in the International Conference on Nutrition to be held in December next year.

I should now like to make the following remarks in terms of contents and themes of the International Conference on Nutrition. In general, the Chinese delegation agrees with the theme contained in paragraph 26 of document C 91/27.

Therefore, I should like to stress the importance of incorporating the nutrition objectives into the development plans and policies.

At the country level nutrition issues involve many sectors such as agriculture, public health, commerce and education. Therefore it will be of great significance to incorporate the nutrition objectives into the overall social and economic development strategies and plans. Especially when formulating the agricultural development strategies, much attention should be given to improving the people's nutrition level. From the global level, the issue of nutrition should be seen in connection with the issue of unbalanced economic development, and the whole international community should assist and support the economic development of developing countries through its efforts to improve human nutrition.

Apart from that, I should also like to stress the importance of education in changing people's diet and improving people's nutrition.

We fully support the selection of "Food Nutrition" as the theme for the 1992 World Food Day. The proposed activities will help to raise public awareness on nutrition issues.

Finally, I want to stress further the point in paragraph 47 of document C 91/27 that the ICN is not seen as an end in itself. It is our hope that ICN will work out action-oriented strategies and that its follow-up activities will be widely supported by the international community.

**Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola):** En premier lieu, nous tenons à féliciter M. Dutia de la présentation complète et claire du document C 91/27. Nous nous félicitons aussi de l'heureuse initiative de la FAO/OMS pour la réalisation de la Conférence sur la nutrition et la collaboration de plus en plus étroite entre les deux organisations

L'organisation de cette conférence dans mon pays est considérée d'une grande importance. A cet effet, il a été créé une commission interministérielle réunissant des spécialistes de différents secteurs sociaux et économiques du pays et des experts des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et de certaines ONG travaillant en Angola sous la coordination du Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural, et certaines études de cas sont déjà en cours.

A ce stade, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de toutes les initiatives qui ont été prises en ce qui concerne les préparatifs de la première Conférence internationale sur la nutrition et spécialement des pays qui se sont manifestés d'une façon volontaire à prêter une assistance technique et financière aux plans préparatoires, afin de permettre une participation massive et active des pays en développement.

Comme il est bien stipulé dans ce document, la FAO et l'OMS connaissent de graves difficultés financières. A cet égard, l'allocation des ressources extrabudgétaires à la préparation aux niveaux national et régional, ainsi qu'à la participation de délégués provenant des pays en développement aux différentes activités prévues, est indispensable.

Avant de terminer, M. le Président, nous ne pouvons passer sous silence le fait de féliciter l'Italie pour sa réaction très positive d'aider les pays en développement.

Nous nous félicitons de la disponibilité du Portugal de venir en aide aux pays d'Afrique d'expression portugaise, ainsi que la France pour la Conférence régionale qui aura lieu au Sénégal, et espérons que d'autres pays donateurs suivront l'exemple si louable de ces pays.

**Jorge Alberto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau):** Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord remercier M. Dutia pour, la présentation du document et pour les explications données à ce propos. Mon pays attache une très grande attention à la préparation de la Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. A cet effet, nous avons déjà nommé notre point de convergence et créé le Comité national constitué par des éléments des ministères de l'agriculture, de la santé et du Plan. Le Comité national est en train de préparer une série de manifestations qui commencera par l'organisation d'un séminaire du 9 au 13 décembre cette année. Le document national est aussi en préparation.

Mais, pour aboutir à une bonne préparation et participation dans toutes les réunions et rencontres prévues pour la Conférence, notre pays a besoin d'une aide spéciale. A cet égard, nous profitons de cette occasion pour sensibiliser la FAO et les pays ici présents à une haute participation à la Conférence et aux activités programmées à ce propos. Nous en profitons pour remercier le Gouvernement portugais pour sa disposition par rapport aux pays africains d'expression officielle portugaise, ainsi que la France pour sa participation à l'organisation de la Conférence préparatoire à Dakar.

**Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden):** Allow me to add my voice to those who have commended Dr Dutia and his staff on all the preparations for the Conference. Like other speakers before me, we have had some concerns about the short time available for the preparations for the Conference. We would have liked to see it postponed until 1993, although we also know from

previous experience that if there is a strong commitment on the part of both Secretariats involved, Member Nations and NGOs there is good possibility of making the Conference a success even if the time for preparation is short. I think the WCARRD Conference in 1979 is a case in point when it comes to the preparation process.

Having listened to all the statements that have been given on the preparations going on in various countries, my delegation feels confident that this Conference on nutrition has a good chance of being a success.

For our part, our preparations are well under way. We have a National Committee involving some different Ministries and Government agencies, and we hope to be able to finalize our own national report before the end of this year. In addition to this, we are also preparing some voluntary papers for presentation either at the regional meeting or at the Conference itself dealing with specific nutritional problems of immigrant groups and refugees.

We are confident that this Conference will be of significance to all members in our Organization dealing with nutritional problems - and I stress all countries, be they developed, developing or in transition, since our world is becoming more inter-dependent, and many of the same nutritional problems will be found in various countries.

Finally, I should like to support what my Belgian colleague said in his plea for all members to participate in the Conference in order to make it truly successful.

**Eduardo HERMANNY (Brasil):** Mi delegación quería informar también porque es importante, que el punto de contacto en Brasil para la Conferencia es la División de Organismos Internacionales especializados del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Brasil; y que nuestro Gobierno, queremos informar también, realizará un Seminario con fecha a ser confirmada sobre los temas que serán examinados en la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** I should like to thank most sincerely all the member countries who have participated in the debate on this item for the strong support that they have reiterated to the International Conference on Nutrition. We have also been very much encouraged by the information that the delegates have provided on the preparatory activities that are under way in their countries. In fact, the information that has been provided by them today reconfirms their active interest in making the ICN a success. It already shows how much is being done in each country, and it also reconfirms the country commitments to make the Conference a success. We in the Secretariat are very encouraged by this.

I should like to express our sincere thanks also to the donor countries that have offered concrete support in terms of helping developing countries in country level preparations, as well as in the holding of the regional and sub-regional meetings.



We are also encouraged that a number of them have expressed readiness to do even more. In this context I should like to respond to the request made by the delegate of Canada on having more information on countries that still need assistance. I may say that we shall be very happy to provide such information to him and also to any other donor country that wishes to have this information.

We hope that the momentum that has already been generated will gather speed, and that more support will be forthcoming in the months ahead. In fact, this is crucial if we want to achieve the objective of making ICN a first Intergovernmental Conference on Nutrition which has been truly built from the bottom up. This is a unique opportunity and I hope that we shall seize it and will not allow it to slip through our fingers.

Some Member Nations have still expressed some concern about the timing. I should like to comment that although considerable progress has already been made, both at the country level as well as by the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat in preparing for the Conference, we are very conscious that a lot more needs to be done in the few months that are ahead of us.

We are conscious that we will have to work intensively until the Conference day but I can assure you that we shall do our best to prepare a sound basis for the International Conference on Nutrition so as to provide a worthwhile, comprehensive and achievable programme of work which can be followed up by all in the interests of the people who need this.

I would now like to turn to some of the questions which have been raised and some remarks that have been made which require clarification on the part of the Secretariat. Firstly, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to the observations made by the distinguished delegate of Denmark in explaining why his country still finds it difficult to support the ICN activities outside of Denmark. I believe, Mr Chairman, that there is a need for some clarification on the objectives of the Conference. The distinguished delegate of Denmark referred to the objective of the Conference as developing or increasing the awareness of the nutrition problem. Indeed, that is one of them but that is not the only one. Increasing the awareness of the Conference is only the first step. It is an essential step but it is only the first step.

The other objectives of the Conference include what he was pleading for, namely, adoption of the strategy and proposals for action to reach agreed nutrition and dietary goals. In fact, one of the important outputs of the International Conference on Nutrition is going to be a plan of action in which Member Nations will agree at a political level not only on the problems but also on what can be done, and also agree on the mobilization of resources, both technical and financial, in order to implement that plan of action. Mr Chairman, through you, I would appeal to the distinguished delegate of Denmark that he might take the opportunity of conveying this to the concerned authorities in his country in order that due attention could be given also to the other objectives of this Conference.

I may also add, that the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Nutrition, Professor Ramalingaswami, is proposing to visit the Nordic countries, including Denmark and some other countries, in December, and that will be a good opportunity to have some further exchange of views on this important matter. I sincerely hope, as a result of this, it will be

possible for Denmark, which is a country which has taken interest in this problem of nutrition over a long period, as he himself pointed out, to support this International Conference on Nutrition.

I would now like to refer to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Ethiopia who wanted to know more about the success of our efforts in enlisting support for the country-level activities. I am pleased to inform him and also other members of the Commission that FAO and WHO have helped 29 countries in undertaking national preparatory activities. In addition, about 30 countries are already receiving support from 10 bilateral donors and other UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNDP at this stage. More countries we hope will receive assistance within the next month especially regarding their participation in the regional and sub-regional meetings.

The distinguished delegate of Canada also wanted to know as to what sort of contributions have been received from other UN agencies. I am informed that UNICEF is preparing one of the main theme papers on the carrying capacity and this will be contributing to the preparation of the plan of action in the end.

IFAD has expressed interest in the subject of household food security and poverty alleviation through rural agricultural development. From UNHCR we have been promised inputs on the refugee problems; the UN University will provide information on countries where UN University studies on nutrition have been carried out. WFP has offered inputs on food aid and IAEA has shown interest in the micro-nutrients, ways to measure them, and food irradiation in food quality and safety. All these will be worked into the main theme papers which are being prepared, which I mentioned will be ultimately providing inputs for the preparation of the draft plan of action.

The distinguished delegate of Canada also enquired as to how the results of the ICN will be or can be incorporated into FAO's and other agencies' programme of work as well as in the other bilateral agencies. Mr Chairman, it is very difficult to be precise in giving an answer to this question because we have to wait to see what kind of programme or plan of action will emerge at the end of the Conference itself, but we do anticipate that the Conference will make important recommendations which will affect a number of activities which are at present undertaken by FAO through its Nutrition Division like, for example, in the very important area of food quality and safety; the work that is done through FAO and WHO Codex Alimentarius, we do expect the Conference to make recommendations which will strengthen this work.

We also expect that important recommendations could emerge for the alleviation of micro-nutrient deficiencies, on nutrition education, as well as nutrition evaluation assessment and policies in addition to nutrition monitoring. We believe that similar recommendations on the ICN could be of direct relevance to the programme of work, also of some other agencies, particularly WHO and also UNICEF, and I believe that the output of the ICN will have an important role assigned also to the ACC/SCN in terms of coordination of the UN agency-wide work. We also hope that as a result of the ICN plan of action it will be possible to establish greater collaboration and to enlist more support: to the implementation of that plan of action from the bilateral agencies as well. These are preliminary talks because much will depend on what exactly is the outcome of the Conference.

The distinguished delegate of Czechoslovakia referred to the need for public information on the International Conference on Nutrition. We are conscious of this and I would say that we are preparing a leaflet and a booklet presenting the Conference which will be translated in all languages and made available early in 1992. In fact, we hope that the regional workshops, regional and sub-regional meetings, that are planned in the early part of 1992 will be a good occasion for launching this publicity campaign.

The distinguished delegate of Germany emphasized the need for ICN to be based on strong scientific preparation. We entirely agree with him. In fact, the Country Papers that are prepared now, and the global theme papers and case studies which FAO, WHO and also UNICEF are undertaking will provide up-to-date scientific information which will help in the finalization of the assessment paper as well as help to prepare the proposals for the draft plan of action which will be presented to the ICN.

In addition, we have established an Advisory Group of experts in which eminent scientists and nutritionists are represented and they are advising us on the subject matters which need to be addressed by the Conference.

We are also encouraged and very happy regarding the comments made by the distinguished delegates concerning the involvement of the NGOs in the ICN. We are happy that the proposals and the strategy that has been put forward and that you have considered have found general endorsement, and this will then encourage us to proceed further in that direction.

We have also taken note of the support for an informal working group, an FAO/WHO/INGO informal group, to be established to help us in involving the NGOs in the preparation processes of the ICN.

We have also noted the concern expressed by the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands about a balanced approach between health and agricultural concerns, and the Programme of Work that would emanate from the Conference should have that balance in it. We are conscious of that, and we hope that it will be reflected also in the countries' delegations which will participate in the Regional and Sub-Regional Workshops. Here there is a problem in that if more than one ministry is to be represented in the Regional and Sub-Regional Workshops, there is a need for more resources. I think this is one aspect which the donor countries may wish to consider in providing their support to the Regional and Sub-Regional Workshops, particularly the participation of developing country delegations.

A number of distinguished delegates have also commented on the importance of the follow-up to the Conference. We fully agree with that. As we have already stated, and as many delegates here have reiterated, the ICN is not an end in itself; it is a process, and a more important part of that process will begin after the Conference is over, when the Plan of Action, which has been endorsed by the Member Governments at the policy level, will have to be translated into actual action in the countries themselves.

We think that the Plan of Action which will be adopted by the ICN will provide a very useful and a very suitable framework for initiating the country-level activities. As we see it, the country papers that are now being prepared will already contain some ideas about the actions which need to be taken in each country, taking into account the specific conditions that prevail. Now these actions, which have been identified by the

countries themselves, will need to be revisited in the light of the outcome of the ICN in terms of the Plan of Action. This will have to be done through the inter-ministerial Coordination Committees which have already been established by a large number of countries for preparing their country-level activities, and therefore there is a good basis for anticipating that an inter-sectoral approach will be, and will continue to be, adopted by the countries in order to implement the Plan of Action at the country-level.

Now of course in this it is important that the countries are supported by the bilateral agencies and also that there is an active involvement of the NGOs in the implementation of such programmes.

I would now like to comment on some of the observations made by the distinguished delegate of the United States concerning the involvement of the private sector.

Here I would like to mention that we have encouraged the private sector to submit materials for some of the team papers, and two industry-related international NGOs have already submitted detailed documents for consideration within the team papers and the overall assessment paper and the draft Plan of Action, which we are preparing; and we value this.

The distinguished delegate of the United States also made a suggestion to hold regional and sub-regional meetings together with the FAO Regional Conferences. We have taken note of this suggestion. It is an interesting suggestion, but we see some logistic difficulties in following this up because our intention is to hold the Regional and Sub-Regional meetings in the first quarter of 1992, in order that the outputs of these Regional and Sub-Regional Workshops will be available for the finalization of the assessment paper and the Plan of Action, and both these papers have to be finalized at the latest by the middle of 1992. Now this is one reason why we find that it is necessary to hold these meetings on their own. But we have taken note of this suggestion which you have made.

The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom asked a question about the follow-up to the country assessment of papers. I believe I answered this question in saying that the follow-up of the ICN in terms of the implementation of the Plan of Action in respect of the problems identified at the country level will have to be done by the countries themselves through the inter-ministerial Coordination Committees that have been established. Of course, there is another objective of the ICN, and that is to monitor year-to-year changes in nutritional status. In order to achieve this objective, we would also require consultative efforts at the country level as well as efforts by the international organizations like FAO, WHO, UNICEF and others.

We hope that the ICN will be able to identify certain assessment techniques which are simple and inexpensive to carry out and which can be quickly analysed to direct attention to problem areas at the local, national and global levels; and in this again, the National Committees will need to play a very important role.

I believe I have replied to the questions that have been raised by the distinguished delegates. Before closing, I would like once again to express thanks for the strong support and interest which the distinguished delegates have shown in the International Conference on Nutrition.

Mr Chairman, if there are any questions which I have left out in my replies, I would certainly be happy to reply to them again.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Dutia most sincerely for the detailed answers he has given. Are there any further comments?

There being none I think I can try to summarize a little bit.

We have listened to 29 delegations during this debate which gives a clear reaction to what Mr Dutia said about the great interest in the Conference.

I have jotted down a few points for the Drafting Committee. One main point has been the detailed information given both by the Secretariat and by delegations on the progress in their preparations for the Conference: that applies both to the preparation of national papers and to the establishment of National Committees. That is two main points.

My second point is that a number of delegations had hoped that the Conference would have been in 1993 instead of at the end of 1992. I noted that, in replying, Mr Dutia said that FAO is very conscious of the need for more work within a shorter period of time. I think it is important that everybody helps in doing as much as possible in preparing for the Conference.

My third point is that one of the preparations for the Conference could be that World Food Day in 1992 would have as a theme 'Food and Nutrition'. I think that is a very good idea and I think it should be noted in the report.

My fourth point is the involvement of NGOs, which again I think is a very important point, which has been mentioned several times over, and I know that FAO is well aware of the need for that.

My next point evolves around the support for the involvement in developing countries by the Conference. We have noted a number of developed countries indicating their willingness to support this and I think this should again be stressed.

My last point - and that of course is the difficult thing, you cannot say too much about it, Mr Dutia, right now - is the kind of follow-up to the Conference. The Conference may in itself be interesting but it will be much more interesting what happens afterwards. What you are trying to establish is a Plan of Action which the Conference should adopt, but there will be quite a bit of follow-up, and therefore also for FAO and all of us, the problem afterwards of resources. I think this is my last point.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 45.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas.

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 91/II/PV/16

Twenty-sixth Session  
COMMISSION IIVingt-sixième session  
COMMISSION II26° período de sesiones  
COMISION II**SIXTEENTH MEETING  
SEIZIEME SEANCE  
16 SESION**

(22 November 1991)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hoursMr Hans Jorgen Kristensen, Chairman of Commission II, presidingLa seizième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15sous la présidence de M. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Président de la  
Commission IISe abre la 16ª sesión a las 15.15 horasbajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Jorgen Kristensen. Presidente de  
la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

**CHAIRMAN:** I am sorry about the delay but we have been waiting for the draft reports. We have before us three Draft Reports, REP/5, REP/6 and REP/7; REP/7 will be distributed here in the Room and so I will take it slowly. Could we begin by taking REP/5 on Relations and Consultations with International Organizations?

Mr Carandang, you have the floor.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The Drafting Committee has the honour to present to you the Draft REP/5 which contains the Relations and Consultations with International Organizations. I just want to inform you that probably this is a Draft Report which has cost the Committee the greatest amount of time and discussion in the Drafting Committee. We had difficulty in trying to approve this report precisely because there were only a few interventions and the Committee has difficulty in reflecting what was the sense of the debate; whether we had to attribute to the Conference as a whole an opinion that has been voiced just by a few delegations, and I think this was the basic difficulty we have had in the Drafting Committee, that is, how to interpret the opinions of the Commission.

Therefore, it is presented again to you. We have had difficulty in interpreting the sense of the Committee before but this time we had great difficulty and it took us a long time. It is now being submitted to you and it is up to you to judge whether it is an adequate reflection of the proceedings of the debate. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, Mr Carandang. We will now take the report paragraph by paragraph.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 8

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 8

PARRAFOS 1 A 8

**F.A Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** First of all I would like to compliment the Drafting Committee for producing this excellent report in such a short time, and despite difficulties, as narrated by the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr Chairman, I would like to draw your kind attention to paragraph 3. This paragraph deals with the importance of coordination in maximizing the impact of FAO's work and benefits to member countries.

This was highlighted in the interventions of many distinguished delegates, some of whom also pointed out that in order to enhance FAO's activities in this regard resources were required. This aspect was also addressed in his concluding remarks by the Chairman of that afternoon's proceedings. While summing up the discussion of the Agenda Item, Ambassador Nanjira of Kenya, who presided over the proceedings of the Commission that afternoon said, amongst other things - and I have this in the Verbatim which has since been brought out - page 14 of the Verbatim, under the subtitle Chairman, paragraph 4 of his Verbatim statement: it says that there is a call for FAO to increase its activities, but it has also been pointed out that in order for FAO to enhance its activities it needs the tools to do the job; it needs the tools to do the job.

Mr Chairman, we feel that this element should find a place in this paragraph and I would therefore suggest that after the first sentence of paragraph 3, which ends with "should be given priority", we may add, after your consideration, another sentence. My suggested sentence would form the second sentence of the paragraph which means that after the first sentence we might add another sentence which would read as follows: "It pointed out also, however, that resources were required to enhance FAO's activities in this regard". I shall read it again: "It pointed out also, however, that resources were required to enhance FAO's activities in this regard."

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** En primer lugar, mi delegación quiere felicitar al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a todos los miembros de él.

Mi delegación tiene una enmienda en el mismo sentido que lo ha expresado el representante de Bangladesh, y proponemos que en la segunda parte, en la segunda oración que comienza: "Puso de relieve que se debía dar prioridad a la presencia de la FAO en las actividades del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, siempre que la Organización tuviera alguna ventaja comparativa". Hay un punto. Nosotros proponemos que se cambie ese punto, y en su lugar se ponga una coma y que continúe la frase diciendo: "indicando sin embargo que la FAO deberla poder contar con los recursos necesarios para participar activamente en dichas actividades", y luego que la oración continúe como está.

**CHAIRMAN:** Could I have the reaction of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, please?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Mr Chairman, I think the two amendments that have been proposed have really only one meaning and that is, that in order to engage in all the coordination activities required you need resources; so I think the Committee has to choose between these two amendments and I think we can pick either of them because they are really one and the same thing. I think, in fact, probably it would not be against the sense of the Drafting Committee if we put this back again, because the Drafting Committee really thought about the need for resources, although perhaps it was thought that it was understood, but I think it is not. It would be perfectly all right if we put in the reference to resources; and that, I think, has been in the mind of the Drafting Committee all along.



**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I too would like to compliment the Drafting Committee, for their excellent work, and I can very well understand the point the Chairman of the Drafting Committee made about trying to reflect the sense of the discussions we had. On the amendments that have been proposed, again I can understand the relevance of what is being said.

Can I suggest an alternative which I think picks up what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has said. I think there is a degree of understanding that whatever the Organization does has to be met from resources. Would it therefore be acceptable to say at the end of the first sentence at the beginning of paragraph 3: "The Conference underlined the importance of coordination in maximizing the impact of FAO's work and benefits to member countries within existing resources".

**CHAIRMAN:** Could I have the reaction of the two delegates proposing the changes to this last one?

**Sra. Monica DEREGIBUS (Argentina):** Si fuera usted tan amable, podría sugerir pedir a la delegación del Reino Unido que repitiera su enmienda, porque no hemos podido tomarla.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** Yes, I will certainly repeat it. At the end of the first sentence of paragraph 3, delete the full stop and simply add three words: "within existing resources".

**F.A. Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** I am not quite in agreement with what the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom has said, because "within existing resources" is quite different from "resources where needed"; so I am really not in agreement with this.

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** Nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con lo que acaba de decir el representante de Bangladesh en el sentido de que los recursos deben ser reales, debemos contar con recursos, los necesarios.

**Amin ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe):** J'approuve la proposition de l'honorable délégué du Bangladesh, appuyée par le délégué de Colombie, surtout que la proposition du délégué du Royaume-Uni n'est pas suffisante. Nous avons déjà discuté de ce problème, et nous avons demandé des ressources suffisantes et non des ressources disponibles. C'est pour cela que j'approuve la proposition du Bangladesh et de la Colombie.

**Vanrob ISARANKURA (Thailand):** The thing I feel now is we have three proposals. I think to make it clear I would like to ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee just to reduce the three proposals to only one, and we will follow what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee wants. I think let the Chairman of the Drafting Committee work for us.

**CHAIRMAN:** I think this problem is very complicated. We can follow one of two courses : ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to find a draft which would work; or I could ask the delegates of Bangladesh and Colombia together to find an agreed text. I accept the point that the wording proposed by the delegate of the United Kingdom is not quite the same.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** Actually the sense of the proposal by the delegates of Bangladesh and Colombia is the same, and probably it would be better if it went after the second sentence, because then we should realize first of all that the work of coordinating with the UN bodies can be carried to such an extent that it will require too many - a lot of resources - and therefore when you talk about comparative advantage, and priority should be given; some sort of priority should be given; these are rather important points, because if you have to attend all the coordination meetings in the UN, I know our own country cannot do it will entail too many resources.

Therefore I think it should go after the second sentence; and probably whichever we take, but I would take the one that has been given to us. It was pointed out also, however, that resources were required to enhance FAO's activities in this regard. I think this would convey the meaning of the two amendments put together - and I would prefer it probably after the second sentence, because you talk about their priority and maximizing comparative advantage and then you need resources to do this.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I think you are right in saying that we should leave the two sentences as they are and add another sentence after that. Can I ask the Secretary to read it out.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** It would be a new third sentence after "should be given priority". It would read: "It was pointed out also however that resources were required to enhance FAO activities in this regard."

**Sra. Mnica DEREGBUS (Argentina):** Mi delegación quisiera hacer una pequeña enmienda solamente de forma. Al inicio de la segunda oración del párrafo siete, quisiéramos incluir las palabras "a este respecto". "A este respecto, convino en que...". Añadir "a este respecto" al inicio de la segunda oración del párrafo 7.

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** As regards paragraph 8, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has already recalled in his introductory remarks that there were only a few delegations who spoke on this Item. Some delegations mentioned the study of the Nordic countries and encouraged the Organization to take due note of this study. If we say "A few Member Nations", that does not reflect the debate. "Some" is probably the neutral word to be used in this connection.

**CHAIRMAN:** Can I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee whether he can accept that change?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** We have the Verbatim Record and we know that eleven members of this Organization took the floor in this debate. The number who took the floor regarding the study was two. It is up to the Commission to say whether that is a few or some. Those are the facts; it is a moot point. I cannot judge which is the more appropriate wording.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is two out of eleven. I do not know what the percentage is.

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** Among the two there was a country who spoke for the Nordic countries. That already makes more than two. In fact, of the eleven, it is already many, so maybe that would be the right word. When the Commission was sitting, I recall that the Chairman was asking the Nordic countries to give this report to everybody, and I think that was a great encouragement in general. A good reflection would be "many" but it could be "some".

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** Mi delegación propone que quede el párrafo como está. No nos ofrece dificultades y nos parece que está muy bien redactado. Además, refleja lo que realmente fue el debate. Fueron realmente, un grupo muy pequeño o pequeño.

**CHAIRMAN:** It is a small group.

**Art WRIGHT (Canada):** If indeed there were eleven participants in the debate, and two of them spoke in regard to this, that works out that about eighteen percent of those who spoke were in favour of these proposals. Eighteen percent is to me closer to "some" than it is to "a few", so I would support the Danish representative, and I do not think "some" would offend either the sense of the meeting or the spirit of the discussion.

**J.C. MACHIN (United Kingdom):** I entirely agree with the comments of my Canadian colleague. In English "some" reflects rather better the sense of the discussion than "a few".

**CHAIRMAN:** This is a really difficult problem. Frankly, as Chairman, not as a Danish delegate, I prefer the word "some" because "a few" has a certain connotation. Any objection?

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8. ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8. así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II. Part 5. as amended, was adopted.

Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II. cinquième partie, ainsi amendé.  
est adopté.

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II. Parte 5. así enmendado, es  
aprobado.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 6  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - SIXIEME PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II - PARTE 6

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** I wanted to draw to the attention of delegates that we have a sentence missing in paragraph 5. At the end of the first sentence the following words are missing: "and noted that FAO/WHO had made some resources available for this purpose." It comes at the end of the first sentence of paragraph 5.

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I have no particular remarks regarding this. We had a relatively easy time. There were only a few comments on the emphasis on the preparations in the regions for the Conference, and there was hardly any controversy regarding this draft. I hope it can be adopted as quickly here.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 6  
PARAGRAPHES 1 A 6  
PÁRRAFOS 1 A 6

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** In the document submitted to Conference the important role to be played by the media is highlighted, and in paragraph 4 we speak of World Food Day and there is a linkage, so I think it would be better to add a sentence highlighting the role of the media. I can propose such a sentence: "In this connection the Conference pointed to the important role to be played by the media in raising the awareness of the public with regard to the themes and results of the ICN."

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** The Drafting Group did not address this issue, but we know it is a very important matter. If the Committee thinks it is reflected in the way it has been taken up in the Commission debate, I think it is appropriate that we reflect it.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** The sentence comes at the end of paragraph 4. "In this connection the Conference pointed to the important role to be played by the media in raising the awareness of the public with regard to the themes and results of the ICN".

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** One problem is that it is important to point out their role, but once you attribute to Conference a decision giving importance to this, as the saying goes, in order to achieve the end, you must have the means. It will be incomplete if you say you need the media and you do not have the means. You should put something in relation to the means; what provisions can be made towards achieving this end?

**CHAIRMAN:** It is quite clear that it was mentioned during the debate by several delegates. It is equally clear that there could be a problem in relation to resources.

**Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland):** In this particular context, I do not think the question of resources is the important point because the media are well provided with resources and materials. It is more an invitation to keep them informed. That is the work normally done by the Information Division of the FAO and WHO. If the media are sent this part of the report, they are being invited to take an interest in this Conference. We cannot act for the media; it is the media themselves who are invited to act.

**CHAIRMAN:** In view of the explanation given by the delegate of Switzerland, with which I fully agree, I hope the Commission can accept this additional sentence, which does not necessarily bear on FAO resources. It bears primarily on activities in the media.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** At the end of the fourth line in paragraph 6 may I suggest that the word "international" be replaced by "global" to retain uniformity of phrasing with paragraph 4. I understand that regional is international, so it should read "implementation of the Plan of Action and national, regional and global levels".

**CHAIRMAN:** I do not think that represents a difficulty.

Paragraphs 1 to 6, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II. Part 6, as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II, Parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 15.40 to 16.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 40 à 16 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.40 a las 16.00 horas,

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 7

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - SEPTIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 7

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I have the honour of presenting to you the draft prepared by the Drafting Committee, REP/7, on the Pledging Target of the World Food Programme.

I should like to correct an error in paragraph 6. At the end of paragraph 6 there is a sentence which should not be there. It should be a separate paragraph and it should read like this: "The Conference also presented its best wishes to the Chairman of Commission II,

Mr H.J. Kristensen, who will retire in the near future." By mistake it became part of paragraph 6 which has nothing to do with this sentence. It should be a separate paragraph altogether.

**Ms C. FORTHOMME (Secretary, Commission II):** I would draw your attention in the English version to an error in paragraph 5, the third sentence: this now reads, "On the other hand, the need for food aid, which even apart from the needs for refugees, displaced persons and returnees, was still at a high level ... "

**CHAIRMAN:** We will now go through the report.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 10. INCLUDING RESOLUTION  
PARAGRAPHE 1 A 10. Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION  
PÁRRAFOS 1 A 10. INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCIÓN

**F.A. Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** I have a very small observation to make on paragraph 1. It relates to the second line where the amount US\$1.5 billion has erroneously been shown as US\$1.500 million. I think there should be either a comma or no punctuation.

**CHAIRMAN:** That is noted.

**Mohamed S. KARBOUJ (Syria) (Original language Arabic):** In the Arabic text there is no problem, but I notice that in the English text the second sentence ends with the words "refugee feeding". It should be:

"food aid for refugees", not "refugee feeding".

**CHAIRMAN:** Yes, we have taken note of that.

**Ibrahim MOHAMED MOUSSA (Djibouti):** Je voudrais attirer votre attention vers la fin de l'avant-dernière phrase et je voudrais proposer un amendement concernant la partie qui commence par: "Comme il se dégage essentiellement de ces rapports que, notamment en Afrique, le fossé entre production vivrière et besoins alimentaires continue de se creuser...". A cet endroit-là, au lieu de continuer avec "une aide alimentaire accrue", je propose que l'on fasse ressortir qu'il y a nécessité de donner une assistance supplémentaire visant à accroître la production des cultures vivrières au niveau national.

Cela donnerait donc: "... continue de se creuser, une assistance supplémentaire visant à accroître la production des cultures vivrières et diminuer l'importation permettant d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire sera nécessaire. Cependant, pendant cette période, une aide alimentaire accrue serait envisagée". Ou quelque chose dans ce sens-là.

Donc, après la virgule se situant après "continue de se creuser", je propose cet amendement.

**CHAIRMAN:** There is a problem here. What is written is what Mr Ingram said in his introduction, and I would not be the one to change what he said. I hope the delegate of Djibouti will accept that. It was what Mr Ingram said when he was introducing this Item. I understand your point, but can we leave the sentence as it is?

**Ibrahim MOHAMED MOUSSA (Djibouti):** S'il vous est difficile de changer la phrase mentionnée ici, la délégation de Djibouti propose que cette idée soit reflétée quelque part concernant la nécessité d'une assistance supplémentaire visant à accroître la production de cultures vivrières dans les pays.

**CHAIRMAN:** Let us be clear about this. The first five paragraphs of this Draft Report should reflect what Mr Ingram said in his introduction. The following paragraph should say what Mr Dutia said in his introduction. But you probably have a point, and we should like to come back to it when we get to the comments of the Commission. I hope you will agree to come back to that later.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** In paragraph 2, referring to the sentence starting on the sixth line from the bottom "As a result...", I would suggest inserting a comma, after the word "emergency" because I think this deals with three kinds of food aid; for emergency situations, for refugees and for development.

**CHAIRMAN:** You have a point there. We will put in a comma.

**R.J. PERKINS (Director, Commodities and Trade Division):** In response to the point raised by the delegate of Djibouti, the Secretariat would suggest for the consideration of the Commission an extension of the present second sentence of paragraph 8 which ends with the words "food needs for important socio-economic development activities". The Secretariat would suggest for your consideration deleting the period, inserting a comma, and then going on to say "in particular the enhancement of local food production in recipient countries".

**CHAIRMAN:** I hope that meets the comment of the delegate of Djibouti.

**Ibrahim MOHAMED MOUSSA (Djibouti):** C'est ma préoccupation. Merci M. le Président. Je suis satisfait.

**CHAIRMAN:** Can you just read it out slowly, Mr Perkins?

**R.J. PERKINS (Director, Commodities and Trade Division):** Yes, Mr Chairman. At the beginning of the fifth line in the English version, that is the end of the second sentence, after the term "socio-economic development

activities" the period would be replaced by a comma and the sentence would continue with the following words "in particular the enhancement of local food production in recipient countries".

**Sra. Mery HURTADO SALAMANCA (Colombia):** Es sobre el mismo párrafo 8, en la página número 5, y hacia la mitad, que comienza así: "La Conferencia manifestó que confiaba en que se mantuviera un equilibrio geográfico en la asignación de recursos, aunque reconoció que, debido a su volumen insuficiente en relación con las necesidades de alimentos", aquí la siguiente oración en español no es muy clara. Espero que las delegaciones de habla hispana me ayuden a corregir. Dice: "podrían ser necesarias para algunas elecciones difíciles en las asignaciones de recursos entre diversos proyectos". Esa oración no es muy clara en español. Mi delegación sugiere la siguiente enmienda, si se puede decir así. Quedaría después de "alimentos", se diría "sería más difícil la elección de los recursos entre los diversos proyectos". Es más corta y es más clara y en el fondo dice lo que debe ser.

**CHAIRMAN:** May I just take the formal point, the proposal to add to the earlier sentence the words which were read out by Mr Perkins; can you agree, as a Commission, to this? It is so agreed. This point, there seems to be a language problem. I am no good at Spanish and so cannot help. The Secretariat promises to take care of it. Is that all right for the delegate of Colombia? It should be clear at least.

**Harald HILDEBRAND (Germany):** So far as I remember reference had been made during our debate to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. Therefore, I should deem it appropriate to include in paragraph 9 the following sentence, perhaps after sub-paragraph (d). After 9(d) insert (e) and then change the last paragraph to (f). The text would read "The Conference reaffirmed the role played by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes in guiding and monitoring WFP activities".

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. May I ask the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for his opinion?

**Horacio M. CARANDANG (Chairman, Drafting Committee):** I have to say frankly it was not raised during the debate in the Drafting Committee. I think if the Committee feels it appropriate to put this sentence in, I do not think we have any objection to including it.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. I am not sure it was raised during the debate but the point is clearly an important one. Is there any objection to including this sentence? May I ask the delegates to accept this? It is so agreed.

Paragraphs 1 to 10. including Resolution, as amended, adopted  
Les paragraphes 1 à 10. y compris la Résolution, ainsi amendés, sont  
adoptés  
Los párrafos 1 a 10. incluida la Resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados



Draft Report of Commission II, Part 7. as amended, was adopted  
Le Projet de Rapport de la Commission II. septième partie, ainsi amendé.  
est adopté  
El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión II. Parte 7. así enmendado, es  
aprobado

**CHAIRMAN:** I think we can safely say now that Commission II has been through all the items on its Agenda. We have had sixteen meetings in all and I personally have found them to be sixteen good meetings with a very open debate in a good working climate. I think quite a number of the items have contained discussions which were really forward-looking. I am sorry for using that word once again, Mr Shah, but I thank the members of the Commission sincerely for the way that they have accepted my way of conducting these meetings. It has been a pleasure for me to chair this Commission and I want to thank the two Vice-Chairmen from Sri Lanka and Kenya. Would the delegate from Kenya convey my thanks to your Ambassador and thank them for the help they have given me?

I think that the report which this Commission has produced, and where this last part goes to Plenary on Monday, shows that we have been through all these items in a good and constructive way. I wish to thank you all for helping me in this Commission and helping me to get through all the business within a reasonable period of time. I would also like to extend thanks to others. Firstly, the Drafting Committee; I think the Drafting Committee must have had a very good Chairman in getting through so quickly but my thanks go to all the members of the Committee.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for their assistance. That applies perhaps first and foremost - sorry, Mr Shah - to my own Secretariat, my Secretary Mrs Forthomme, the Assistant Secretary Mr Savini, and the two kind assistants behind me. I would also like to thank all the FAO staff who have helped here and, Mr Shah, you have had some hard work because you have been in on most meetings and you have introduced items and given answers to many of them. I think that the introductions, the brief ones, and the answers, the longer ones, have been very helpful to the Commission. I think we have had a good climate of cooperation.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the interpreters for bearing with us; it must have been hard at times, and I would like to thank the messengers for the assistance they have given. I think we have had a good meeting and I thank you all sincerely.

Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

**Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España):** No quisiéramos que esta reunión terminara sin que pudiéramos expresarnos, y lo vamos a hacer en nombre propio como componentes de esta Comisión, y también en nombre del Grupo OCDE al cual tenemos ahora el honor de presidir.

Queremos decirle, señor Presidente, que usted ha hecho su trabajo con justeza y eficacia, y mano rívida pero suave. Ello ha sido fundamental para que estas deliberaciones hayan tenido el fruto que hemos podido comprobar

todos. Si usted se ha sentido a gusto, señor Presidente, con esta Comisión, nosotros mucho más. Estoy seguro que lo estoy diciendo en nombre de todos los que hemos estado aquí.

Pero además, nosotros sabemos que usted ahora en breve va a pasar a una etapa que en español llamamos jubilación. Esta palabra nos trae a la memoria la otra palabra que es júbilo. Entonces, nosotros le deseamos a usted que esta nueva etapa que va a abordar sea de júbilo para usted y todos los que más cercanamente le rodean.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you, delegate of Spain for your kind remarks. Now I think I can close the meeting.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 16 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas.